

Submission on the draft list of roles for Trades and Technician Immigration Pathway

December 2025

MinEx

MinEx is the national health and safety council for New Zealand's extractive sector – the mining, tunnelling and quarrying industry. Our principal purpose is to help industry achieve its goal of being free from fatalities, injuries and diseases. MinEx is funded by the mining and quarry sectors through the respective associations and a number of individual companies with a mandate to:

1. be the main point of contact with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), WorkSafe New Zealand (WorkSafe) and other agencies on all extractive sector matters related to health and safety; and
2. through leadership and consultation develop an industry view on relevant legislation, regulations, guidelines and training matters, and work with MBIE, WorkSafe and other agencies to adopt and implement those views, as appropriate.

We make the following submissions in relation to the consultation document the draft list of roles for Trades and Technician Immigration Pathway.

Overview

In response to Questions 1 – 4 we comment as follows:

1. **Any use of an NZQA Level 4, 120-credit qualification in your trade or industry.**
2. **Any responses to or insights on draft 'eligible' roles.**
3. **Any responses to or insights on roles on the draft 'maybe' list.**
4. **Any additional feedback you might have.**

The extractives sector has a number of trade and technical roles that have qualifications at level 4. In fact, certificates of competence (CoCs), which are a legal requirement for statutory positions in the extractives sector, are at NZQA levels 4 and 5.

In terms of the draft eligible roles, we would like to see a section added for extractives that includes the following roles:

Mine manager	Mine supervisor
Electrical supervisor	Mechanical supervisor
Quarry manager	Tunnelling manager
Tunnelling supervisor	

Use of NZQA Level 4, 120-Credit Qualification in your industry

In response to Questions 5 – 6 we comment as follows:

5. How widespread is the use of an NZQA Level 4, 120-credit qualification in your industry?

6. Do you regularly request this qualification / see this requested of employees?

Managerial and supervisory roles in the extractives sector are required to hold a CoCs determined by the Mining Board of Examiners, under health and safety regulations. Under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition agreement (TTMRA), this often means accepting equivalent statutory qualifications from Australia. These are typically at levels equivalent to, or higher than NZQA levels 4 and 5. There are also equivalent electrical and mechanical trade skills recognised in our sector under the TTMRA.

Some of these latter skills will be covered under the currently proposed eligible roles however mining, quarrying and tunnelling will need to be added to the list of sectors.

Roles on the draft ‘eligible’ list

In response to Questions 7 – 9 we comment as follows:

7. Whether the occupations on the ‘eligible’ list seem appropriate for a pathway to residency.

8. Whether you have concerns about any of the roles on the ‘eligible’ list, and why.

9. Whether there are any glaring omissions (based on your background, industry, or expertise) to the ‘eligible’ list, and why.

The extractives sector is a glaring omission from the eligible list as mentioned above.

Priority 3: Access and Participation

In response to Questions 12 – 13 we comment as follows:

12. Any views on the working definition as laid out?

We generally support the working definition however the list of sectors should include the extractives sector (mining, quarrying and tunnelling).

13. Any views on the proposed criteria that an occupation must meet to be added to the list of eligible roles for this pathway?

We support the criteria proposed.

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