

17 September 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

Submission: Inclusion of Arboriculture in the 2025 Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL)

We strongly recommend the inclusion of Arboriculture (Arborists/Tree Workers) in the 2025 Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL).

Arboriculture is a highly specialised field distinct from forestry and horticulture. Arborists manage individual trees and vegetation in urban, regional, and rural settings, with a primary focus on safety, infrastructure protection, amenity and environmental health. Despite this, arboriculture is currently grouped under forestry or horticulture codes, which does not accurately capture the scope of work or the skills gap faced by this industry.

Skills Shortage

Employers across Australia face significant and ongoing difficulty recruiting qualified arborists. Demand continues to grow due to:

- Increasing urban development and infrastructure requiring vegetation management.
- Rising frequency of extreme weather events and natural disasters, where arborists play a frontline role in recovery and prevention.
- Local government and utility requirements for vegetation clearance around roads, parks, and powerlines.

Industry and Community Impact

- Poorly managed or unskilled tree work increases risks to life, property, and infrastructure.
- Arborists are essential for maintaining vegetation clearance around powerlines, roads, and public assets.
- Skilled arborists contribute to biodiversity, sustainability, and urban greening projects that build community resilience.

Recommendation

Arboriculture should be recognised as a distinct occupation within the Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL). Its inclusion will:

- Address a critical and growing skills shortage.

- Support the safe and sustainable management of Australia's natural and urban environments.
- Ensure skilled migration policy aligns with industry needs.

We encourage Jobs and Skills Australia to review the classification of arboriculture and include it in the 2025 CSOL to better reflect labour market realities and safeguard community outcomes.

Arboriculture – Mapping to Current ANZSCO and Related Codes

1. Relevant but Misaligned ANZSCO Codes

- **362212 – Arborist**
 - Exists under “Horticultural Trades Workers” (ANZSCO 3622).
 - Scope: Cultivates, maintains and cares for trees in urban, regional and rural landscapes.
 - Problem: Despite having its own ANZSCO code, it has not consistently appeared on skilled migration occupation lists (e.g., CSOL, SMOL). This limits access to skilled migration pathways even though shortages are widely acknowledged.
- **362213 – Landscape Gardener**
 - Often confused with arboriculture, but role is primarily landscape design/maintenance, not high-risk tree work.
 - Arborists require specialised training (e.g., biology, tree physiology, climbing, chainsaw use, rigging, aerial rescue).
- **Forestry and related supervisor codes** (e.g., 343133 Forestry Operations Supervisor, 343134 Horticultural Supervisor)
 - These capture elements of vegetation management but do not reflect the specialised, safety-critical work of arborists.

2. Why Arboriculture is Distinct

- Requires advanced technical training in tree climbing, felling, rigging, aerial rescue, chainsaw operation, and machinery.
- Arborists perform essential clearance and storm recovery work around infrastructure (roads, powerlines, parks, utilities).
- Certificate III in Arboriculture and related higher-level qualifications exist specifically for arborists, unlike general forestry/horticulture streams.
- Forestry workers focus on large-scale tree harvesting/management; gardeners focus on amenity landscapes. Neither can substitute for trained arborists.

3. Recommendation

Jobs and Skills Australia should ensure ANZSCO 362212 Arborist is recognised as a priority shortage occupation and included in the 2025 Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL).

[Redacted]

Web www.arborguy.com.au

[Redacted]



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This recognition will:

- Accurately reflect the industry's labour market shortage.
- Allow employers access to skilled migration pathways.
- Support the safety, infrastructure, and environmental outcomes reliant on a skilled arboriculture workforce.

If you require any further information,

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Yours sincerely,

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