



25 September 2025

The Chair  
Jobs and Skills Australia

Dear Chair

**Re: Support for ACTU Submission – Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers**

On behalf of the Australian Workers' Union, I write to express our strong support for the submission lodged by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) regarding the proposed inclusion of Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (LAMEs) on the Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL).

The AWU is an affiliated union to the ACTU and shares the concerns outlined in its submission. In particular:

- The current shortage of LAMEs is not the result of an absence of skilled workers, but rather a long-term failure by airlines to invest in apprenticeships, training and progression pathways for Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs) to become LAMEs.
- Allowing migration pathways for this occupation risks further undermining opportunities for Australian workers who are ready and willing to upskill, and would entrench employers' neglect of their training obligations.
- ACTU survey data show that a significant pool of AMEs have either already completed or are well progressed in their LAME training, and could be available to work as LAMEs in the near term with adequate support from industry.
- Safety concerns must be paramount. As the ACTU notes, the proposed automatic recognition of non-equivalent overseas licensing regimes could have serious implications for aircraft safety and public confidence.

The AWU believes that listing LAMEs on the CSOL would reward employers who have manufactured the current shortage and would displace a domestic workforce already in training. Instead, policy settings should focus on rebuilding a sustainable local skills pipeline through better pay, conditions and investment in training.

We commend the ACTU's detailed submission and urge the consultation to take full account of the issues it raises. The AWU stands ready to provide further information or to participate in any future discussions on this matter.

Yours sincerely