

# Manufacturing and Engineering Industry Reference Committee

The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) commissioned the Future Skills and Training Resource which summarises data on current and future Australian and international megatrends, to support Industry Reference Committees (IRCs) in developing their Industry Skills Forecasts and Proposed Schedules of Work.

## Future Skills

In March, the Manufacturing and Engineering IRC met to further consider the trends impacting their industry and agree on key components of the Industry Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work.

The Manufacturing and Engineering IRC agreed that two drivers of industry growth and change are:

- **key Government initiatives**, such as the new Australian Defence Force projects, which will have particular impact on Australia's shipbuilding and military vehicle manufacturing sectors, but also many implications for the broader manufacturing and engineering industries, and
- **technology** trends around automation, use of advanced materials, and augmented and virtual reality, which are creating new ways of working and new business opportunities and models, as well as providing industry with opportunities to increase efficiency and productivity.

**Changing work and career values** were also discussed as a challenge for the industry, in terms of attracting new, highly-capable entrants to the industry and ensuring an ongoing supply of skills in an **ageing workforce**. The IRC commented that technology provides opportunities to change perceptions of the industry as modern manufacturing environments are likely to be focused on continuous improvement and innovation. The accelerating adoption of new technologies is also driving a need for a new **cross-disciplinary** combination of skills.

The IRC noted that each trend will have socio-economic implications as well as an effect on resources and the environment.

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