



**HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA
MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND DECARBONISATION;
MANUFACTURING; SKILLS AND TAFE; PILBARA**

Our Ref: 76-47038

Ms Susan Barrera
Governing Council Chair
South Regional TAFE

By email: susan.barrera@tfe.edu.au

Dear Ms Barrera

**STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR SOUTH REGIONAL TAFE'S
2027 STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN**

Statement of Expectations

As the responsible Minister for TAFE colleges, my Statement of Expectations is to be read in the context of functions and responsibilities of Governing Councils and TAFE colleges under Part 5 of the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1996* and requirements outlined in the *Ministerial Guidelines for TAFE College Strategic Plans and Annual Business Plans*.

I have requested South Regional TAFE (SRT) to develop a new Strategic Plan for the year commencing 1 January 2027. SRT's 2027 Strategic Plan and 2027 Annual Business Plan must reflect how SRT will deliver against my Statement of Expectations.

Please submit SRT's draft 2027 Strategic Plan and draft 2027 Annual Business Plan to the Department of Training and Workforce Development by email to TAFEGovernance@dtwd.wa.gov.au by no later than **1 September 2026**.

Government priorities

TAFE plays a critical role in developing a skilled and productive workforce, and ensuring all Western Australians can access training and training services they need to participate in Western Australia's strong and diversifying economy.

SRT's strategic plan, annual business plan and operations are to prioritise training and training services in accordance with Government priorities, including:

- Our Priorities for Government – Jobs Health Housing;
- Made in WA;
- Diversify WA;
- National Skills Agreement priorities;
- WA Skills and Workforce Action Plan;
- Joint Ministerial Statement on VET in schools;
- State STEM skills strategy; and
- State Training Plan.

Election commitments and State budget initiatives

I expect the Governing Council to commit to and prioritise the delivery of election commitments and State budget initiatives related to TAFE colleges, including:

- Fee Free TAFE;
- Lower Fees Local Skills;
- VET places for secondary school students;
- Year 9 Career Taster Program;
- TAFE Modern Equipment;
- College Lecturer Industry Program; and
- National Skills Agreement Specific Policy Initiatives.

Apprenticeships

I expect the Governing Council to prioritise delivery of training and completions for apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, gap training and post-trade training for upskilling of workers.

Due to the high demand for apprenticeships needed for the construction, defence, advanced manufacturing, mining and resources workforce, I expect the Governing Council to prioritise delivery of training and completions for associated trades.

Due to the high demand for apprenticeships needed for the transition to clean energy, I expect the Governing Council to prioritise delivery of training and completions for electrical trades, engineering, instrumentation trades and processing for critical minerals.

Care sector

I expect the Governing Council to prioritise delivery of training and completions for the care sector, and ensure training is responsive to workforce needs of the care economy, especially childcare, aged care and disability care.

Industry partnerships

I expect the Governing Council to ensure SRT develops and maintains partnerships with industry, including to increase training delivery capacity.

The Governing Council should ensure:

- SRT has industry engagement strategies in place to obtain regular industry feedback and insights on current and emerging skills and training needs, and to ensuring training delivery remains responsive to industry needs;
- innovative and responsive training solutions are developed and delivered in partnership with industry and TAFE colleges; and
- a collaboration framework is in place and communicated to college leaders and staff to work closely with other TAFE colleges to ensure a seamless experience for all Western Australian students, employers, and industry stakeholders.

Increase the access and workforce participation of priority groups

I expect the Governing Council to maintain a focus on delivery to priority groups, including training which provides pathways to further education and employment.

Specific strategies and outcome measures are to be in place to increase the access and workforce participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, youth, women, people with disability, CALD people and other diversity groups.

This includes supporting partnerships with Aboriginal Registered Training Organisations to assist sustainability and improve student outcomes.

An integrated and customer focussed Jobs and Skills Centre service

I expect an integrated, highly customer focussed Jobs and Skills Centre service that responds to community and business needs and actively supports State Government jobseeker initiatives.

International education

I expect strategies are in place to support:

- international student market growth; and
- international student experience, engagement, wellbeing and connection to the Western Australian community.

TAFE system

The TAFE System Governance Framework outlines the authority, responsibilities, and operating arrangements for the Western Australian TAFE system to deliver a high quality publicly funded TAFE system that is student centred, supports economic growth and delivers positive social impacts for the community.

I expect the Governing Council to support collaboration with and accountability to TAFE colleges, the Department of Training and Workforce Development and the TAFE system to support performance and continuous improvement, and deliver system-wide outcomes and public value.

I expect TAFE colleges to work in close collaboration with the Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence to deliver on the State's Net Zero transition as outlined in my Statement of Expectations to the CESNCE Advisory Board (attached).

Delivery and Performance Agreement targets

I have a strong expectation that SRT will meet its Delivery and Performance Agreement targets within approved financial parameters. Existing and planned college operations should contribute to skills and economic development of Western Australia.

Expenditure and Activity

The Governing Council is to prioritise management of its financial performance, including delivering to targets, operating within approved financial parameters and ensuring sufficient cash balances are maintained. Where there are significant pressures on activity and expenditure that cannot be managed, these are to be raised with the System Manager, supported by robust evidence of the drivers, financial impacts, mitigating options and actions, and potential opportunities to deliver on Government priorities.

I expect the Governing Council to provide advice to me if priorities and directions of Government are not in accordance with funding arrangements.

Advice to Government

I expect the Governing Council to provide accurate and timely advice to Government on significant issues in its core areas of business and ensure progress is made in achieving the Government's priorities. The Governing Council is requested to submit its Annual Governance Attestation Statement (AGAS) to me by 31 December 2027.

The Governing Council is expected to ensure my office is aware of all critical issues in a timely manner and is briefed appropriately at regular meetings.

Statement of Intent

I look forward to receiving the Governing Council's response to my Statement of Expectations in the form of a new 2027 Strategic Plan and the 2027 Annual Business Plan. I request that the Statement of Expectations and the Strategic Plan (once approved) be published on your website.

I would like to acknowledge and thank you for the considerable contribution of the Governing Council in leading SRT to deliver quality training to skill Western Australians for current, new and emerging jobs and careers in the State's strong and diversifying economy.

Kind regards



HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA
**MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND DECARBONISATION;
MANUFACTURING; SKILLS AND TAFE; PILBARA**

cc: Mr Blair Marsh, Managing Director South Regional TAFE
cc: tafegovernance@dtwd.wa.gov.au

ATT: CESNCE Industry Advisory Board Statement of Expectations

24 APR 2026