24 January 2024

Mr David Turvey
Acting Commissioner
Jobs and Skills Australia
GPO Box 9828
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Turvey,

Submission on the Job and Skills Australia 2024-25 Work Plan

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) is a Learned Academy of independent, non-political experts helping Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems. Bringing together 900 of Australia's leading thinkers in applied science, technology and engineering, ATSE provides impartial, practical and evidence-based advice on how to achieve sustainable solutions and advance prosperity.

ATSE thanks Jobs and Skills Australia for the opportunity to provide input into the 2024-25 Work Plan. The outcomes of the proposed work plan will provide an important contribution to highlighting and addressing Australia's skills shortages. ATSE commends Jobs and Skills Australia for their plan and supports its implementation.

ATSE would like to highlight and endorse the proposed opportunity 10 - which seeks to shape a National Skills Taxonomy in partnership with unions, education providers and the Jobs and Skills Councils – as crucial for understanding and addressing this nation's skills shortages.

ATSE's *Our STEM skilled future: An education roadmap for an innovative workforce* report highlighted the need for a National Skills Taxonomy as one of its four major recommendations for education in Australia, bridging the communication gap between employers, the workforce and education providers. ATSE is pleased to see that this recommendation is planned to be implemented in the 2024-25 financial year. ATSE suggests that in developing this National Skills Taxonomy, Jobs and Skills Australia draws on sectoral expertise including from employer groups and Australia's five learned academies. This will enable a more robust and comprehensive taxonomy.

It will also be important to ensure that the National Skills Taxonomy, once developed, is consistently and regularly updated, ideally with live workforce and job advertisement data. This would enable the Taxonomy to grow and change as the workforce does, providing a solution for workforce planning for years to come. Artificial intelligence may be able to play an important role in making this happen. Advances in generative AI can be used to keep the taxonomy up-to-date, identifying emerging areas, areas of growth or shortages without additional extensive work.

If you would like any further information or would like to engage with our network of over 900 engineering, technology and applied science experts, please contact academypolicyteam@atse.org.au.

Yours Sincerely,

Katherine Woodthorpe   Kylie Walker
President   **Chief Executive Officer**