



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

Our Ref: 76-41609

Mayor Deborah Hamblin
Governing Council Chair
South Metropolitan TAFE

By email: andrea.vose@smtafe.wa.edu.au

Dear Mayor Hamblin

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*.

I will meet with TAFE Governing Council Chairs to discuss my Statement of Expectations and the essential role of TAFE colleges in the delivery of State Government priorities, including Made in WA.

South Metropolitan TAFE's (SMT) Strategic Plan and 2026 Annual Business Plan should reflect how SMT will deliver against my Statement of Expectations.

Please submit South Metropolitan TAFE's Strategic Plan and 2026 Annual Business Plan to trainingprovidergovernance@dtwd.wa.gov.au by no later than **1 October 2025**.

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

I expect the South Metropolitan TAFE Governing Council to report to me on an annual basis against the following expectations.

Delivery and Performance Agreement targets

I have a strong expectation that SMT 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.

The training delivery profile for SMT is to be consistent with:

- Made in WA;
- Diversify WA;
- State Training Plan;
- WA Skills and Workforce Action Plan;
- Joint Ministerial Statement on VET in schools;
- State STEM skills strategy;
- specific local and regional skills needs; and
- new technologies and skills needed for new and emerging industries.

College Strategic and Annual Business Plans

I expect Strategic and Annual Business Plans to be developed in accordance with the attached commercial activities document and Ministerial Guidelines and to outline how the college

- works collaboratively with DTWD, Clean Energy Skills National Centre of Excellence, State Training Board, industry stakeholders, students and the community,
- works with other TAFE colleges to meet broader community and location training needs,
- continues to evolve digital service delivery to provide greater access and flexibility to training,
- continues to improve efficiency and quality in training delivery,
- monitors data and engages industry to ensure early identification and response to business needs and performance issues,
- fosters integrity and conduct that is transparent, accountable and efficient,
- ensures sound governance and sustainable financial management practices, and
- effectively manages risk

Delivery of 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, and
- College Lecturer Industry Program

Defence Industry Skills Centre of Excellence

I expect the Governing Council to ensure SMT delivers the Defence Industry Skills Centre of Excellence in accordance with the Resource Agreement in place with the Department of Training and Workforce Development

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

In particular, and 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

Industry partnerships

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

The Governing Council should ensure SMT 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

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

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.

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.

I expect the Governing Council to inform me where there are significant pressures on activity and expenditure that cannot be managed, and where priorities and directions of Government are not in accordance with funding arrangements.

This should be provided to Elaine Paterson, Executive Director, Service Resource Management and supported by robust evidence of the drivers, financial impacts, mitigating options and actions, and potential opportunities to deliver on Government priorities including Made in WA.

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. Further, the Governing Council will submit an Annual Governance Attestation Statement (AGAS) to me at the conclusion of each calendar year, with the first AGAS due by 31 December 2026. 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 revised Strategic Plan and the 2026 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 take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for the considerable contribution of the Governing Council in leading SMT 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;
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cc: Ms Darshi Ganeson-Oats, Managing Director South Metropolitan TAFE.
cc: trainingprovidergovernance@dtwd.wa.gov.au.

Att: Commercial Activities Documentation; Ministerial Guidelines relating to the provision of TAFE college Strategic and Annual Business Plans commencing 1 January 2026

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