

NEWS around the ROVE & FWAP

12 December 2019



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Skills for industry

This update comes as potentially the last for the year. There seems to be a holding period while the Ministry decides on the outcome of the Workforce Development Council coverage decisions. Also, the consultation period is still underway around CoVE's with questions being asked about the form and structure of these functions. They are not clear to anyone yet, but a Primary CoVE is confirmed to be the first off, the rank. Funding of \$2.5M per year for 3-5 years will be subject to setting up the structure and other funding initiatives. The latest look and feel of the CoVE are: - they will be a collaboration between providers and industry, and they will come up with format, scope, structure and initiatives or projects. They will have a relatively short-term life span and focus on adding quality value to the Primary sector.

ROVE (Reform of Vocational Education)

Update on ROVE Legislation

- Select committee hearings on the Bill ended 6 November 2019
- Next stage is for the committee to consider departmental reports, providing advice on the submissions received
- Report back to House by 10 February 2020 - can happen before then, possibly before Christmas

The Bill takes effect 1 April 2020.

Update on the WDCs – Workforce Development Councils

- Decision on how industries should be grouped under WDCs will be announced shortly
- Opportunity for long transition, to ensure it is as smooth as possible and changes will only happen when capability is in place
- Assurance that existing training support will continue, and industry training will still be available
- Maintain stability of the skills pipeline and if employers develop training materials today, they will do so in the future
- The Minister will sign off each WDC's establishment plan (which will be industry led) and each ITO's transition plan.

Update on Unified Funding System

- A Unified Funding System (UFS) will apply to all provider-based and work-integrated education at certificate and diploma qualification levels 3 to 7 (excluding degree study) and all industry training (including level 2)

- Funding Reference Group has been set up with 10 external members to support officials to design the UFS

Update on Te Taumata Aronui

What is Te Taumata Aronui?

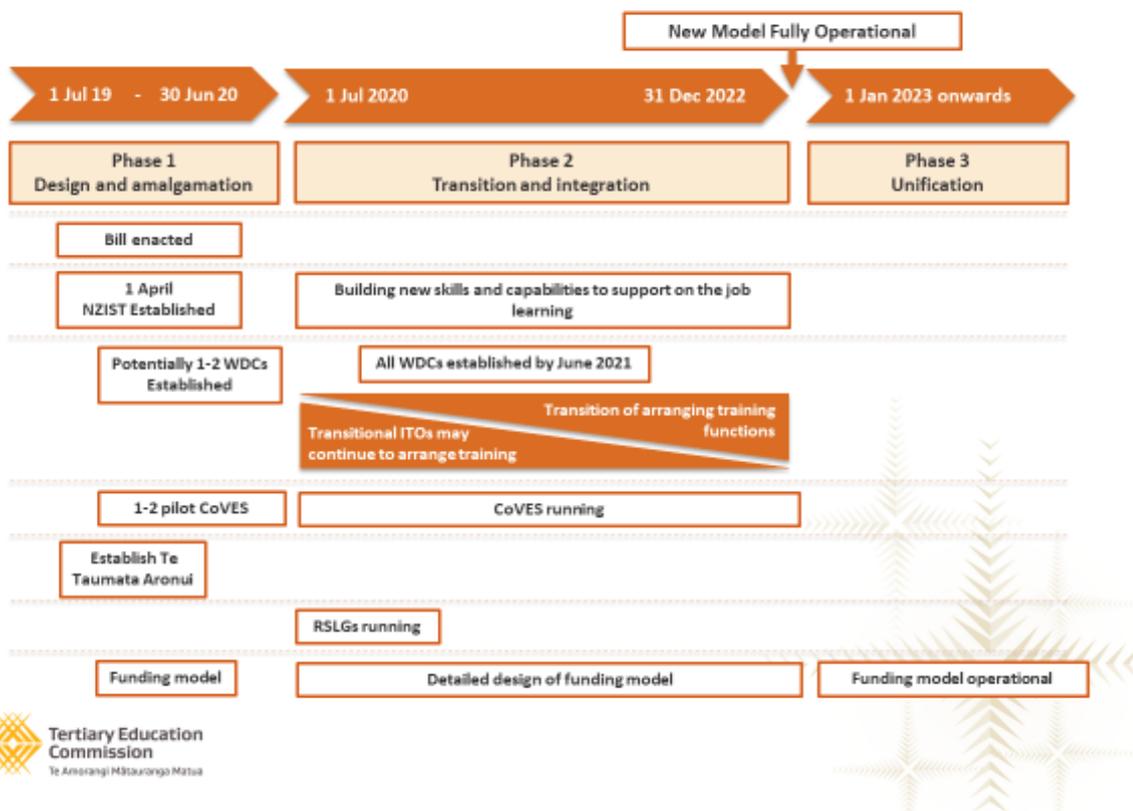
It was announced as part of the vocational education reform decisions released on 1 August. The group will work with and provide independent recommendations and advice to Ministers and officials on how tertiary education can respond better to the needs of Māori learners and communities.

Purpose

- to help design an education system that reflects the Government’s commitment to Māori Crown partnerships.
- Help achieve better outcomes for Māori communities and learners, and acknowledge that Māori are significant employers with social and economic goals

The latest timelines look like this:

Three Phases



Progress with NZQA

- Transferring the appropriate records and IP to the new organisations when required e.g. over 16,000 standards will need to be reassigned to the new WDCs over time
- Revising NZQA’s rules to reflect the legislative changes and policy intent

- Developing an appropriate External Evaluative Review (EER) process for the new entities – this is likely to impact across the whole tertiary sector

Progress on the Regions Skills Leadership Groups

- 15 RSLG's will provide local voice into regional investments in skills and training
- Groups will feature industry leaders, economic development agencies, worker representatives, iwi and government representatives
- Will develop Regional Workforce Plans, to project labour supply needs to then feed into training and education needs.
- Targeted feedback sessions are currently underway (run by MBIE)
- Establish by mid-2020
- First Regional Workforce Plans by end 2020

Forestry Strategy

The Strategy is being led by Te Uru Rakau and is about working together, to develop an innovative forest strategy that:

- supports forest-related industries and activities
- grows the role of forests and trees in improving the social, environmental, and economic well-being of New Zealanders.

They want the strategy to reflect the long-term and broad aspirations for forests and trees in New Zealand and establish a sector-wide course of action for achieving them. It'll broadly set out:

- a common vision
- a roadmap for getting there
- a shared understanding of priorities
- areas for action in the short, medium, and long term
- clarity around the roles and responsibilities to deliver the action
- ways in which participants can work better together.

Te Uru Rakau aims to publish the forest strategy mid-2020 and they have been working on Strategic Themes:

- Collaborative Decision Making and Sector Leadership
- Environmental Health
- Economic / obtaining value add
- Innovation and New Thinking
- Sector Capability

Food & Fibre Establishment Group

Forestry representation has been at the table of this group since working closely with the Primary ITO. The purpose of this group is to take a caretaker role of the Food & Fibre Skills Action Plan and several the other entities that are being formed like the WDC's, CoVES and Primary Sector Council. A number of their initiatives are well underway, and they are working with other new sectors joining the group and leveraging each other efforts. Forestry is one of these groups: we have advised our willingness to join.

Forestry and Wood Processing Action Plan

Meanwhile a representative forestry group has been developing up our own Action Plan. The purpose of the Action Plan is to support the development of a skilled, safe, diverse workforce that meets the current and future needs of the forestry and wood processing sector. It is s first step towards addressing workforce challenges in the following areas:

- Knowledge
- Attraction
- Education and Training
- Employment

We can achieve our workforce goals by joining forces to build on initiatives already underway across government and the sector. The Action Plan brings this work together with new initiatives to form a cohesive and comprehensive way forward. It also leverages areas of shared interest with the wider primary sector, as set out in the Food & Fibre Skills Action Plan 2019-2022.

Through all this work and discussion, everyone is conscious that there must be minimal impact on learners and employers through the transition - including signing up and supporting new learners. We also are working as business as usual with Competenz, our trainers & assessors and our own training workshops ensuring that we are positioned in this transition period to maintain activity and continue our own skill development.

If you also want to stay informed on the ROVE process through direct updates from TEC then sign up for their newsletter on: <https://email.careers.govt.nz/h/d/CCF8E90ED9E029BB>

From the Collective Team

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