



David de Carvalho
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
280 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

By email: engagement@acara.edu.au

8 July 2021

Dear David

Re: Review of the Australian Curriculum

I write on behalf of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) regarding the review of the Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum currently being undertaken by ACARA

AusIMM is the peak body and trusted voice for the 65,000 resources professionals working across the Australasian region. We represent professionals across all levels of the mining industry, working from exploration through to delivery, and in disciplines ranging from mine engineering to geoscience, health and safety, finance, government, and academia.

Established in 1893, and operating under Royal Charter, AusIMM exist to advance resources sciences for the benefit of the community. With an eye to the future of our sector, we are committed to maintaining the strength, leadership, and global esteem of our region's resources professionals.

The Importance of a Sound Sciences Education

AusIMM support the objectives of the curriculum review, including to refine, realign and declutter content so that it focusses on essential knowledge and skills for Australian students. We likewise support the cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities articulated for the curriculum, which focus on ensuring discrete learning areas (including science) prepare young Australians to live and work successfully now and in the future.

The strength and global position of the Australian resources sector is built on its status as a hub of scientific, technological, and professional innovation. Our sector plays a fundamental role in the expansion and application of Australian digital, scientific, ethical, intercultural, and environmental capability. This contribution will continue well into the future as our sector delivers critical minerals for the global renewable energy transition, technological advancement, and social and economic prosperity worldwide.

AusIMM believe it is vital that young Australians are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to pursue the breadth of career opportunities that exist within the resources sector, particularly across the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

A sound sciences education, including resources, is essential in ensuring young Australians have access to future career opportunities in our sector. Sciences knowledge also drives community awareness, understanding and informed support for the role of resources within contemporary society.

The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

Ground Floor, 204 Lygon St,
Carlton, VIC 3053

PO Box 660, Carlton South,
VIC, Australia 3053

ABN 59 836 002 494

T +61 3 9658 6100

ausimm.com

Resources Sciences within the Australian Science Curriculum

AusIMM believe the Australian curriculum must deal comprehensively with environmental, energy, earth, and geological sciences, as well as the role of earth resources in contemporary society. Such understanding is vital to support careers and enhance community understanding of the role of earth resources in contemporary society.

AusIMM recognise and support the increased focus on the interaction between sciences, engineering, and technology in the Year 7 – 10 curricula. We wish to express our support for the emphasis on the role these areas play in addressing the key challenges that face contemporary global society.

We also wish to confirm our support for proposals to clarify the language used in content descriptors and achievement standards for the science curriculum, which are essential guides for teachers as they plan, teach, and assess the learning of Australian students.

Notwithstanding these positive developments, AusIMM are concerned that the removal of resources science components from the year 7-10 curriculum will mean that Australian students do not develop a sufficiently comprehensive understanding of the role earth resources play in contemporary society.

Our view is that resources science should continue as a key anchor within the Australian sciences curriculum, along with environmental, energy, sustainability and other areas flagged in the ACARA review. Including resources science within a modernised curriculum is vital to ensure young Australians understand the role of resources in contemporary society and are equipped to pursue career opportunities within the sector.

AusIMM Encourage Further Engagement on the Australian Sciences Curriculum

Reviewing the Australian curriculum is no easy task. AusIMM recognise the substantial curriculum development process led by ACARA to date, characterised by close collaboration between teachers, curriculum experts, academia, and the public and private school sectors. Engagement with the broader community, including peak professional bodies such as AusIMM, is a vital part of this process.

AusIMM invite further engagement with ACARA and our partners across the resources sector on how the Australian sciences curriculum can be modernised to support young Australians in accessing long-term careers in resources and becoming active, informed members of the community.

To discuss the matters raised in this letter further, we encourage you to contact Harry Turner, our Government Relations Advisor, who you can reach at hturner@ausimm.com or on (03) 9658 6177.

Regards



Stephen Durkin FAusIMM | Chief Executive Officer, AusIMM