

Final Consistency Review Report

Qualification Title: New Zealand Diploma in Environmental Management with strands in Marine and Terrestrial (Level 6)

Qualification number: 2966

Date of review: 22 July 2021

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **30 December 2020.**

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of the graduate being able to:

- Apply legislative requirements when conducting environmental activities.
- Design and coordinate environmental monitoring, analysis and reporting.
- Apply knowledge of freshwater biology, ecology by sampling and monitoring.

Graduates of the Marine strand will also be able to:

- Apply specialised technical knowledge to monitor the marine environment.

Graduates of the Terrestrial strand will also be able to:

- Apply specialised technical knowledge to enable monitoring in and management of ecosystems with a focus on tasks and operate in a terrestrial environment.

The agreed threshold statement is similar to the Graduate Profile Outcome (GPO) statements. It was agreed by all those at the review that the threshold needed to cover the GPOs to ensure they covered all that their graduates could be, know and do.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
6025	Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology Ltd	Sufficient
6012	Northland Polytechnic Ltd	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this qualification is to provide the environmental management sector with individuals who have in-depth skills and knowledge required to work in the environmental management field. This qualification is targeted at people who have gained operational and technical skills and experience in the area of environmental studies.

Aotearoa New Zealand will benefit from having graduates who understand marine or terrestrial and related environments, and how they are influenced by human activities, enabling informed environmental management.

Graduates will be capable of working autonomously.

The reporting range for this qualification is 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2020.

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Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Requirements of the qualification included graduates holding a current outdoor first aid certificate and understanding how the Treaty of Waitangi underpins environmental practice. These areas were discussed at the beginning of the review and both TEOs were able to outline how these requirements were met within their programmes with good evidence of how they were integrated into the programme of study. During the discussion it was recommended that programmes leading to this qualification include content on implementing legislation to improve environmental outcomes for Fisheries Management.

TEOs offering programmes leading to this qualification were able to discuss and demonstrate how their programmes reflect industry practice and currency with relevant legislation. Evidence around maintaining currency included amendments to, and replacements of, relevant legislation, government departments, and Australia/New Zealand Standards (AS/NZS).

Evidence was presented of effective internal quality assurance systems to ensure that graduates meet the graduate outcomes of the qualification. Both programme structures were outlined well in the presentations, showing how the course learning outcomes are integrated with the programme and how their relevant assessments have consistently been aligned to the graduate profile.

Evidence was provided of internal pre and post-assessment moderation being completed according to the TEO's moderation plan, with assessment adjustments being made as necessary to ensure that the assessment reflects the learning outcomes and GPOs.

Comprehensive feedback and extensive support from affiliated and associated industry, advisory groups, employers and graduates (and ongoing requests for more graduates) collected by electronic surveys, some phone calls and face-to-face interviews outlines that the skills, knowledge and behaviour in the graduate outcomes are demonstrated by graduates. This was also evidenced with both TEOs having high numbers of graduates taking up further study or being in related employment. One TEO noted that many graduates from two years ago were still either employed in the environmental management sector or continuing with postgraduate study.

How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

There was evidence of robust programme mapping of GPOs to learning outcomes with aligned assessments. Good analysis of assessments with effective moderation practices

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allowed for the demonstration of the range of student performance within a programme and showed that the graduate outcomes have been met. Where self-assessment via feedback analysis, annual review and industry or employer feedback note changes needed, evidence has been provided of these changes being implemented.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied, by those organisations found sufficient, demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

Special Focus

For the Marine Strand a specific outcome applies:

- Apply specialised technical knowledge to monitor the marine environment (credit 45)

For the Terrestrial Strand a specific outcome applies:

- Apply specialised technical knowledge to monitor and manage tasks and operate in a terrestrial environment (credit 45)

It is also recommended within the qualification conditions that programmes include:

- Implementing legislation to improve environmental outcomes and design Fisheries Management.

Examples of good practice

Both TEOs have staff engaged in research projects and this ensures that staff remain current in their field of expertise, and as a result, deliver current and relevant content knowledge.

Issues and concerns

None

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

During discussions it was recommended that programmes leading to this qualification include content on implementing legislation to improve environmental outcomes and designs for Fisheries Management.

