

## CASE STUDY: WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

**APPRENTICE:** Tamarra Hasiuk

**COMPANY:** Apprenticeship Careers Australia, hosted to Downer Seymour White

**HOTSPOT REGION:** Shoalhaven/Southern Highlands

**TARGET:**

1. Encouraging women to consider careers in civil
2. Encouraging employers to increase opportunities for women in civil to address the critical skills shortage faced by the construction industry
3. Encouraging employers to consider Group Training as a simple solution to recruit apprentices and trainees




Tamarra Hasiuk is a 21 year old Civil Construction Certificate 3 trainee, employed by Apprenticeship Careers Australia and hosted to Downer Seymour White. Tamarra is working on the South Coast of NSW on the Berry to Bomaderry road expansion, a major State Government Infrastructure project.

Tamarra left school in year 10 and felt overwhelmed in making a decision on a career path, not really knowing what she wanted to do. Even though her mum is a painter and she is surrounded by other tradies in the family, Tamarra at one stage considered a career in hospitality, before narrowing her choices down to bricklaying and eventually carpentry.

However, finding opportunities to enter the carpentry trade wasn't easy, so Tamarra focussed on building her skill set and spent a few years in other entry level jobs including truck washing, demolition and painting. Tamarra then fell into a period of unemployment for 3 months before stumbling across an opportunity to undertake a Certificate 2 in Civil Construction traineeship.

Despite her family connections to the construction industry, Tamarra still felt very daunted entering the male dominated trade. However, Tamarra quickly noticed a strong sense of team culture in construction, saying that her workmates are very encouraging and it's a really supportive environment.



Construction has also opened up a lot of doors to upskill. Since commencing her traineeship, Tamarra has gained valuable construction tickets including Elevated Work Platform, telehandler, confined spaces, working at heights and dogging. Tamarra is now studying an evening course in Carpentry Certificate 3 so she will have a dual trade

Since starting in construction in 2014, Tamarra has noticed an increase in the number of women working in construction in only a short space of time. Tamarra has a personal ambition to be the first female leading hand on this major construction project and strongly encourages other women to consider this rewarding career path.