

# Earthmoving Plant Operator

Earthmoving plant operators operate plant to excavate earth, ore and rock; break up pavement, road, rock and obstructions; move and load earth, rock and debris; and level, smooth and compact surfaces in construction and other projects.

## Job title examples

- Backhoe Operator
- Bulldozer Operator
- Earthmoving Plant Operator/  
Construction Plant Operator
- Excavator Operator
- Grader Operator
- Loader Operator

## Other jobs in this field of work

## What earthmoving plant operators do

- prepare and position plant for operation
- select, fit and remove attachments such as buckets, winches, loading scoops, shovel blades and rock breaking hammers
- operate controls to excavate, break, drill, level, compact, gouge out, move, load and spread earth, rock, rubble, soil and other materials
- monitor operation of plant and adjust controls to regulate pressure, speed and flow of operation, and ensure safety of other workers
- raise, lower and manipulate attachments using manual and hydraulic controls
- work from drawings, markers and verbal instructions
- service, lubricate, clean and refuel equipment (plant) and perform minor adjustments and repairs

## Main employing industries

- Construction
- Mining

## Qualifications



The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

**Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Certificate II in Civil Construction** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Civil Construction** available as a traineeship, apprenticeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Civil Construction Plant Operations** available as an apprenticeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Civil Foundations** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Local Government (Operational Works)** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Trenchless Technology** available as a traineeship or qualification

**Apprenticeships and traineeships:** Find out how to get an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#).

**Course fees:** You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

## Job prospects and pay



- There are around 11,239 earthmoving plant operators working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.

### Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):

- Earthmoving plant operators: \$1,514
- All occupations: \$1,200

## Related jobs



- Crane, Hoist and Lift Operator

To find out more regarding this related job, visit the [Job Guides Homepage](#).

### Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, [joboutlook.gov.au](#), based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014