

Career Profile: Bulldozer Operator

Bulldozer Operators work with the big machines which prepare sites for the construction process. If you liked playing with toy trucks, diggers, and sandpits when you were young, then this could be the job for you! As a Bulldozer Operator you will drive and manoeuvre bulldozers to clear land, debris, rubble and other objects on construction sites.

Also known as: Earthmoving Plant Operators and Mobile Plant Operators

Specialisations: Scraper Operator



What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Conducting preparatory work for building roads and buildings
- ▶ Following markings and hand signals to raise or lower terrain to specified grade
- ▶ Preparing the machinery for operation and performing maintenance on the machinery
- ▶ Selecting, fitting and removing of attachments such as scoops and rippers
- ▶ Using and adjusting controls to manipulate the machinery and its attachments using manual and hydraulic controls
- ▶ Performing safety checks each time the machinery is used
- ▶ Coordinating with other operators to perform the duties required
- ▶ Interpreting signage on a construction site and working from drawings, markers and directions from others

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ Operating different types of machines or tools excites me
- ▶ I enjoy being outdoors
- ▶ I like practical and manual activities
- ▶ I am a person who enjoys physical work
- ▶ I have good hand eye coordination
- ▶ I can work independently and as part of a team

Working conditions and hours

You will mainly work outdoors and may work on large infrastructure, construction sites, road construction and maintenance, residential subdivision and bulk earthworks, foundation work, railway construction and maintenance, tunnel construction and pipe-laying. You may work regular full-time hours (44 hours per week) if working on a project or may include shift work including late nights, early mornings, and weekend work.

How do I become a Bulldozer Operator?

To work with plant machinery in Western Australia you will need a construction white card and Work Safe require you to have a High-Risk Work License, which you need to be 18 years of age to obtain. To get started if you're still at school, you can enrol in a Certificate II Civil Construction qualification as part of your WACE. Otherwise, you may like to complete the following qualifications through a Registered Training Provider or as a traineeship, which usually takes 24- 36 months to complete and includes on the job training with an employer.

Certificate III	Certificate IV	Diploma
- Civil Construction Plant Operations - Civil Construction	- Civil Construction Supervision - Civil Construction Operations	- Civil Construction Management

Future pathways and opportunities

You can be employed on large construction projects and/or complete some short courses to add to your licenses; the more licenses you have to operate specific machinery the more variety you will have. With further study your career could lead you to complete a Diploma or Advanced Diploma to become a Site Supervisor, Civil Construction Manager, or a Plant Engineer.

Average Pay

Up to **\$1,491** per week
depending on your qualifications and experience.

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Have an awareness of safety issues
- ▶ Be a team player
- ▶ Be able to listen to and follow instructions carefully and accurately
- ▶ Be physically fit and enjoy working outdoors
- ▶ Have good coordination skills
- ▶ Enjoy working with machinery and an aptitude for mechanics



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ Civil Contractors Federation – www.civilcontractors.com

- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – www.aapathways.com.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au

