



North West Rural Skills Connect



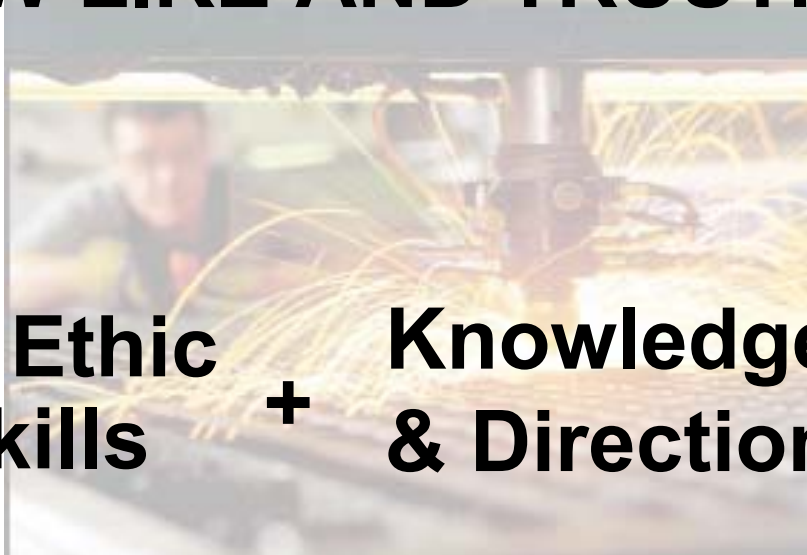
MAJELLA BALLARD PROJECT MANAGER

North West Rural Skills Connect

**Rural Skills Connect is
local and relevant.**

**People do business with people they
KNOW LIKE AND TRUST.**

**Work Ethic
& Skills + Knowledge
& Direction + Real Job
Experience**



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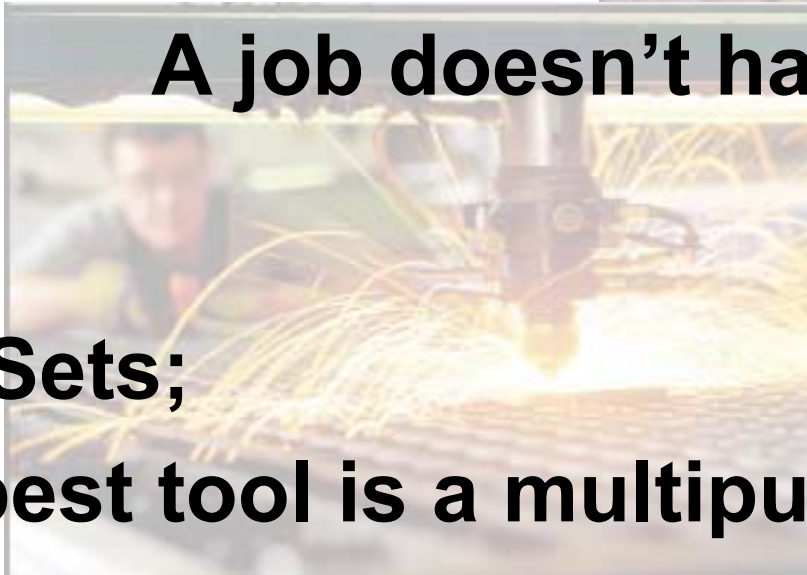
Are farmers underutilised and do they have barriers to employment?



A job doesn't have to be full time.

Skill Sets;

The best tool is a multipurpose tool.



North West Rural Skills Connect

Results to date

- **116+ participants engaging with the project**
- **95+ competencies scheduled or completed**
- **38+ participants started off farm employment**

Agreements with Mineral Sands, Transport, Solar Systems and manufacturing operators to assist in the facilitation of training and the engagement with prospective employees from the rural farming sector.



The Sands are shifting beneath our feet

In 2006 identified skills shortages have been affected by;

- Global and national economic downturn**
- Local economy & business activity downturn**
- Many other factors out of our control**

In 2009 we are growing so we still have skill shortages.

Activity = More jobs = Skill shortages = Capacity building

- Federal and State funded infrastructure works such as the modernisation of our irrigation systems, new roads and community assets
 - Opening of new Mineral Sands Mines
 - \$420 million Solar Systems energy plant
 - Population increase in larger regional centres
 - Changing demographics of communities
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