

# Career Profile: Mobile Plant Operator



Mobile Plant Operators work with heavy machinery used on construction sites and roadworks. The machinery includes 360-degree excavators, bulldozers and front-end loaders for moving earth; static tower cranes, mobile and rough terrain cranes for lifting and moving materials; and compactors such as rollers used for flattening out work areas. Operators also use forklifts to move or load building materials.

## What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Handle construction materials and safe disposal of waste
- ▶ Compact, level and spread materials to form roads and footpaths
- ▶ Perform minor repairs to road surfaces, maintain bridges and repair signs and signposts
- ▶ General roadside maintenance such as grass cutting and weed control
- ▶ Load and unload equipment and clean work sites
- ▶ Dig trenches so that footings and services can be laid, use hand tools and jackhammers if necessary, to break up rock and concrete
- ▶ Learn to drive bulldozers, excavators, front-end loaders, static tower cranes, mobile and rough terrain cranes and compactors
- ▶ Operate machinery to level, excavate, move and load earth, rock and other material
- ▶ Change buckets and attachments and maintain equipment
- ▶ Perform safety checks

## 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 Mobile Plant 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 good concentration skills and be able to follow verbal instructions accurately
- ▶ Have an awareness of safety issues
- ▶ Be a team player
- ▶ Be physically fit for the demands of the job role 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](http://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au)
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – [www.aapathways.com.au](http://www.aapathways.com.au)
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – [www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au)
- ▶ Job Outlook – [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)

