

**2026 EDITION**

# SYDNEY CRANE CAREER GUIDE

Which high-risk licence pays what, how the career ladder actually works, and the fastest path from no ticket to Sydney's biggest construction sites.

**\$120k-  
\$140k**

DOGGER AVERAGE  
— SEEK 2026

**5 days**

DOGGING LICENCE  
COURSE

**5.0★**

141 GOOGLE  
REVIEWS

**26 yrs**

TRAINING SYDNEY  
CREWS

# WHICH TICKET DOES WHAT – AND WHAT IT PAYS

Every crane crew role in NSW needs a SafeWork NSW High Risk Work (HRW) licence. Here is the full map: the class code on your licence, what it lets you do, and what people holding it are earning in Sydney right now.

| CLASS               | WHAT IT LICENSES YOU TO DO                                                                                                              | SYDNEY SALARY*                                    | COURSE              |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>LF</b>           | Forklift truck operation – warehouses, yards, site logistics.<br>The fastest ticket to get working.<br>TLILIC0003                       | <b>\$65k–\$75k</b><br>\$85k–\$100k w/ OT on sites | 3 days ·<br>\$550   |
| <b>DG</b>           | Dogging – sling loads, direct crane movements. The gateway licence for every crane crew. Highest demand on Sydney sites.<br>CPCCLDG3001 | <b>\$120k–\$140k</b><br>\$180k–\$200k+ EBA w/ OT  | 5 days ·<br>\$1,295 |
| <b>RB</b>           | Basic Rigging – structural steel erection, hoists, precast panels. Builds on your DG.<br>CPCCLRG3001                                    | <b>\$85k–\$100k+</b><br>\$135k–\$160k+ EBA w/ OT  | 5 days ·<br>\$1,595 |
| <b>RI</b>           | Intermediate Rigging – cranes with multiple winches, tilt slabs, demolition rigging.<br>CPCCLRG3002                                     | <b>\$95k–\$110k+</b><br>\$150k–\$180k+ EBA w/ OT  | 5 days ·<br>\$1,595 |
| <b>C6 / C1 / CO</b> | Slewing mobile crane – C6 (to 60 t), C1 (to 100 t), C0 (open / unlimited). The top of the ladder.<br>TLILIC0040 and related             | <b>\$125k–\$145k</b><br>\$170k–\$200k+ EBA w/ OT  | from \$1,595        |
| <b>CT</b>           | Tower crane – CBD high-rise work. Usually added after DG + crane experience.<br>CPCCLTC4001                                             | <b>\$130k–\$150k</b><br>\$200k+ CBD EBA w/ OT     | \$2,195             |
| <b>WP</b>           | Boom-type elevating work platform over 11 m – EWP work across construction and maintenance.<br>TLILIC0005                               | <b>adds site value</b>                            | 3 days ·<br>\$750   |

**\*Salary sources:** bold figure = SEEK Australia advertised-salary average, 2026 (seek.com.au salary guides per role). Blue figure = typical total earnings on union EBA construction sites, estimated from advertised hourly rates × real site weeks (50–60 hrs incl. overtime, penalties and allowances): Sydney dogman ads \$62.10/hr (SEEK, 2026), rigger average \$51.93/hr (Indeed, 2026), CFMEU 2026 Onsite EBA Rates. Estimates only – actual earnings depend on employer, site, hours and experience. A licence qualifies you to work; it is not a guarantee of employment or income. **Current course dates while you read: training-combined.vercel.app/courses**

# THE MATHS NOBODY SHOWS YOU

01

## FORKLIFT (LF)

3 days, \$550 — working in warehouses and yards within the week. Good entry if you're starting from zero.

**\$65k–\$75k**

SEEK AVG, 2026

02

## DOGGING (DG) — THE GATEWAY

5 days, \$1,295. Every crane lift in NSW needs a dogger. At \$120k+, the course pays for itself in under one week of work. On EBA sites with overtime and allowances, Sydney crews commonly clear \$180k–\$200k+.

**\$120k–\$140k**

SEEK AVG, 2026

03

## RIGGING (RB → RI)

5 days each, \$1,595. Steel erection, precast, hoists. Doggers who add rigging become the crew members site managers fight over. Dogger/rigger roles advertise \$45–\$65+/hr — \$170k+ on EBA overtime.

**\$85k–\$110k+**

SEEK AVG, 2026

04

## CRANE OPERATOR (C6 / CT)

Slewing mobile or tower crane. The seat at the top of the ladder — CBD tower crane operators on EBA sites are among Sydney's best-paid trades, commonly \$200k+ with overtime and allowances.

**\$125k–\$150k**

SEEK AVG, 2026

## PART 3 – THE FASTEST PATH

## NO TICKET → CRANE CREW, WEEK BY WEEK

### BEFORE WEEK 1

**Get your USI and photo ID ready.** You need a Unique Student Identifier (free, 5 minutes at [usi.gov.au](http://usi.gov.au)), to be 18+, and to have basic English for the SafeWork assessment. Book your DG course date.

### WEEK 1

**Dogging course — 5 days at Regents Park.** Slings techniques, load estimation, crane communication (whistle, hand and radio signals). Finishes with the SafeWork NSW assessment on site.

### WEEK 2

**Apply for your HRW licence.** Take your Statement of Training to Service NSW within 60 days. Interim authority means you can start working while the photo licence is posted out.

### WEEKS 2-8

**Get on the tools.** Labour-hire firms (and the big builders' crane crews) take fresh doggers constantly — Sydney's pipeline of towers, metro stations and warehouses is outrunning the supply of licensed crew.

### MONTHS 3-12

**Stack tickets while you earn.** Add Basic Rigging, then Intermediate. Each ticket widens what your crew can put you on — and what you can charge.

### YEAR 2+

**Take the seat.** With dogging + rigging experience behind you, move into a crane seat — C6 slewing mobile or the tower crane (CT) path for CBD high-rise.

**Straight advice (no sales pitch):** already working in a warehouse or yard? Skip Forklift and go straight to Dogging. Not sure which ticket fits? Call Robert on 0450 893 514 — if a course isn't right for you yet, we'll tell you.

# THE BOOM DECADE: WHY TIMING MATTERS

Australia's east coast is entering the biggest sustained construction run in its history — and there aren't enough licensed crane crew to build it. Here is what the pipeline looks like, in the two cities that matter most.

**300,000**

SKILLED CONSTRUCTION  
WORKER SHORTFALL  
FORECAST BY 2027 —  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
AUSTRALIA

**\$111.5B**

NSW INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITMENT OVER 4 YEARS  
— 2025-26 BUDGET

**50,000+**

WORKER SHORTAGE  
FORECAST AT BRISBANE  
2032 PEAK CONSTRUCTION

## SYDNEY – THE PIPELINE YOU'LL BUILD

### ✓ SYDNEY METRO WEST — \$11.5B

24 km underground metro, contracts signed January 2026. Every station box, TBM site and viaduct needs crane crews for years.

### ✓ WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT PRECINCT

\$5.3B airport opens November 2026 — but the aerotropolis around it (warehouses, roads, rail) keeps building well into the 2030s.

### ✓ HOUSING + CBD TOWERS

NSW housing targets mean sustained high-rise work — tower cranes over Sydney aren't coming down any time soon.

### ✓ CRANE DEMAND OUTRUNNING SUPPLY

Crane operators sit among the top in-demand trades nationally. Trades availability hit record shortage levels in late 2025 — and it's forecast to get tighter.

## BRISBANE 2032 – THE OLYMPICS BUILD

An estimated **\$7.1 billion** is committed to Olympic venues, transport and supporting infrastructure across South East Queensland — stadiums, rail, roads and athlete housing. Recruitment waves run from **late 2026 through 2028** at peak, with contracts of 12–36 months. Dogging, rigging and crane operation are all high-risk-work licence roles named in the Games workforce demand — the exact tickets in this guide. A Sydney-trained dogger or crane operator holds a **nationally recognised HRW licence**: get licensed now, work the Sydney pipeline, and the Brisbane boom is open to you too.

**The window:** shortages this size push wages up and get fresh ticket-holders onto sites faster than any normal market. The people who licensed up before the last boom rode a decade of overtime. The 2026–2032 run is bigger. **Sources:** Infrastructure Australia workforce outlook; Infrastructure NSW pipeline (2025–26 Mid-Year Budget Review); HIA Trades Availability Index Q4 2025; Queensland Government Brisbane 2032 delivery program. Market information only — not a promise of employment or income.

## GETTING PICKED FOR TIER-ONE SITES

### ✓ A REAL RTO ON YOUR TICKET

Site inductions check where you trained. Training Combined (RTO #45490) has trained crews for CPB, John Holland and Lendlease for 26 years.

### ✓ MULTIPLE TICKETS

DG + RB on one card beats DG alone. Crews want people they can move between tasks without waiting on another hire.

### ✓ RADIO + SIGNAL DISCIPLINE

Tier-one sites run strict comms. Trainers who've worked the sites (not just the classroom) drill this properly.

### ✓ WHITE CARD + USI IN ORDER

Construction induction card, USI, photo ID – have the paperwork ready so a labour-hire firm can place you the day you call.

## PART 6 – 2026 COURSE PRICES

## COURSES AT REGENTS PARK

| COURSE                                                  | DURATION | PRICE          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Forklift (LF) – TLILIC0003                              | 3 days   | <b>\$550</b>   |
| Elevating Work Platform (WP) – TLILIC0005               | 3 days   | <b>\$750</b>   |
| Dogging (DG) – CPCCLDG3001                              | 5 days   | <b>\$1,295</b> |
| Basic Rigging (RB) – CPCCLRG3001                        | 5 days   | <b>\$1,595</b> |
| Intermediate Rigging (RI) – CPCCLRG3002                 | 5 days   | <b>\$1,595</b> |
| Slewing Mobile Crane (C6) – TLILIC0040                  | 5 days   | <b>\$1,595</b> |
| Tower Crane (CT) – CPCCLTC4001                          | –        | <b>\$2,195</b> |
| Dogging + Tower Crane combo – the CBD high-rise package | 10 days  | <b>\$2,990</b> |

## COURSES RUN WEEKLY. BOOK YOUR SEAT.

**Re-Train Free Guarantee:** don't pass your first assessment? We re-train and re-assess you free – up to 2 extra attempts. We take on the training risk. Small groups, hands-on gear, SafeWork NSW assessment on site at Regents Park – 26 years, 5.0★ from 141 Google reviews.

**SEE DATES & BOOK ONLINE**

OR CALL ROBERT

**0450 893 514**

Coming with a mate? Book together and tell us who sent you – we look after referrals.

Training Combined Pty Ltd · RTO #45490 · 1–3 Mary Street, Regents Park NSW 2143 · [trainingcombined.com.au](https://www.trainingcombined.com.au)

Salary figures are SEEK Australia 2026 averages for advertised Sydney roles – market information only, not a promise of employment or income. HRW licences are issued by SafeWork NSW; a course qualifies you to be assessed. 18+ with USI. Prices subject to change. Re-Train Free Guarantee covers free re-training and re-assessment only (up to 2 extra attempts) – not a licence, assessment outcome, or employment. © 2026 Training Combined.