

The 7-Second Mining Resume Cheat Sheet

What recruiters actually look for before they decide your future

FIFO Life

Real talk for FIFO workers & families

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Introduction

A mining recruiter looks at your resume for about seven seconds before deciding whether to keep reading. This cheat sheet tells you exactly what those seven seconds need to find — and the mistakes that end the look early.

It's written from the recruitment side of the desk: this is what actually gets scanned, in order.

1. The Seven-Second Scan

In order, a recruiter's eyes hit: your current or most recent role and employer, your tickets and licences, your machine or trade experience, and your location and availability. If those four things aren't visible without scrolling, your resume fails the scan no matter how good you are.

Put a summary block at the very top: role, years of experience, key tickets, location, availability. Example: 'Excavator Operator — 6 years open-cut coal — HR Licence, Standard 11 — Mackay-based — available immediately.' That one line does more work than the following two pages.

List tickets and competencies in their own titled section, not buried in job descriptions. Write them the way the industry writes them: RII codes where you have them, licence classes, VOC currency. A recruiter filtering two hundred applications searches for exact terms.

- ✓ Top line = role + years + tickets + location + availability
- ✓ Give tickets their own section with exact names and codes
- ✓ Machine hours are gold — list hours by machine type if you have them

2. The Instant-Bin Mistakes

These end the read early: no location (are you local, residential, or needing FIFO?), no dates on roles (gaps are fine, hidden gaps are not), listing 'machinery operation' without saying which machines, and objective statements that say nothing ('seeking a challenging role in a dynamic environment').

Keep it to two pages maximum. Delete the high school section if you've worked five years. Delete references — 'available on request' is assumed. Delete the photo; this isn't LinkedIn.

One resume per role type. An application for a dozer seat should read differently to one for a supervisor role — same history, different emphasis. Sending one generic resume to everything is why good operators go quiet-listed.

- ✓ Two pages max — recruiters respect tight resumes
- ✓ Every role needs dates, site or company name, and the machines you ran
- ✓ Tailor the top summary line for each application — 30 seconds well spent

Final Word

Fix the top block first — it's 80% of the result for 10% of the effort. When you're ready to go deeper, the full Mining Resume & Cover Letter Playbook covers templates, ATS keywords and worked examples for every role type.

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