

Media Release

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Career opportunities power up with Essential Energy

Essential Energy has opened applications for its annual intake to its award-winning apprenticeship program, with 39 apprentice and trainee positions available across 32 locations.

The energy distributor is responsible for powering more than 865,000 homes and businesses in one of Australia's largest network areas.

Luke Jenner, General Manager for Customer and Network Services, said "Essential Energy prides itself on recruiting exceptional people, who are motivated and passionate about working with us and who want to become an important and valued part of the team."

"Our apprentice program was recognised as the best in Australia at the 2019 Australian Apprentices awards, reflecting the success of the program for both apprentices and the business" he said.

The Essential Energy apprentice program boasts high rates of completion, with 93 per cent of employees completing their apprenticeship, well above national averages of 63 per cent. Once employees complete their apprenticeship, the majority stay with the business, with retention rates of 92 per cent and one in four apprentices go on to higher technical roles within the business,

"We are proud of the program, with about 1300 apprentices employed since 2003. This ongoing investment in trainees and apprentices brings significant employment and development opportunities to our local communities across rural, regional and remote NSW and parts of southern Queensland. As the economic impacts of COVID-19 are felt across the state, we are delighted to be creating new job opportunities in regional communities and helping build capability right across the State."

The program combines formal training with on-the-job experience in what it takes to operate a modern electricity network that covers around 95 per cent of NSW.

"Our apprenticeship program reflects our geographic dispersion, with apprentices being recruited from, and being able to live and work in many of the regional towns containing field depots across our footprint," continued Mr Jenner.

"If working outdoors in a team environment appeals to you, an apprenticeship or traineeship with Essential Energy may be the perfect way to power up your career. As a culturally diverse and inclusive workplace, we want our workforce to reflect the 1,500 local communities we serve, so we encourage everyone who is looking for an opportunity to kick start their career in this dynamic industry to apply," he said.

Prospective candidates are invited to apply for positions based in Condobolin, Griffith, Ewingsdale, Grafton, Mudgee, Bathurst, Dorrigo, Corowa, Buronga, Broken Hill, Bourke, Barraba, Narrabri, Armidale, Kyogle, Cowra, Wagga Wagga, Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Dubbo, Kempsey, Nyngan, Coonamble, Albury, Tumut, Moruya, Moree, Canowindra, Goondiwindi, Tamworth and Guyra.

Applications are now open and will close at 11.55pm (AEST) Sunday, 19 July 2020. To apply, visit www.essentialenergy.com.au/kickstart

FACT FILE:

- Essential Energy builds, operates and maintains one of Australia's largest electricity distribution networks, servicing 855,000 customers across regional, rural and remote NSW.
- Our footprint covers 95 percent of NSW, traversing 737,000 square kilometres of landmass with 183,612 km of powerline, 163,417 of those in designated bushfire zones.
- The network services more than 855,000 customers with approximately 4.6 customers to each kilometre of powerline, which is almost one-tenth the customer density compared with our counterparts in NSW.
- Essential Energy's footprint also includes 1.38 million power poles, equating to 1.6 power poles per customer.

- **Essential Energy is proud to be the 2019 winner of the Australian Apprentices – Employer Award.**

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Media contact: Mitchell Cutting, Media & PR Specialist, t: 0428167737