



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

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112 NEW APPRENTICES FOR REGIONAL NSW

Regional NSW has received an employment boost with Australia's largest electricity network operator, Essential Energy, appointing 112 new apprentices last week.

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher said the new apprentices were a valuable resource in an industry that provides an essential service to millions of people around the State.

"These new apprentices will play an important role in providing a safe and secure energy supply across regional New South Wales and will be very much part of the future of the industry," Mr Hartcher said.

The apprentices have kick-started their careers by participating in a three-week induction program at one of the company's three dedicated training centres at Parkes, Grafton and Goulburn.

The majority of new recruits will be trained as power line workers, with other opportunities provided for zone substation electrical technicians.

Taking up roles across 71 depots on completion of their induction training, the new recruits will support Essential Energy's ongoing program of network improvement, designed to enhance power supply reliability and support regional development in New South Wales.

"It's great to see a diverse mix among the new recruits with the group including both school leavers and mature age people with previous experience in the workforce," Mr Hartcher said.

"And of the 112, 13 are Indigenous and two are female."

The latest intake brings the total number of apprentice positions created by Essential Energy since 2001 to more than 1140, making the energy provider one of the biggest regional employers of apprentices in New South Wales.

"Apprenticeships help create permanent, ongoing work for people within their local communities, providing them with the skills and training to establish long-term careers," Mr Hartcher said.

“Essential Energy has an enviable success rate, with 93 per cent of its apprentices completing their trade certificates.

“I congratulate all the new apprentices as they commence their careers with Essential Energy.”

Essential Energy apprentice intake – January 2012		
Location	Type of apprenticeship	No. of apprentices
Albury	Powerline worker	3
Armidale	Powerline worker	3
Ballina	Powerline worker	2
Balranald	Powerline worker	1
Barraba	Powerline worker	1
Bega	Powerline worker	1
Blayney	Powerline worker	2
Bombala	Powerline worker	1
Bourke	Powerline worker	1
Braidwood	Powerline worker	2
Broken Hill	Powerline worker	3
Buronga	Powerline worker	2
Canowindra	Powerline worker	1
Cobar	Powerline worker	1
Coffs Harbour	Powerline worker	3
Condobolin	Powerline worker	1
Coolamon	Powerline worker	1
Cooma	Powerline worker	2
Coonabarabran	Powerline worker	1
Corowa	Powerline worker	1
Culcairn	Powerline worker	1
Dorrigo	Powerline worker	1
Dubbo	Powerline worker	1
Dubbo	Zone substation electrical technician	1
Dunedoo	Powerline worker	2
Ewingsdale	Powerline worker	2
Forbes	Powerline worker	2
Forster	Powerline worker	1
Gilgandra	Powerline worker	1
Glen Innes	Powerline worker	1
Goondiwindi	Powerline worker	2
Goulburn	Powerline worker	2
Grafton	Powerline worker	2
Grenfell	Powerline worker	1
Griffith	Powerline worker	2
Gundagai	Powerline worker	1
Gunnedah	Powerline worker	1
Hay	Powerline worker	1
Hillston	Powerline worker	1
Inverell	Powerline worker	1
Jindabyne	Powerline worker	1

Junee	Powerline worker	2
Kyogle	Powerline worker	1
Leeton	Powerline worker	1
Leeton	Zone substation electrical technician	1
Lismore	Powerline worker	2
Maclean	Powerline worker	1
Moree	Powerline worker	2
Moruya	Powerline worker	2
Mudgee	Powerline worker	1
Murwillumbah	Powerline worker	1
Nambucca Heads	Powerline worker	2
Nyngan	Powerline worker	1
Orange	Zone substation electrical technician	1
Parkes	Powerline worker	2
Peak Hill	Powerline worker	1
Port Macquarie	Powerline worker	2
Queanbeyan	Powerline worker	2
Quirindi	Powerline worker	2
Tamworth	Powerline worker	1
Taree	Powerline worker	1
Tenterfield	Powerline worker	1
Texas	Powerline worker	1
Tumbarumba	Powerline worker	1
Tumut	Powerline worker	2
Tweed Heads	Powerline worker	3
Wagga Wagga	Powerline worker	3
Wagga Wagga	Zone substation electrical technician	2
Walcha	Powerline worker	1
Walgett	Powerline worker	2
Warialda	Powerline worker	1
Warren	Powerline worker	2
Wellington	Powerline worker	1
West Wyalong	Powerline worker	1
Young	Powerline worker	1