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## Indigenous trainees begin pre-employment program

Essential Energy has appointed six Indigenous trainees to a new apprentice pre-employment program aimed at equipping participants with nationally-recognised qualifications and industry-specific skills.

The new recruits have joined Essential Energy depots in Bourke, Casino, Goulburn, Murwillumbah, Tamworth and Walgett after completing a two-week induction program.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the six-month pilot program was designed to feed into Essential Energy's apprenticeship program.

"We are committed to providing opportunities that encourage diversity and inclusion in our workplace," David said.

"The trainees will participate in a range of business activities such as operating vehicles, plant and equipment to gain hands-on experience in building and maintaining Essential Energy's electricity network."

Under the traineeships, participants can attain:

- A nationally-recognised Certificate II in Business and related applicable skill sets
- A WorkCover NSW Construction Induction certificate
- A driver's licence (if not already obtained); and
- Other relevant and required industry and business requirements.

The program will also focus on providing support and development around literacy and numeracy skills.

Run in partnership with recruitment and training organisations Maxima and the Aboriginal Employment Strategy (AES), the program aims to boost Indigenous employment opportunities in regional and rural NSW.

"The trainees will pair up with mentors in their depots to provide cultural support while they develop foundation skills that could open the door for future employment opportunities," David said.

For more information on the Essential Energy Indigenous Pre-Employment Traineeship program, visit [essentialenergy.com.au/indigenous](http://essentialenergy.com.au/indigenous)

**Media contact: Simone Plews, Corporate Media Manager**  
**02 6588 6733 or 0457 514 993**