



POWERUP

SECTOR - ELECTRICITY

The electricity industry is made up of various sectors. There are many exciting employment opportunities available within this diverse industry.

Generation involves the conversion of the base fuel, whether it be coal, solar, hydro or other forms of energy, into electricity.

Transmission handles the transfer of very high voltage electrical power from the power stations thereafter delivering it to major sub stations throughout the state.

Distribution takes power at high voltages and breaks it down into the voltages required by the customer. This sector also manages the network which delivers electricity to homes, factories and shops.

Technical has specialist experts who maintain the equipment and facilities in the generation, transmission and distribution networks. This covers work commencing at the power stations continuing through substations to the end users such as houses, schools and businesses.

JOB AREA - GENERATION

Today we are all consumers of electricity. The need for electricity generators to meet the commercial, industrial and household requirements of electricity in an environmentally sustainable manner is a major challenge.

Coal fired power stations now use state of the art technologies to become cleaner and more efficient. At the same time, power stations using cleaner, renewable fuel sources such as hydro, wind, solar and biomass are being built to reduce green house emissions.

Jobs in electrical generation include power station operators who work on computer control and communications systems and station plant tradespersons who work on the maintenance of complex electrical systems.

If you feel you can contribute to an industry faced with meeting global environmental challenges in a competitive market, the electricity generation industry maybe the area for you.

JOB AREA - TECHNICAL

If harnessing the forces of nature is something that excites you, then work in the technical area of electricity could be for you. Generally, jobs involve the building and maintaining of substations and the installation and maintenance of electrical metering equipment, electrical control systems and electrical generation equipment.

If you like maths and science and are interested in what electricity can do, work as a tradesperson could make you a key player in the electricity supply industry carrying out work that no-one else can perform. Remember, the lights will go out if technical electricity tradespersons aren't on the job.



JOB AREA - TRANSMISSION

In Electricity Transmission you will work on the network's high voltage infrastructure such as substations and transmission lines.

Powerline workers erect power poles and "string" the lines and electrical conductors between them. Cable jointers install power cables and construct joints at the points of interconnection.

When storms occur, these are the front-line emergency response team who have to climb the poles to get things back on line. You would likely be a person that seeks an active outdoor lifestyle, are good with your hands and have an interest in electricity and what it can do.

Jobs are available with government and private electricity transmission distributors and trade qualifications are recognised around the country. Positions are available in both city and rural locations.

JOB AREA - DISTRIBUTION

Electricity Distribution primarily involves working on that part of the network that delivers power to domestic, industrial and commercial customers.

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NEXT STEP

Depending upon the career you want, you might train on the job, or earn while you learn in a combination of work and on and off the job training, or you might study full or part time at a university, TAFE or other Registered Training Organisation and then get a job.

Trade. An Australian Apprenticeship (apprenticeship or traineeship) is a great way to kick start your career especially if you enjoy hands on work. And tradespeople and trained operators are in high demand and well rewarded.

Technical. As modern industry becomes increasingly reliant upon computers and high tech machinery and equipment, the need for skilled technicians, supervisors, managers and engineering associates also increases. Some technicians and supervisors require Certificate III or IV, and technologists, technical officers, project managers and engineering associates usually need to complete a Diploma or Advanced Diploma.

Professional. Utilities and Electrotechnology needs highly skilled engineers to continually design, develop and implement new and improved technologies. The industry also needs many other management professionals.

Many state, territory and regional government websites have information about Electricity and some of these also have jobs and career information. Just use your search engine and type in e.g. New South Wales Electricity. You can also search for Electricity Authorities, Electricity Companies and Electricity Suppliers, or just enter a job title into a search engine and see what pops up.