

Workforce Australia

Local Jobs

New England and North West

Australian Energy Regulator
AERringfencing@aer.gov.au

Subject: Support for Essential Energy's Training Academy – Ring-Fencing Waiver Application

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the New England North West Region, I wish to express strong support for Essential Energy's application for a ring-fencing waiver to establish a regionally based Training Academy in Tamworth.

Our region is experiencing growing demand for skilled workers to support both traditional electricity services and the rapid expansion of renewable energy projects. Currently, access to accredited training locally is limited, requiring many residents to travel long distances or miss opportunities altogether. This has significant implications for workforce participation, project delivery, and regional economic growth.

A training academy located in Tamworth would:

- Address critical skills shortages by providing accessible, high-quality, industry-relevant training for local residents.
- Strengthen regional workforce capability to support major energy and infrastructure projects out to 2050.
- Create economic benefits through local job creation, stronger community resilience, and reduced outmigration of young people.
- Ensure regional employers, including SMEs, have access to skilled labour without the added burden of relying on metropolitan-based training services.

Essential Energy has long been a trusted regional employer with deep connections to communities across NSW. Their leadership in establishing a Training Academy will ensure programs are aligned with local needs, improve safety outcomes, and prepare residents for emerging opportunities in the energy transition.

We encourage the AER to grant this waiver to enable the development of this critical facility, which will deliver enduring benefits for workforce development, community wellbeing, and the economic future of the New England North West Region.

Sincerely,

Kate McGrath
Job Coordinator
New England and North West

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