

Essential Energy AER waiver support - Training Academy

Thank you for the opportunity to support Essential Energy in their endeavours for this very important Project.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate EE on their initiative for this very and much need Academy in Regional NSW.

It would have great benefits for the workforce, broader community including, Aboriginal people and the economy to have the training Academy regionally based, who would be the beneficiaries of this Academy.

Over the years community members and organisations also the late Member for Barwon Darling, Peter Black MP OAM, BSp, have been aware of the need and lobbied for such training projects.

To have this very much needed training available for young people currently is so important now with the transition of power to alternative energy in the future years to come.

A good example for my supporting Essential Energy for this initiative, is how successful the Apprenticeship Program has been managed by Essential Energy and become over the years having it regionally based. The Apprenticeship Program has a large geographic spread and includes many young Aboriginal people giving both male and female the opportunity for training regionally. The intake of new apprentices has been growing every year. The results are impressive, the interaction with apprentices during their training by staff including the CEO personally is to be commended. I am a strong advocate of this Program; it is second to none.

It gives me great pleasure in supporting this wonderful initiative and EE is well situated to be the provider of this Academy.

I wish Essential Energy success in their endeavours. I hope it leads to more such regionally based Academy's.

My apologies, I would appreciate your consideration to accept my late submission, caused by circumstances out of my control.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Marie Russell AM

Member, Essential Energy Advocacy Group.

Representing Rural Communities