

Electricity Supply trades worker

Average salary: \$85,800+

Career trend: some decline

Job description

Without electricity, the life we know wouldn't exist. Electrical distribution trades workers provide the vital service of ensuring individuals and businesses have power. You'll use your aptitude for intelligent problem solving to prepare, install, repair, and maintain electric power distribution networks.

What these trade workers do

The electricity supply industry in Australia involves a number of connected sectors. These are transmission, where electricity is transported from power stations through a high voltage transmission network and reduced to a lower voltage at substations; distribution, where electricity is distributed to homes and business via substations; and rail, where electricity is distributed to transport people and goods by trams and trains.

Electricity supply trades workers use their aptitude for mechanics and physics to install, maintain and repair electrical power and control systems to keep factories, businesses and homes running. When there's a power disturbance, failure or storm damage, they locate the source of the problem and replace or repair the defects.

Electricity supply trades workers use schematic diagrams, voltage indicating devices and other electrical-testing instruments to identify defective automatic sectionalising devices, circuit breakers, fuses, voltage regulators, transformers, switches, relays, and cabling. Typically, they work for government and privately owned/leased power utilities, transport organisations, contractors and accredited service providers (ASPs) maintaining electrical power systems. They're expected to retrain and up-skill as technology changes and maintain their skills by undertaking refresher training at least every twelve months.

You'll like this job if...

Your first priority is safety. You're mechanically minded. You often work as part of a crew. You're precise and detailed. You focus on facts and details. You're good with your hands. You're a problem solver. You can work in confined spaces. You have normal colour vision. You can work at heights. You enjoy working outdoors.

Will I get a job?

- Some decline in this occupation is predicted, with 400 less jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 7,400.

What will I earn?

- \$1,351-\$1,650 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

Roles to look for

- Electrical lines worker
- Electrical power line tradesperson
- Technical cable joiner

A day in the life...

Work as an electrical distribution trades worker may involve these tasks:

- install conductors, aerial equipment and underground cables
- install and maintain equipment associated with electrical supply
- attend to electrical breakdowns and emergencies
- maintain poles, associated hardware and continuity of electrical supply and lighting
- conduct routine maintenance on the aerial and underground electricity network
- conduct low-voltage switching operations
- fit pole hardware and cross arms
- prepare low- and high-voltage cable joints and cable terminations while connecting and installing electrical equipment and overhead lines
- use heavy plant equipment, such as elevated work platforms, and portable equipment such as hydraulic drills.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualification is available in NSW:

Certificate III in ESI—Power Systems—Distribution Cable Jointing (UET30812)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Certificate III in ESI—Power Systems—Distribution Overhead (UET30612)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Certificate III in ESI—Power Systems—Rail Traction (UET30712)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Certificate III in ESI—Power Systems—Transmission Overhead (UET30512)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 87.9%*

Certificate IV in ESI—Power Systems Substations (UET40512)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 94.8%*

VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.

For more information, visit



www.vet.nsw.gov.au

Information sources Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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Main employing industries

- Construction
- Electrical, gas, water and waste services
- Mining

Other jobs you may like...

- Air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic
- Electronic trades worker
- Electrician