New partnership to create Essential Indigenous job opportunities

Minister for essential services, Rob Knight welcomed the partnership between Power and Water Corporation (PWC), the MacDonnell Shire Council and Central Desert Shire Council to establish 16 trainee positions for Essential Services Operators (ESOs) in Central Australia.

The MacDonnell Shire Council has established ten new ESO trainee positions while Central Desert Shire Council has six new ESO trainees. The training component for these jobs has been developed in partnership between Power and Water, Charles Darwin University and GTNT.

“This agreement with shire councils, Indigenous enterprises and contractors are in place to undertake essential services operations and works and to ensure the safe and reliable management of electricity, water and sewerage facilities in over 72 remote communities,” Mr Knight said.

“Over 155 community based ESOs, of which nearly 40% are Indigenous, are employed to operate these essential services.

“The creation of trainee positions by the shire councils will provide local jobs, recognise ESOs as local role models and increase the capacity of communities to manage and maintain critical infrastructure.

“This will enable the shire councils to develop a more capable workforce and establish local jobs for Indigenous people.

“These types of training programmes which focus on safety, service delivery and infrastructure management will help develop career paths for Indigenous ESOs through formalised qualifications which will open the door for other career opportunities including Power and Water and the mining sector,” he said.

“The Trainee Essential Service Operators will take part in the nationally accredited Certificate II in Remote Area Essential Service delivered by Charles Darwin University.

“GTNT will build on the theory component of the course provided by Charles Darwin University by coordinating practical exercises and mentoring in the field,” added Mr Knight.

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