ALISON ANDERSON MLA | Member for NAMATJIRA
Minister for Regional Development

MEDIA RELEASE

ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

16 July 2013

Twenty trainees will today start a Certificate II in Remote Area Essential Services through the Centre for Appropriate Technology as a part of the Essential Services Officer (ESO) development plan.

Indigenous Essential Services Pty Ltd (IES), a subsidiary of the Power and Water Corporation, has been contracted by the Department of Regional Development to deliver electricity, water and sewage services to 72 remote Indigenous communities.

The IES ESO development plan is committed to reaching 60 per cent Indigenous employment by 2020 with a minimum qualification of Certificate II. A Certificate I is also on offer which provides a vital literacy and numeracy foundation to then gain higher qualifications.

The trainees, all currently employed, will undergo a three day commencement course in Alice Springs then head back to their community to continue on-the-job training to complete the certificate.

Minister for Regional Development, Alison Anderson, has congratulated the Power and Water Corporation for working with indigenous people, through IES, to boost employment which has a positive effect for everyone in their community.

"Having a job is such a powerful thing, and it should never be taken for granted. It gives a person a sense of purpose and allows them to positively contribute to your community," Ms Anderson said.

"I've been really impressed with the work of Indigenous Essential Services who aren't just giving out jobs to improve statistics, they're providing quality training and nationally recognised qualifications.

"There are many advantages for employing Indigenous people, especially when the work is being done on remote communities, there is a level of understanding and communication that cannot be matched by someone from the outside.

"I'm looking forward to meeting some of the trainees today and hearing their stories."

Media Contact:
Jarrad Schwark 0437 914 736