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New power apprentices selected from record applications

Ten new recruits have donned the safety gear for the first time after being selected from a record number of candidates applying to join electricity distributor CitiPower and Powercor's apprenticeship program.

More than 1,000 people applied for 2021 intake, with candidates undergoing an intensive selection process.

Ranging in age from 17 to 27, the recruits have this month begun roles as lineworkers, cable jointers or meter technicians at various depots including Ballarat, Bendigo, Echuca, Horsham, Geelong, Ardeer and Burnley.

CitiPower and Powercor Head of Field Services, Ross Young, said the successful applicants were chosen from 1,237 candidates – a 56% increase from the previous year and the largest field of candidates the business has had.

"Apprenticeships are an important way we invest in our people, providing opportunities to learn the skills needed to create a career in an exciting industry," Mr Young said.

"We are pleased to be able to create 10 new jobs across western Victorian and the CBD as our state rebuilds its economy after the COVID-19 pandemic."

The new apprentices will receive hands-on learning and training through Holmesglen TAFE. Their work will range from delivering our major works program to restoring power safely and quickly to customer if a fault occurs, often during extreme weather conditions.

"As Victoria adopts more clean energy resources, and households are installing solar, batteries and investing in electric vehicles, our new apprentices will play an important role in supporting our customers make these changes," Mr Young said.

Since 2001, CitiPower and Powercor have invested in more than 400 apprentices and trainees as the company builds its trades, technical and operational workforce.

The 10 new recruits join a large field workforce of more than 650 trades people located in 14 depots across the network, committed to high levels of customer service for their communities.

Successful recruits and locations

Apprentice	Role	Depot
Riley Moerenhout	Apprentice Lineworker	Ardeer
Joel O'Connell	Apprentice Lineworker	Ballarat
Dale Pearce	Apprentice Lineworker	Bendigo
Meyrick Buchanan	Apprentice Lineworker	Burnley
Beau Harris	Apprentice Lineworker	Echuca
Ben Lakin	Apprentice Lineworker	Horsham
Jordan Beckman	Apprentice Cable Joints	Ardeer
Jake Grose	Apprentice Cable Joints	Burnley
Josh Camp	Apprentice Cable Joints	Geelong
Sam Cordy	Apprentice Meter Technician	Ardeer

For more information call Powercor's media line on (03) 9683 4342



Background – Powercor

Powercor distributes electricity to 850,000 customers across the western suburbs of Melbourne and through central and western Victoria to the South Australian and New South Wales borders. Electricity is distributed in the region via a network comprising over 88,400 kilometres of wires, supported by more than 577,420 poles and associated infrastructure.

Residential households account for 86 per cent of connections. Our customers are dispersed over a wide geographic area in a density of just 12 people per square kilometre.

Our network also supports 11,200 medium, commercial and industrial businesses and 106,500 small businesses dominated by health care and social assistance, agriculture, forestry and fishing. These businesses generate 25 per cent of Victoria's Gross Domestic Product.

Our teams operate from 13 depots, our Bendigo-based customer contact centre and our CBD headquarters, to deliver reliable, safe and affordable electricity by operating, managing and maintaining all network assets and metering services. This means managing a network that is reliable and safe, particularly in relation to bushfire risks.

About CitiPower

CitiPower supplies power to a 157 kilometre square area across the CBD and inner suburbs and has the highest customer density in the National Electricity Market with 107 customers per kilometre square. Each day, about one million people occupy the CBD including 470,000 workers, residents and tourists.

Residential households account for 83 per cent of CitiPower's 332,000 customer connections.

Our network also supports a diversity of commercial and industrial customers, ranging from cafes and 51,000 small businesses to restaurants and major office buildings as well as world-class sporting precincts, public health, education, government and cultural facilities.

Electricity is distributed in the region via a network comprising over 7,500 kilometres of wires, supported by more than 58,123 poles and associated infrastructure.