

# What's a Power Engineer - Job Profile

Chris - Senior Consulting Engineer, Country Energy



## Major Responsibilities

- Embedded Generation enquiry coordinator for connections to the electricity distribution network (typically in the range 100kW to 2MW)
- Technical support to other members of the engineering team, particularly relating to distribution design, planning and standards.
- Preparation, review and maintenance of documentation related to the above

## Pathways

- Initially enrolled in Electrical Engineering at the University of NSW in 'general program'. At the end of first year, I was awarded a Cadetship with the Sydney County Council (now EnergyAustralia). Hence, specialised in power engineering stream including power electronics and electric vehicles.
- Several years after graduation, undertook a Graduate Diploma in Management and was appointed to successive positions as an Engineering Manager, with increasing responsibility, eventually to the level of Chief Engineer.
- Whilst working with a Government Department (Regulator) undertook a Masters Degree in Energy Policy and Planning at University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

## Why Did You Choose This Career?

As a teenager at school, I enjoyed 'playing' with old radios and TVs, and getting them working again. This interest in things electrical, prompted me to undertake that line of study. My interest in old radios continues to this day (as a collectable item).

A few years after graduation I became active in Engineers Australia, initially with my local group, but subsequently with our technical society (The Electric Energy Society of Australia) – rising to National President, and with Engineers Australia's other groups (eg Engineering Heritage) and management (National Congress). This involvement with the professional body has taken me all over Australia meeting other engineers and forming many friendships.