

What's a Power Engineer - Job Profile

Scott - Maintenance, Breakdowns & Investigations Engineer,
Energy Australia



Major Responsibilities

- Emergency response, investigation and management of major incidents on the electricity network;
- Planning, design and project management of works required to rectify and restore the electricity network following failures of underground, overhead and substation assets;
- Implementation of major maintenance projects such as the upgrade, refurbishment or replacement of aged assets within the network;
- Various engineering investigations including assets failure modes, risk assessments, and external claims/complaints.

Pathways

- The main subjects I enjoyed and performed well in at high school were Maths, Physics and Computer Studies. I obtained a scholarship and early entry to BE(Computer) at University of Wollongong.
- After the first two years of the degree it was apparent to me that the areas of electronics, software and control systems engineering were not to my liking, so I transferred across to BE(Electrical) and focused all my electives and thesis to power engineering which I much preferred.
- I did my vacation placement with Energy Australia and really enjoyed the work. It is a very large company with a large variety of experiences and opportunities available, making it very attractive to me, and I was successful in appointment as a graduate engineer.
- The well structured graduate engineering program allows young engineers to do at least three 6-month placements in a variety of roles, before applying for permanent roles. Following this graduate program I worked in a planning/design role, before transferring to my current project management role.

Why Did You Choose This Career?

My father started me on my path to engineering. He is a telecommunications technician and electrician, and was always pulling things apart to fix them or just for the fun of it, and I was always helping out. The electricity network is an extremely powerful and dangerous beast, and the challenges faced every day mean you are always problem-solving and learning new things. Being an engineer managing a variety of complex major projects through to completion makes for a very rewarding and enjoyable career path.