

## Lendlease helping 4,000 Western Sydney residents find work for over 10 years

**Sydney, 1 June 2015:** Having recently celebrated its tenth birthday, the Skilling and Employment Centre at St Marys is on track to achieve another significant milestone in September when it reaches a total of 4,000 Western Sydney residents who have been helped to find work.

The innovative community initiative was developed by Lendlease to identify and address the skills needed in the labour market surrounding its St Marys and Penrith developments, Ropes Crossing and Jordan Springs, and link local residents to the jobs.

The centre provides free support, training and facilities to equip local people with the skills needed in the trades and services industries, as well as help them to build confidence to get into the workforce or return to work after a break. Over 30 jobs are filled per month, and 93 per cent of the jobseekers who have used the centre's services over the past decade are employed.

General Manager for Lendlease's Communities business in NSW/ACT, Arthur Ilias says the Skilling and Employment Centre is part of Lendlease's wider commitment to the Blacktown and Penrith region.

"The Skilling and Employment Centre is one way we've invested in the community to ensure that as the population grows and evolves, there are the right skills to support the labour market and local economy."

"Since the centre opened its doors a decade ago, Western Sydney has transformed, becoming a cultural and economic powerhouse with population and economic growth projected to soar in the coming years. The Skilling and Employment Centre has adapted to the changing needs of the market and ensured that existing, as well as new Western Sydney residents, can take advantage of this boom," says Mr Ilias.

Paul Brennan AM, Chairman of the Penrith Business Alliance, says the centre has had a hugely positive impact on local businesses.

He said, "The Skilling and Employment Centre helps businesses to find hardworking employees who have been trained in the skills that employers want. Having thousands of skilled, dedicated workers in the area who otherwise wouldn't be in the workforce is a significant boost to the local economy. The fantastic work from the team at the centre is evident in the 3,865 people they have already helped to upskill or find local work."

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For more information or to arrange an interview with a case study from the Skilling and Employment Centre, please contact:

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### **About Lendlease**

Lendlease is a leading international property and infrastructure group. Listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and with circa 13,700 employees worldwide, Lendlease's capabilities span the property value chain.

In Australia we offer development management; investment management; project management & construction and asset & property management. Our expertise covers multiple sectors including commercial, residential, retail, retirement and infrastructure.

