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Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2024

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Peter Berry](#)



This week marks the 'official' end of summer and the arrival of autumn although the leap year means we get an extra day of the season. It is remarkable to think that this time last year we were in recovery mode following Cyclone Gabrielle. This year, it seems it has been a complete contrast with dry conditions across much of the country. I hope everyone is faring well under the conditions.

In this month's newsletter, we provide an update on the FlexTalk project as we near the completion of this work and highlight a few key events we have coming up particularly EEA2024, now that early bird registrations have opened.

This year's annual conference and technology exhibition 10-12 September will be my last as I

The past 31 years have been an incredible journey for me. It has been an absolute privilege to lead the EEA and to have worked with so many talented and dedicated people, all of whom have helped make our industry better in every way.

I want to give particular thanks to the EEA Presidents and Executive Committee members, past and present, for their leadership, unwavering support, and trust.

Success has also been in large part due to the small and mighty team at the EEA, both former staff and the present team of Hayley, Stuart, Suzanne and Tracy - a high-performing group of people dedicated to the EEA and its work.

And I would like to especially thank all of you - our members, stakeholders and industry leaders who have supported, and continue to support, the EEA with your time and expertise. The EEA would be unable to deliver in the way it does, without you.

The next 30 years will be a period of significant change. I am truly heartened by the impressive talent that the industry has as it transitions and innovates to meet the challenges of climate change, decarbonisation and electrification. We all need to support them in their work and to grow future talent for our industry.

I know that the EEA is well placed to meet the challenges ahead and to continue to support the industry and stakeholders in their future engineering, technical, capability, and safety journeys.

Work is now underway to begin the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive. I would encourage anyone with a desire to lead our industry through the transformation ahead, to apply and would be happy to talk with anyone who has an interest in the role.

For now, it is 'business as usual' for me and the team with a growing list of tasks to address before the end of September, including support for a seamless transition to a new Chief Executive.

While my own plans for the future are a work in progress, I will continue to support the transformation of our industry in any way I can, and wherever I can offer value.

Thank you to everyone for all the messages you have sent, since my news was released earlier this week. It has been a humbling experience to hear from so many of you.

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Noho ora mai,

Peter Berry
Chief Executive

LATEST NEWS



Meet the Executive - Chantelle Bramley



We sat down for a Q and A session with Chantelle Bramley to hear a bit more from one of our most recently appointed, executive members.

[Head over to our website](#) to find out what inspires and motivates Chantelle.

flextalk

**Demand Flexibility
Common Communications
Protocol Project**



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FlexTalk update: New report and webinar recording

Thanks to everyone who attended our most recent FlexTalk webinar where EA Technology shared their research into what's happening internationally in the adoption of open communication protocols to enable demand flexibility in the electricity system.

They looked at adoption across international markets – who is doing what, why and what does it mean for Aotearoa New Zealand?

Their report provides another valuable input into our work to consider. If you missed the webinar, a recording is [available here](#) along with a copy of the report.

Want more DER? EA Technology is hosting another webinar on March 7, Modelling LV networks for net zero. It will cover approaches to modelling diversity, the DEBUT approach used in the UD and modelling DERs. [Click here to register](#)

New Zealand's power system

The Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko has published a consultation paper that looks into the future operation of New Zealand's power system.

You can view the consultation here [Future operation of New Zealand's power system | Our consultations | Our projects | Electricity Authority](#).

It is part of their Future Security and Resilience work programme and looks into possible key challenges and opportunities with power system operation in New Zealand over the coming decade and beyond.

The EEA will be developing a submission in response to this paper and is seeking input from members. If you have any questions or wish to contribute, please get in contact by COB 28 March 2024 with stuart@eea.co.nz.

MBIE consultation - hazards from trees

In 2023, a consultation was held on proposed options for amending the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. The Discussion Document sought feedback from the public and stakeholders on the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)'s preferred options for amending the Regulations.

A summary of submissions is now available on MBIE's webpage, [The review of the Electricity \(Hazards from Trees\) Regulations 2003: Summary of Submissions - Introduction | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#).

The EEA will be developing a submission in response to this paper and is seeking input from members. If you have any questions or wish to contribute, please provide any feedback or input that you would like EEA to consider in its submission by COB 4 April 2024 to stuart@eea.co.nz.

You can read the EEA submission to the earlier consultation, via our members section of the website under 'previous submissions' [here](#).

Do you get our Conference newsletter?

Earlier this month we issued our first conference-specific newsletter with all the details you need to be part of EEA2024.

If you want to be on the database for this newsletter – please email admin@eea.co.nz.

Proud to support our next generation engineers with tertiary scholarships

The EEA is proud to support our next generation of engineers with several undergraduate scholarships available to students at the University of Auckland, University of Canterbury and the Auckland University of Technology.

As students begin their transition into tertiary education, our scholarships are a way to ease some of the worry that can come with such a big change. It is also a way for us to highlight the amazing new talent that we see emerging in our industry.

More than 80 students from the three Universities have benefited from an EEA scholarship, since its establishment in 1996.

One recent recipient, Lachlan Pearce wrote the following in a letter to the EEA, helping us all end the year on a high.

“Receiving the scholarship has been a tremendous honour and privilege for me. It will allow me to pursue my academic aspirations without the worry of financial constraints, and I cannot emphasize enough how much of a positive impact it will have on my life. Thanks to your support, I can now focus wholeheartedly on my studies and make the most of this incredible opportunity. Your belief in my potential and commitment to investing in education are truly inspiring.”

[More information about our scholarships is available on our website.](#)



Enhancing our courses for overhead line designers

The EEA is continuously working with industry in providing a common, structured programme of learning and development, that supports current and future industry needs.

Last year we introduced an ‘Introduction to Overhead Line Design Mathematics’ course as a

This year our focus has been on enhancing the OLD-010 Line Design Principles module. [Find out more about this module here](#). Carl Rathbone of LineSmarts Ltd and expert in line design, has recently developed additional materials for those new to overhead line design, to support learners work through the module.

We are considering whether there is need for additional line design workshops for those new to distribution line design, incorporating this new material.

Contact admin@eea.co.nz to learn more or express your interest.

Many more courses on offer! Don't forget we have a new booklet that brings together the information about all available EEA courses and micro-credentials for 2024 and 2025. Everything you need to know to plan for continuous learning is here.

These specialised, engineering and technical courses have been developed by industry, for industry. The result is that learners receive high-quality learning and expertly-targeted professional and capability development.

[Learn about all that is available here.](#)



Trainers' Forum: April 18

Are you involved in industry training? Come and join us in Christchurch on April 18 for the ESI Trainers' Forum. Our programme includes an update from Electrical Workers Registration Board on what's happening with the new licencing regime, Connexis will discuss how they support companies to upskill their workforce, and the EEA will discuss how we can support industry training.

We would also love to hear your suggestions on what else we can do to support your future training needs. The program will be finalised shortly so head over to the [EEA events page](#) to enroll in this great networking event.

Save the date! Asset Management Forums: June 12-13

The Asset Management Forum will be held on Wednesday 12, while the Asset Information Manager's Forum will happen on Thursday 13.

Mark your calendar's now and stay tuned for more information.

Health & Safety Workshop: July 17-18

Our annual Health and Safety Workshop will be back in 2024 – mark your calendars for July 17-18.

Held at the Harbourside Event Centre in Wellington, this is a fantastic chance to meet new people, share ideas and learn about the great work happening across the industry.

This year's theme is Back to Basics. If you or your organisation are involved in some great health, safety or wellbeing initiatives and want to share what you are doing, or if you have any ideas of topics you would like covered, we would love to hear from you.

Contact hayley@eea.co.nz or give her a call on 027 7024746 to have a chat, no project is too big or small. You can find presentations from previous years' workshops on [our website](#).



EEA2024: September 10-12

The EEA annual Conference and Technology Exhibition in Ōtautahi / Christchurch on 10 - 12 September 2024 is not to be missed whether as an exhibitor, presenter or delegate! Our 2023 conference attracted over 1,200 delegates and visitors and more than 60 technical presentations. This is your chance to be part of it.

Registrations are open so get one task off the list early in the year by booking your place at our industry's premier engineering and technical event.

Do you have an idea for a paper to present? EEA 2024 is a fantastic opportunity for you to profile and share new knowledge, practices or technology. It's also a platform for a company or individual to get recognition as an engineering leader. We are looking for papers on the challenges and opportunities as we transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. Plus – you

[Visit the conference website for more information.](#)



Keeping informed on asset equipment failure

Due to the small scale of NZ network/grid asset base, it can be challenging for these asset owners to get international information on electrical equipment failures and defects.

To help resolve this issue, EEA has access an international database on electrical equipment defect information via the ENA UK NEDeRS® programme.

NEDeRS® is a very valuable safety and asset management resource and we strongly encourage network/grid asset owners to subscribe to it as it provides important insights into equipment performance. This information contributes to a better understanding of asset performance and failure modes and supports improved long-term safety, reliability and quality, plus savings in operational and maintenance costs.

Subscription is only open to network/grid asset owners. Contact admin@eea.co.nz if you have any questions.

Review and update of the Resilience Guide - Survey coming!

The Asset Management Group has commenced a review and update of the EEA Resilience Guide, to ensure that it reflects the latest industry standards and practices, and encompasses key learnings from recent events such as Cyclone Gabrielle. This initiative underscores our commitment to enhancing the resilience of electrical systems for a more robust and reliable infrastructure.

As an integral part of this project, we will be conducting a comprehensive survey across all electricity network businesses in the next couple of weeks. This survey aims to gather insights into current resilience practices and identify new case studies that will be incorporated into the updated guide.

our electrical infrastructure to meet Aotearoa's needs into the future.

Keep an eye out for our survey and for more information on this project, please contact stuart@eea.co.nz.



Looking ahead

To keep up to date with all of the EEA's activities and projects or to register for an event please visit the [Upcoming EEA Events page](#) on the EEA website.

5-6 March	Downstream24 – Lower Hutt Events Centre EEA is a proud supporter of Downstream
7 March	EA Technology webinar: <i>Modelling LV networks for net zero.</i>
12 March	EEA Executive Committee Meeting
28 March	Submission on EA Consultation - future of New Zealand's power system, due to EEA
4 April	Submission on MBIE consultation - hazards from trees, due to EEA
17 April	Abstract submissions close - EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition 2024
18 April	EEA ESI Trainers Forum
5-6 June	High Voltage & Arc Flash Conference – Auckland Hosted by IDC Technologies. The conference is seeking electrical engineers, technologists or technicians working with high voltage systems and arc flash safety in utilities, mining, industrial plants, oil and gas or manufacturing to submit a topic idea and present their papers.
12-13 June	Asset Management Forums
17-18 July	EEA Health & Safety Workshop
9 August	Full papers due - EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition 2024
10-12 Sept	EEA Annual Conference, Technology Expo and Awards

Connect with the EEA

- Staff within your organisation can now directly subscribe to our newsletters! Email us [here](#).
- Follow our [LinkedIn](#) page to see more of our outreach and comment on our work and activities.

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