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Electricity Engineers'
Association

Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - JUNE 2024

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Editorial from Peter Berry



Kia ora tatou,

Earlier this week, I shared [some of my thoughts on LinkedIn](#) about the recently released report by the Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum, *Been there, done that*.

If you haven't read the report – you should. Not because it reveals new and previously unknown information but rather, it makes clear that the opposite is true. We know what we need to do, we've known for years but as a nation, we just can't seem to get any traction.

Of course, events of the past week in Northland with the fallen transmission tower serve as a stark reminder that we can never be complacent about process, procedure and how our

restoration work that followed.

Here at the EEA, we are not waiting for others to make the changes needed but are supporting industry directly to deal with workplace risks. Our focus is on identifying and sharing best practice, then codifying what we know is effective.

In July, our annual Health and Safety Workshop will bring together leaders in the field for two-days of robust debate and discussion. This event is a fantastic way for health and safety practitioners to learn from their colleagues, to challenge themselves and to network.

[Register here – we have a great line up of speakers.](#)

Health and Safety practitioners can also join our free, [online Knowledge Network](#) to access all of EEA's Health and Safety guides, connect with peers and share learnings. Plus we offer ICAM training with Safety Wise Solutions – [space is still available for our Wellington course.](#)

So, while businesses wait for the recommendations of *Been there, done that* to be implemented, we will continue our work to gather industry data, identify themes, share incident reports and bring people together to learn and act.

In other news, awards season is clearly underway. Congratulations to all the [Energy Excellence Awards finalists](#), fantastic to see EEA members across most of the categories and partner EECA is a finalist as well. Best of luck to Contact; Counties Energy; Genesis; Infratec; Loadstone; Powerco; PowerNet; Meridian; Mercury; Northpower, and WEL Networks.

Congratulations also to Contact Energy for taking out the Wellbeing Award at the Safeguard New Zealand Workplace Health & Safety Awards, and to Meridian's John Skudder for his lifetime achievement award. We had the team from Contact present about their initiative at last year's Health and Safety Workshop – [you can find all of our presentations from last year, here on our website.](#)

And finally, don't forget, you can also enter your projects into the [EEA Awards programme](#). See more on this below – entries are being accepted from 1 July and will be announced at Conference in September.

We had seven very talented industry engineers enter for the Young Engineer of the Year Award. The judging panel have short listed four excellent candidates and as the final part of their assessment each will be doing a presentation and Q&A session to our judging panel.

Our four finalists are:

- Shaun Brown (Northpower)
- Astad Kapadia (Counties Energy)
- Harsharan Singh (Ventia)
- Matthew Ting (PowerNet)

The winner will be our representative at the IEC Young Professionals Forum in Edinburgh on

Congratulations to our finalists and thanks to all who entered – the industry is in great hands!

Nga mihi nui,

Peter Berry
Chief Executive

LATEST NEWS

Congratulations to our University scholarship winners!

Each year, we award undergraduate scholarships to engineering students studying in fields relevant to the electricity sector.

It's all part of our commitment to the future development of engineers and engineering education in Aotearoa New Zealand and something we have been doing since 1996!

Congratulations to our 2024 winners:

- Sammy Soud from the Auckland University of Technology
- James Davison and Julio Romero from the University of Auckland
- Treasa Glubb; Alison Murray and Alice Fahy from the University of Canterbury

Our winners were selected not only for their academic achievement but their leadership potential and communication skills plus their interest in contributing to the electricity industry.

We look forward to watching them progress through their careers.

EEA2024 Conference and Technology Expo

Our draft programme has been published and our first two keynote speakers are confirmed!

[Visit the Conference website to view the programme and to register your attendance.](#)

‘Intelligent Grid’ research program, which showcased the value of distributed energy for Australia. He was a principal advisor on the federal government’s ‘Smart Grid Smart City’ initiative which determined the cost-benefits of a commercial scale rollout of smart grid technologies and consumer applications in Australia.

Anthea Middleton, Chief Executive Officer at Powering Skills - Anthea brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, with recent achievements including contributing future workforce skilling research for Australia’s electricity networks, electrotechnology contractors, and the Coal Seam Gas industry. She has worked across various industries including tech, finance, mining, energy, gas, utilities, electro-technology, telecommunications, government and rail.

Conference programme - every year we are faced with a daunting task of deciding who gets to be on the podium, so this year we have made changes to presentation times, reducing it to 15 minutes per presentation. Which means this year, we have 86 presentations across our breakout sessions plus keynote speakers and panel sessions.

Breakout sessions will cover topics including resilience, flexibility, project delivery, grid dynamics and protection, people centricity, network architecture, environmental planning and so much more!

Get your EEA Award entries in now!

Entering industry awards is a fantastic way for companies and individuals to raise the profile of amazing work and to support cross-industry learning. We strongly encourage our members to enter!

[All you need to know is on the website.](#)

From 1 July we are accepting entries for Engineering Excellence, Workplace Safety, Public Safety and Professional Development with winners being announced at Conference.

We are also seeking nominations for Meritorious Service and Life Membership awards. If you know someone who deserves to be acknowledged for their contribution to industry then nominate them now!

Plus - we also have a new award this year – Excellence in Health and Safety Leadership.

[Nominate a deserving individual via our website.](#)

No slowing down on Flexibility: New agreement, next webinar.

demand flexibility. Consumer uptake of electric vehicles, batteries and smart devices is only going to increase alongside the connection of new, renewable generation. It is critical that we get ahead of the curve to ensure we are coordinating to meet this future.

We are excited to announce the continuation of the EEA / EECA FlexTalk partnership, with a new agreement signed this week to continue working together to solve industry technical challenges on the path to decarbonisation.

Together with industry, the EEA and EECA are helping to shape the next phase of the FlexTalk project and aim to test more distributed energy resources, gather consumer insights and help us understand how we can better integrate more DER into the system.

Our latest webinar in the FlexTalk series is on 18 July. In this webinar, hosted by the EEA and Cortexo – our technical lead in the FlexTalk project - we will cover off how the next stage of the FlexTalk project is shaping up, and discuss a number of projects that are aligning to solve the flexibility challenges. These include the collaborative work happening with the ENA and EA as part of the Streamlining Connections work and the Ara Ake project FlexViz which is using OpenADR to provide data visibility to networks.

[Register here.](#)



Industry consultation - Future Security and Resilience

The Electricity Authority have released a suite of consultation documents as part of their review of the common quality requirements in Part 8 of the Code. The papers relate to five key common quality issues the Authority has identified regarding voltage, frequency and harmonics and where changes to the code could occur.

[You can access the information here.](#) The Authority is also hosting two webinars in the coming weeks and the eight-week consultation period closes on Tuesday 20 August.

This work is part of the Authority's Future Security and Resilience work program and is being informed by its Common Quality Technical Group (CQTG) which includes representation from the EEA, and the system operator. [You can learn more about the group on the Authority's website.](#)

The EEA will be making a submission on behalf of members. If you wish to discuss our input please contact Dr. Stuart Johnston at stuart@eea.co.nz who is our representative on the CQTG and is coordinating EEA's response.

Last year, we submitted on MBIE's Customer and Product Data Bill on behalf of industry. [You can find our submission along with everyone else's here on MBIE's website.](#)

In our submission, we outlined those areas that we support, and where we feel further consideration is required which includes things like the need for sector-specific rules to address the number and diversity of participants, the existing legal and regulatory regime, the nature of the data held, the nature of customers and the state of competition in the energy sector.

[The Bill has been introduced to Parliament and you can watch the progress of it via the MBIE website.](#)

The EEA will be making a submission on behalf of members. If you wish to provide input please contact Dr. Stuart Johnston at stuart@eea.co.nz who is coordinating EEA's response.



ICAM Training - Wellington opportunity

There are **only three places left** at our Wellington ICAM training opportunity!!

The EEA in collaboration with Safety Wise Solutions are excited to provide two ESI industry focussed ICAM Lead Investigator training courses. The Christchurch session is full and there are only three places left on our Wellington course, 8-9 August. [Register here.](#)

The two-day course covers:

- An introduction to systemic investigations
- An introduction to understanding human error in the context of organisational systems
- Data gathering methods including witness interviewing
- Data organisation methodologies (timeline and fault tree processes)
- Data analysis using the ICAM model
- Development of corrective and preventative measures
- Practical application of incident investigation tools in case studies

Industry Training

In July, South Island overhead line designers will be attending an applied principles course at Connetics. Carl Rathborne (LineSmarts) will be taking participants through a range of applied overhead line design scenarios to help participants apply knowledge learned in *OLD-010 Line Design Principles*.

If anyone in the North Island would like us to arrange a similar event, please let us know at admin@eea.co.nz.

In the meantime, enrolments are still open for our range of engineering courses via the [EEA Website](#).



Annual General Meeting: 9 July, 1.00pm

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the EEA will be held on Tuesday, 9th July from 1.00 to 2.30pm, via MS Teams.

A minimum quorum of 20 members is required for the meeting. An invitation to join the meeting will be emailed to EEA members on Monday, 8th July.

For matters of General Business members wish to include in the AGM Agenda, or to tender an Apology, please email us at admin@eea.co.nz.

Other notification details and papers are available via the Member login - [to view the Draft minutes and full notification use this link here](#).

Health & Safety Workshop: 17-18 July

The program is out for this year's Health and Safety Workshop. For the full details and to register, [click here](#).

is a fantastic chance to learn about the great work happening across the industry, meet key people, and share ideas.

Over the course of the two days you will hear from industry experts, an impactful personal journey from electrocution survivor Troy Hall, presentations on psychological safety, and a leadership panel discussion lead by Francois Barton from the Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum.

The workshop is also your chance to have a say on what should be in our annual survey and how we could better use the 'Back to basics campaign'.

[Book your place for July 17-18 now!](#)



Industry consultation - Lock out/Tag out

The draft Lock Out/Tag Out (LOTO) guide has been released for consultation [with information now available on our website](#).

The SSPG will also be running a Masterclass on the draft guide Tuesday 23 July – [register here](#).

The results of our 2023 industry survey showed that our industry takes a varied approach to lock out / tag out procedures, from minimal control of applying no locks, to standard locks, to full personal locks.

Given this and the desire to lift the bar on health and safety related practices, it was proposed to structure a guide to bring a commonality to lock out / tag out processes.

The requirements of this draft guide apply to the lock out / tag out of switches and equipment used to form isolation points in the electricity 'works' environment.

The consultation of this guide will be supported by a masterclass run by members of the Safety Standards and Procedures Group (SSPG), to give background and answer any questions.

Reminder: New draft standard published for comment

[DR AS/NZS 1891.4:2024 - Personal equipment for working at height, Part 4: Selection, use and maintenance](#)

You have until 10 July to provide input on this draft standard to Standards NZ.

This standard specifies requirements and recommendations for the selection, safe use and maintenance of industrial fall-arrest systems and devices. There are several changes for consideration.

To discuss the Standard with others from the industry head to the [Health and Safety forum](#) on the Knowledge Network.

Seeking new members for our working groups

Do you want to make a difference to the health, safety and wellbeing of our industry? Then we want you on our working groups!

We are currently seeking new members for the SSPG, NCLW and the PSWG. This is your opportunity to directly influence the work of the EEA and the safety of your colleagues and the public.

The role of the SSPG is to be the authoritative and coordinating industry committee for discussion and resolution of national issues affecting safety in the electricity supply industry participants.

The PSWG is a joint working group, established in 2014 by the Electricity Networks Association (ENA) and the Electricity Engineers Association (EEA). Its key role is to support the safety of the public, in and around industry assets.

The NCLW acts as the authoritative industry body for discussion and resolution of national issues affecting high voltage (HV) and low voltage (LV) live work.

To obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference and the position description for either group, please email hayley@eea.co.nz. Please note that you will need company approval to be a member of a working group.



Asset management forum driving action

Last week's EEA Asset Management forum was a fantastic opportunity to bring together key players and discuss the many interconnected work programmes, all about better facilitating new connections and ensuring their integration with the grid to enable flexibility and foster resilience. More than 60 attendees enjoyed a packed programme of presentations, panels, discussion and engagement with their industry peers and key representatives from the Commerce Commission, Electricity Authority and EECA.

A big part of the day was the two key workshop sessions which highlighted the integrated work occurring across the industry. The first was on Streamlining Connections, led by the Electricity Authority (EA) and the second was around the Flextalk programme including a where to from here?

With so much to cover, we have decided the topics of our two pre-conference workshops held on 10 September which will be around Streamlining Connections and the technical functionality required for flexibility. So if you missed the AMF, don't miss your next opportunity to learn more and be involved when Conference rolls around.



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.

1 July	Entries accepted for EEA Engineering Excellence; Public Safety; Workplace Safety; Excellence in Health & Safety Leadership; Professional Development Awards
9 July	EEA AGM

Subscribe	Past Issues		Translate ▼
	23 July	Masterclass: Draft guide Lock out / Tag out	
	2 August	Lock out / Tag out consultation closes	
	5-6 August	ICAM Training - Christchurch (full)	
	8-9 August	ICAM Training - Wellington	
	9 August	Full papers due - EEA Conference and Technology Exhibition 2024	
	16 August	Entries close for EEA Engineering Excellence; Public Safety; Workplace Safety; Excellence in Health & Safety Leadership; Professional Development Awards	
	28 August	Energy Excellence Awards Gala Event	
	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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