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Association

Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - JULY 2024

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Peter Berry](#)



Kia ora tatou,

Last week we held our annual two-day **Health and Safety workshop** which was hugely successful.

We heard from a range of people delivering different perspectives, including a CEO panel discussion hosted by Francois Barton from the Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum, talking bluntly about what keeps them up at night, and where health and safety sits on their agendas.

He also delivered a strong call to action that we all contribute to the Government's request for feedback on the workplace health and safety regulatory system – something the EEA



If your company is submitting, we would love it if you can share your thoughts with us so we can be sure that our input reflects industry views.

It was impossible to not be affected by the personal story of Troy Hall, electrocuted twice when his cherry picker touched overhead lines. Troy's story highlights why we do this work – the impact on individuals, their families and their wider communities are so significant that we simply cannot afford to lose focus on health and safety for even a moment.

It was also impossible not to feel motivated by the research and new discoveries presented by Georgi Toma of Heart and Brain Works, and by Donna Carter from the Person Factor. We continue to learn more about how we can work in this field more effectively.

If you missed the day, [you can catch up on the presentations here](#) and a huge thanks to everyone who was involved.

In other events, **our AGM was held on Tuesday 9 July**, hosted by Vice-President Geoff Douch. The AGM included a report from the President, a report from the Executive Director and a discussion of the financial statements. No other business was raised.

A copy of the draft minutes and the presentation made can be found [in the members' section of the website](#). You can also find a copy of the **Annual Report** for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Congratulations to our **Young Engineer of the Year – Harsharan Singh, Operations Manager at Ventia**. We had seven great applications and four fantastic finalists. It is always a challenge to identify only one individual as the winner but such is the nature of awards! Harsharan stood out for the leadership roles he has taken both in his work and more widely across the industry. I'm sure he will serve as an inspiration to other aspiring young leaders.

We look forward to acknowledging and celebrating Harsharan's win along with our other Award winners and our University Scholarship winners, at this year's conference. While we announced our scholarship winners last month, we have a short Q&A with each of them on

Congratulations as well to **Nicki Sutherland, appointed to take on the role of Chief Executive**. Nicki will also be joining us at Conference, and I look forward to working alongside her during September before passing the EEA baton on.

Nga mihi nui,

Peter Berry
Chief Executive



Nicki Sutherland appointed new Chief Executive



On behalf of our Executive Committee, Vice-President Geoff Douch recently announced the appointment of Nicki Sutherland as the new Chief Executive.

“Nicki will join the team in Wellington from 2 September and will also join everyone at EEA2024 Conference and Technology Expo in Christchurch 10-12 September.

“Securing someone of Nicki’s calibre is a testament to the role of the EEA and the position it holds in the industry. Nicki is a seasoned energy practitioner, with more than 20 years’ experience in the sector most recently, as GM Investment and Engagement at EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority).

“Prior to that she held customer-facing executive roles at Transpower and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s (MBIE) Provincial Development Unit, where she was responsible for an investment portfolio worth over \$2.5billion.

[Read the full media release on the website.](#)

**Congratulations to our Harsharan Singh -
Young Engineer of the Year!**

our Young Engineer of the Year.

Harsharan currently leads a team of 35, responsible for projects across transmission and distribution clients in the Lower North Island region of the country. He is also the Chair of Judging Panel for the New Zealand Energy Excellence Awards.



EEA Chief Executive Peter Berry says the judging committee were particularly impressed by Harsharan's leadership both inside and outside of his workplace. Not only does he demonstrate strength in engineering, he has led teams through really challenging work and also shows strong leadership within the sector.

He was particularly noted for his role in Ventia's emergency response at Redclyffe Substation following the devastating floods in the Hawkes Bay region.

As part of his win, Harsharan will represent Aotearoa at the 2024 IEC Young Professionals Workshop which is being held in Edinburgh UK.

We look forward to seeing Harsharan at EEA2024 Conference and Technology Exhibition in September where his win will be celebrated alongside our other EEA Award winners.

New Chairs for our Working Groups

The Executive Committee have appointed Geoff Thornburn as the new Chair of the National Committee for Live Work and Zoe Jamieson as new Chair of the Public Safety Working Group.

Geoff Thornburn was a member of the NCLW between 2019-2022 and has also been a member of the Safety Standards and Procedures Group. He is currently the Operations Manager at PowerNet and has previously worked for both Northpower and Wellington Electricity. His knowledge, experience and industry connections will benefit the Committee immensely.

Zoe Jamieson has been appointed as Chair of the Public Safety Working Group having been on the group since March 2023. New Plymouth-based Zoe is a Health, Safety and Environment Business Partner with Powerco having worked for the company since 2020. She has held health and safety roles across several businesses since 2012 including Tegal Foods, Intergroup and Worley parsons. Zoe is also a qualified ICAM (Incident Cause Analysis Method) investigator.

Concerns around EWRB changes

starting from 1 September 2024.

Of particular note to the EEA, is the introduction of a Supervision Endorsement. Any person holding any type of electrical registration, other than an Electrical Inspector, will require a Supervision Endorsement to supervise more than two trainees undertaking prescribed electrical work (PEW), and the inclusion of restoration of supply to installations for a Line Mechanic. While currently an optional endorsement, it will now be included in registration.

We have expressed concern about the limited consultation that took place in 2021 regarding these changes, and the apparent lack of implementation plan and training pathway to make these changes workable. We have asked the ERWB to delay their introduction and to re-consult with the sector.

We continue to engage with EWRB to ensure that changes are clearly explained, detailed and communicated to our industry employers, and we are urging others in the industry to do so as well. We will be providing updates to members in the coming weeks as we learn more from the EWRB and develop our own approach to address these concerns.

[More information on the changes is here.](#) If you wish to discuss this matter with us, please contact hayley@eea.co.nz.

Women & Leadership Development Scholarships

Women & Leadership New Zealand has announced new scholarships to enable more women to access world-class leadership and workplace skill development programmes.

[Find out more on their website.](#)

By combining cutting-edge leadership theory with practical application, and a flexible part-time delivery, Women & Leadership New Zealand offers an unparalleled learning experience designed to fit into your busy schedule.

With partial scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, there are four programs to suit women in non-leadership roles all the way up to senior executives. Applications **close Friday 6 September 2024** unless allocated prior.



Women in STEM

Development Scholarships Available

Apply Now!
womenandleadership.co.nz/industry/stem

 WOMEN & LEADERSHIP
NEW ZEALAND

New industry consultation - Hazards from Trees

In 2023, the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) conducted a public consultation into the review of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. Following this consultation the [Minister for Energy announced two changes](#) to strengthen the regulations.

MBIE are now undertaking a targeted consultation on a preferred option (and two alternative options) to address risks from trees outside of the Growth Limit Zone (GLZ) within fall distance of powerlines.

Given the targeted nature of the consultation, the detail is not provided on their website but has been emailed to industry. The EEA will be making a submission. If you wish to discuss the detail contact stuart@eea.co.nz.

Submissions are due by **15 August 2025**.





Our Conference programme continues to develop so keep an eye on the website!

[Pre-conference workshops confirmed](#)

This year we will be hosting two pre-conference workshops on 10 September.

The morning workshop running 9:00am – 1:00pm is **FlexTalk: Connecting the dots and planning next steps!** This workshop will focus on what we can learn from others' adoption of flexibility and our plans for the next FlexTalk trial. [Register here.](#)

Then in the afternoon from 1:45pm-5:00pm, the **Streamlining Connections** workshop will focus on streamlining the connection process for distributed energy resources and load across the distribution networks. [Register here.](#)

[Calling all Young Professionals](#)

Are you aged under 35, or have you been in the industry for less than five years? We would like to invite you to the Young Professionals Networking Event, being held on 10 September, just before the EEA2024 Conference.

This is an opportunity to meet with other young professionals from outside of your organisation and make some new connections.

The Young Professionals Networking Event is being held from 4.45pm on 10 September.

[Visit the Conference website to view the programme and to register your attendance at EEA2024.](#)

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.](#)

We are accepting entries for Engineering Excellence, Workplace Safety, Public Safety and Professional Development with winners being announced at Conference. **Entries close Friday 16 August.**

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.



Industry consultation - Lock out/Tag out

Last days for input into the draft Lock out/Tag out (LOTO) guide! **Consultation closes on Friday 2 August.** [The draft guide is available on our website.](#)

The results of our 2023 industry survey shows that the 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, a guide was developed 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.

If you have any questions, contact Hayley@eea.co.nz

Industry Consultation - Fatigue guide

After completing a thesis in fatigue Matt Sadgrove from Delta has developed a guide specifically focussing on fatigue in the electricity supply industry. The work was completed alongside Lian Passmore from Northpower and Craig Stewart from Powerco.

This guide is now out for industry consultation and will be supported by a masterclass

The consultation documents are available through the EEA Consultation process.

Email your feedback to admin@eea.co.nz. Consultation closes on the Friday 9 August 2024.

Live work: Question and Answer

The National Committee on Live Work (NCLW) recently responded to an industry query regarding the application of insulated covers over a low voltage skeleton panel to protect the worker from live low voltage. The question being – is this considered live work, and is a permit required?

The NCLW response was that the application of insulating covers is not in the exclusion list in the definition of live work in the SM-EI and in NZCECP 46, so if it requires a competent employee to bring any part of their body, clothing and any handheld tools (except those tools designed for contact with live parts) closer than the distance limit of 150mm, then the work is considered live low voltage work, and a Low Voltage Live Work permit is required.

The NCLW acknowledges that some companies are transitioning to the new requirements for Low Voltage Live Work Permits. If the company is still using a Minor Works Management System, then as a minimum the work shall be undertaken using an appropriate industry procedure, or procedure developed from SM-EI. Refer to SM-EI Rules EE 4.3011 (3.707) and EE 6.3011 (3.717).



FlexTalk webinar: The many layers of flexibility

Our latest FlexTalk webinar was held last week, showcasing the Flexviz project's FlexSplice Hub, a product using the OpenADR communication protocol to display what flexibility is available at each GXP around New Zealand.

visuals may be used to solve constraints on the system.

The webinar also provided a brief update on other EEA activities underway including planning for the next pieces of work in the FlexTalk programme and how demand flexibility is enabled through the EEA/EA/ENA collaboration on streamlining connections.

[A link to the recording and presentation slides can be found 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 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.



Safety in Design

Now is a great time to reflect on work and design practices, and the enablers of Safety

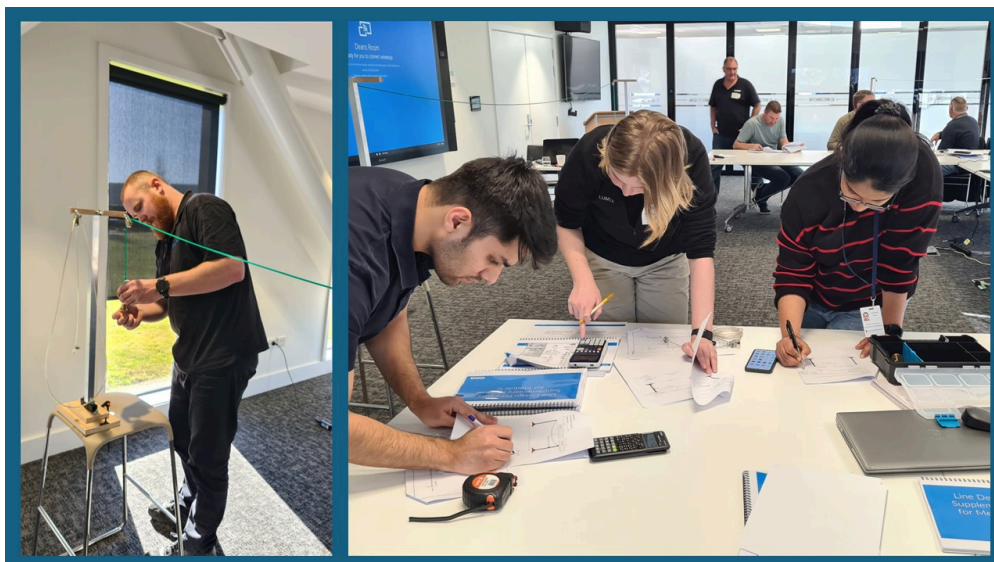
organisational SiD maturity assessment.

The EEA course was designed by Marshall Clark and is delivered by Stuart Banks of ElectroNet. It provides participants with an overview of SiD principles, before exploring the SiD process using a suite of industry case studies. Finally, the course supports development of the SiD “enablers”:

- Leadership – empowering leaders to support SiD across their organisation.
- Awareness and capability – understanding the contribution of different skill sets and roles and responsibilities to SiD.
- Design standards – understanding how to adopt, maintain and communicate organisational standards.
- Assurance – ensuring that best practice in all aspects of SiD is maintained on an ongoing basis.

If you would like to know more about the EEA’s SiD guide or would like to discuss SiD training in your organisation, please contact the EEA admin@eea.co.nz.

Overhead Line Design Workshops



This month, 13 South Island overhead line designers attended an applied principles course at Connectics. Carl Rathborne (LineSmarts) took participants through a range of applied overhead line design scenarios to help participants apply knowledge learned in OLD-010 Line Design Principles.

We intend to run another workshop in conjunction with the Overhead Line Design Forum in the North Island later this year. While date and location are yet to be confirmed, register your interest via admin@eea.co.nz.

ICAM Training - Wellington opportunity

For the first time since 2022, the EEA in collaboration with Safety Wise Solutions are excited to provide two ESI industry focussed ICAM Lead Investigator training courses. While the Christchurch session is full, there are still spaces 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

Choose this course to turn safety leaders into ICAM experts.



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.

31 July	Masterclass: Fatigue Guide
2 August	Lock out / Tag out consultation closes
5-6 August	ICAM Training - Christchurch (full)
8-9 August	ICAM Training - Wellington

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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