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Electricity Engineers'  
Association

# Electricity Industry Update



ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - OCTOBER 2024

## VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)



Kia ora tatou,

I'm about to complete my first month at the EEA's helm – what a learning curve! This first month has been all about meeting with stakeholders and hearing what they value, and what they'd like the EEA to do more and less of.

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome and for taking the time to share your thoughts about the direction of the organisation.

I signed up for this role because a thriving energy sector workforce is critical to Aotearoa's energy transition. As the representative for that workforce, the EEA already has a

and change. Industry needs us more than ever but in different ways than before. The challenge ahead is to modernise without compromising this legacy, and that's a challenge I'm up for.

Kō wai koe? I'm a Southlander with multigenerational roots in Otago. I've spent over 25 years working in the energy industry, initially in oil and gas, and then in electricity generation, distribution, retail, transport and construction, transmission, regulation, government, and customers and consumers. Common threads throughout my career have been asking who are we here to serve, what do they need, how do they need it, and of course why. I've always tried to achieve commercial and community win/wins and use levers like infrastructure and career pathways to support regional prosperity. I'm a huge believer in relationships, but also in the value of having structural clarity about the playing field and the objectives.

My vision is a thriving EEA that better reflects and represents the diverse parts of the electricity sector, especially those in the field doing the hard mahi (often in the rain or snow). We do our part to grow and develop a thriving electricity sector workforce; we ensure that energy policies and regulations reflect industry's needs; and we lift the mana of the industry.

The first step is to refresh our strategy. By now you will have received our survey via email. I would love if you could give us five minutes of your time to complete the survey and give us your thoughts on what you think we should focus on. A huge thank you in advance to those members who complete the survey.

We have also posted a version of the survey on our website with slightly different questions, aimed at non-members. We would be grateful if you took the opportunity to share this link with others so we can also get input from non-members, see further details below.

I look forward to receiving your input and taking the EEA forward into the future.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nicki



## LATEST NEWS

**Join an EEA Standing Committee and  
influence industry outcomes!**

your chance to contribute to innovation and influence how asset management and worker safety are delivered across the industry.

Members of our standing committees are the powerhouse of delivery that make the EEA what it is. They provide advice to the EEA Executive Committee on a range of issues that impact your day-to-day delivery. They develop, review and deliver the technical guides and procedures that you all follow in your day-to-day work and provide input into submissions. They also host networking and learning events during the year.

The opportunity to join a committee is rare, however a few of our stalwarts have moved on in recent months so now is your chance. We are committed to ensuring the makeup of our committees reflects the diversity of our industry which means we want to hear from as many of you as possible!

We are recruiting to fill vacancies on the following committees.

- Asset Management Group – chaired by Waqar Qureshi, Wellington Electricity. Members of the AMG work to improve asset management planning and practice. [See more here.](#)
- Safety Standards and Procedures Group – chaired by Graeme Johnson, Omexom. Members of the SSPG determine safety rules and procedures to ensure all workers return home safely each day. [See more here.](#)

Register your interest by sending us a copy of your CV, a cover letter outlining why you want to be on the committee, and a sign off from your organisation giving approval for your time and associated costs.

Each committee will review these expressions of interest and will then recommend new members to the EEA Executive Committee for approval.

To obtain a position description or if you have any questions, email [stuart@eea.co.nz](mailto:stuart@eea.co.nz) for the AMG and [hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:hayley@eea.co.nz) for the SSPG.

**Applications close Friday 8 November.**

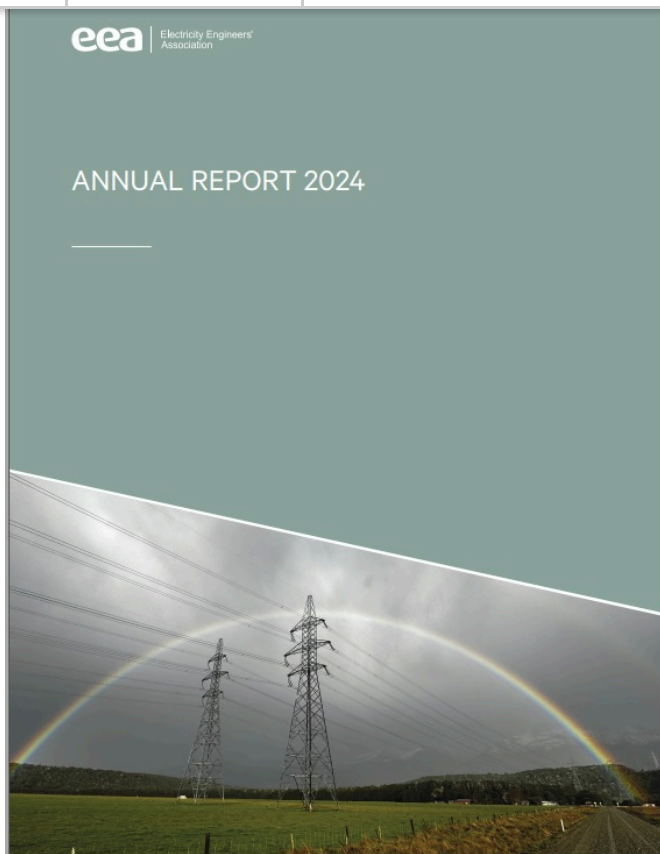
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## Photo Competition 2024 - Entries now open

Our annual member photo competition is back for 2024. Submit your best photos and be in the chance to win. Entries need to show the 'power of the industry' be it assets, people, technology or electricity in use.

**Entries close on 2 December** before member voting to select our winner commences.

All eligible entries will go into the EEA photo library for use in our publications, social media



cover of the 2025 Annual Report. To be eligible, everything shown in the photo needs to comply with all relevant regulations, standards and best practice guidance. Images that show a breach of these, will not be considered.

All people identifiable in the photo must also agree to the image being submitted or they might get a shock when they turn up on our website or the cover of a publication!

[See the EEA website for further details and to submit your entries by Monday, 2 December 2024.](#)

## Member survey issued - we want to hear from you!

Earlier this week, our members should have received a survey from us, requesting your feedback on the work we deliver. Please check your junk folder if you have not received this email. The survey **closes on 15 November**.

Our role is to serve both our members and the wider interests of the electricity supply industry which is why it is so important that we focus on the things that you value. We want you to have your say on the areas on which we should focus our time and energy.

The survey should only take five minutes to complete, although the more information you share with us, the more useful your feedback will be. You do not need to answer every question. You can complete the survey anonymously or if you provide us your email, you will go into the draw to win one of 10, \$30 vouchers.

We also have a second survey for non-members which [is on our website](#) as we really want to ensure we capture the diverse voices from across of our industry.

A summary of insights will be presented to our Executive Committee in time for its strategy day in early December, then share this with all of you. We'll also aim to publish a Strategy Roadmap in the New Year with more about how we intend to modernise and become future

Thanks for your time and support! We really appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts and feedback which will be used to help us refresh our purpose, our strategy, and our forward work programme.

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## FlexTalk: A busy few weeks as work starts to gather pace

A huge thanks to everyone who attended the workshop held at EEA2024 and for all your contributions. We will be sharing a summary of the session directly with those of you who attended. In the meantime, you can view the slides or even [watch a recording of the session on our website here](#).

In September, the FlexTalk project entered a new phase with the launch of a new, small-scale trial aimed at informing the design of our next significant trial of technologies used for demand flexibility.

We are testing the home installation and communication capabilities of 10 smart devices to understand aspects of installation, training, data management, communication, security, and the experience of participation.

Devices for hot-water and heat pump control, and several home energy management systems are now being installed in the homes of our volunteer electricians. These devices will be run through several tests and a report will be produced that summarises what we have learnt. We expect this to be completed by the end of January, 2025.

The aim of this work is to assess the demand response suitability of these technologies to determine how we can scale up testing under the broader FlexTalk initiative.

Stay up-to-date with all things FlexTalk [on our industry project page](#) and sign up for regular updates direct to your inbox.

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## New EEA website launched with the Knowledge Network integrated

Earlier in October, our new website went live! [www.eea.co.nz](http://www.eea.co.nz) brings the existing website and the Knowledge Network together on a single platform, making it easier for you to access our products, services and expertise, connect with others and find everything you need.

News, publications, discussion forums, courses and events are all available when you log into the new site either via the email used to previously access the Knowledge Network or member only content, or by creating a new log in. It's easy – all you need is an email address.

- **Publications:** All our technical guides and publications can be [found under the heading 'Publications'](#). The SM-EI, safety alerts and shared learnings can be found under Publications - Health and Safety.
- **Events:** Register for events or access information from past events, [in the News and Events section](#).
- **Courses and careers:** If you are looking for information on training courses and capability development, vacancies, or our work to support young engineers, you will find it under the heading [Courses and Careers](#).
- **Knowledge Network:** The [Knowledge Network](#) is where you can join our discussion forums, find member-only information and where you will find all the information related to your account – the publications you have purchased and courses you have enrolled in or completed.

We trust you will enjoy our new site but this just the start and we know there are more things that we can do to improve your experience. Please let us know what you think. If you have any feedback or if you experience any issues, please email us at [admin@eea.co.nz](mailto:admin@eea.co.nz) and we will help you.

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## EEA2024 - thanks for the feedback!

A huge thanks to everyone who completed the post conference survey for us. Your feedback helps us to understand if we are delivering the sort of event that you are after – and it seems that this year, yes we did!

This year, 96% of responders rated EEA2024 as 'very good' (71%) or 'good' (25%). We received lots of suggestions on potential themes for next year and lots of helpful feedback.

Specifically, when asked what you wanted to see more of, 30% of respondents thought we needed more technical presentations. When asked what people wanted to see less of, 18% of respondents thought we needed fewer panel discussions.

EEA2025 is returning to Te Pae in Christchurch which, based on the feedback we have seen, will be welcome news to most of you. Why a third year at Te Pae? The post-earthquake years meant Christchurch and the South Island really missed out on our events so we felt three-years was entirely appropriate for our mainland colleagues and friends. EEA2026 will be in Auckland.

For this years registered delegates, you can still access information from EEA2024 on our website under [News and events > Conference 2024](#) (you will need the login details shared with you prior to the conference). Plus we have recordings of our keynote speaker presentations and photos from the event on the site under [News and Events > Past events > EEA2024 Conference](#)



## Recent submissions

In the past month, we provided submissions for the following consultations.

- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Health and Safety at Work.  
(see more on this below)
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment: Exploring a consumer data right for the electricity sector.
- Ministry of Education: Redesign of the vocational education and training system.

You can access all past submissions made by the EEA by logging onto our website under [What we do > Consultations and Submissions](#).



## Annual Power Exchange APEX, Wellington 26 & 27 November



The EEA's Annual Power Exchange for Young Engineers is back in November, bigger than before. This year's APEX spans two days, with the standard paper presentation session on Tuesday 26 and site visits being scheduled for Wednesday 27.

APEX is a fantastic opportunity for young engineers of any discipline in the power engineering industry to network and share experiences.

Transpower's Haywards' Substation and Meridian's West Wind wind farm.

The theme is Powering the Future. We want you to share your collective knowledge and experience on how you are working to deliver more sustainable, customer-centric energy solutions, and resilient infrastructure while all the while delivering a safe, reliable, and secure electricity supply to our communities and businesses.

[Click here for further details and register.](#) This is a free event made possible by our fantastic sponsors Meridian Energy, Transpower, Cigre, Powerco, Wellington Electricity, Electra and Northpower.

## Another great Connexis Annual Connection



Great fun was had by all at this event last week, helping to showcase and promote a career in the electricity supply industry.

The team from our Safety Standards and Procedures Group (SSPG) took people through all the fantastic tools and guides the EEA has to support best practice in health and safety. We also challenged students to our wiring challenge and what a career in electricity could look like.

It was great to get their positive feedback and their surge in interest after successfully completing the challenge!

Thanks to the SSPG and EEA teams Nicki Sutherland, Hayley Head, Graeme Johnson, Simon Parker, Peter Carr and Dean Stevenson.

## Flexing with industry both here and abroad

We had a fantastic Flex Day in Christchurch with FlexForum, our partners in FlexTalk EECA



to accelerate progress and scoped minimum viable propositions.

In November, Terry Paddy of Cortexo, a key industry player in FlexTalk, will be sharing the New Zealand story at the 2nd OpenADR++ Users Conference, in London. Speaking to the topic 'An update from the other side - New Zealand's progress with flexibility,' Terry will cover off the first stage of the FlexTalk project, the FlexViz project with Ara Ake and the upcoming plan for in-home testing of devices.

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## Trainers Forum - Save the date - May 6

After a wonderful response to this year's trainers' forum we will be doing it again next year, to be held in Christchurch on May 6. If you have anything you would like to share with industry or any topics that you would like covered, please let [Hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:Hayley@eea.co.nz) know!



## Safety statistics survey 2024

Thanks to everyone for submitting their data to this valuable survey. It provides us with critical information showing where safety progress is being made, identifying any trends, and highlighting common issues that we can work on together.

This year we redesigned the layout of the survey so that it was easier to complete and will provide us with more meaningful information on safety. As a result, we expect our final report to be a bit different as well.

At this stage, we aim to get our summary report out to you before the end of the year.

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## Changes to temporary traffic management

As of 1 November, 2024 the NZTA Warrant System for TMO and STMS training will be

The unit standards will be delivered exclusively through Connexis using current TTM trainers and assessors and existing training material. NZTA Waka Kotahi, in alignment with the HSWA, are placing the onus on employers to ensure people working on their sites are competent and capable.

Where TTM warrants do not have an equivalent unit standard, replacement skill or micro credential NZTA will still be registering the warrants through the relevant trainers. This applies to inspector, STMS Mobile NP., STMS Mobile and KCTL.

NZTA Waka Kotahi recently held a webinar to explain the changes – [you can watch that webinar here](#)

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## NZTA now using New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management

NZTA Waka Kotahi is in the process of adopting the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (NZGTTM) on their state highway network. From the end of October the Code of Practice TTM will be superseded by NZGTTM.

NZTA recommends Road Controlling Authorities and TTM contractors and suppliers to follow the NZGTTM. [They have published a series of Frequently Asked Questions here.](#)

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## Guides under review and development

### Temporary traffic management

Following the introduction of the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management, the EEA established a working group to produce guidance on risk assessment requirements for temporary traffic management when carrying out short duration, low risk and low impact supply industry activities. This includes switching and earthing, asset inspection, and overhead line patrol etc.

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### Principles of permit areas and Guide for marking of equipment for access for work.

The SSPG have been reviewing these two documents and as a result, the two have been combined into one making the requirements for permit areas and equipment marking simple and easy to understand.

These revised guides will be coming out for consultation in November, so look out for them and be ready to offer your feedback.

## Business Leaders' Health and Safety Forum submission to MBIE

The Business Leaders' Health and Safety Forum made a joint submission on the Health and Safety at Work, representing the views of 61 organisations – including the EEA.

We know that too many people die, are seriously injured or become ill from work in New Zealand – many more than in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Since late August organisations have been providing feedback to the Forum who have collated this submission on behalf of the companies involved.

The joint submission makes six key recommendations and calls on the Government to urgently adapt to provide businesses with greater clarity for managing risks and better alignment between key government agencies.

The group is calling for:

- Improved clarity for duty holders (businesses) via completing core regulations and improving guidance and Approved Codes of Practice
- Clarification and simplification of overlapping responsibilities
- Enhanced regulatory practices and inspectorate competency
- The establishment a national data and insight centre of excellence for health and safety
- The establishment of meaningful incentives for good health and safety performance in the system
- A drive for ongoing monitoring and performance of system stewardship.

[You can read their submission here.](#)





On 25 October, the Electricity Authority published two important distribution connection consultations. EEA will be providing a response to the following two consultations and is seeking industry input.

#### 1. Network Connections Project – Stage One

This consultation proposes Code changes designed to reduce barriers and enhance efficiencies in the connection application process for distributed generation (e.g., solar farms) and large loads (e.g., industrial plants) to network infrastructure. We believe these changes will streamline connections, making the process more accessible, faster, and equitable across New Zealand. Read more here [Network connections project – stage one](#)

#### 2. Distribution Connection Pricing Proposed Code Amendment

This consultation seeks feedback on proposed adjustments to pricing methodologies and mechanisms to facilitate implementation and improve transparency. Read more here [Distribution connection pricing proposed Code amendment](#)

Please get in contact with Stuart Johnston, [stuart@eea.co.nz](mailto:stuart@eea.co.nz) with any thoughts or feedback for consideration by **close of business, 29 November 2024**.

You can find all our active submissions and a list of all past submissions made by the EEA by logging onto our website under [What we do > Consultations and Submissions](#).



## PSD-040 Protection Systems for Electricity Supply

During October, the EEA rolled out the third course in the Professional Certificate in

The course is now tailored to be delivered either online or as a blend of online coupled with a one-day onsite workshop, making participation more accessible to more people.

If your organisation is interested in hosting this course for a group of your own engineers in the new year, please let us know.

## Learning opportunities for the Christmas break

Last year, industry asked if we could provide some development opportunities for people who had time on their hands over the summer holiday break.

In the upcoming Christmas break, we will be offering:

1. **Safety in Design (SiD)** – an introduction to the principles, process and enablers of SiD.
2. **Power systems design**: PSD-010 Line Design Components – an introduction to various aspects of the New Zealand power industry and network. This course is aimed to support graduate engineers or engineers who've recently immigrated to New Zealand.
3. **Overhead line design**: OLD-010 Line Design Principles – an introduction to overhead line design. This course is for those who wish to participate in the Micro-Credential in Overhead Line Design in the new year.

These opportunities are offered online so it doesn't matter where your holiday takes you, the learning can continue. For more information and to register your interest, click on the links above or [visit the EEA website](#).



## 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.



Subscribe	Past Issues		Translate ▼
	8 November	<a href="#">Applications close for Standing Committee Expressions of Interest</a>	
	26-27 November	<a href="#">Annual Power Exchange - APEX</a>	
	29 November	Feedback due for EA industry consultations	
	2 December	<a href="#">Entries close for the annual photo competition</a>	
	2025		
	6 May	Trainers' Forum	

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## 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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