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ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2024

## VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)



Kia ora tatou,

Seems like this is my month to say ngā mihi nui – thank you very much, as it is repeated a few times in this newsletter!

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey and gave feedback on the role and performance of the EEA. While we are still to review the responses in depth, broadly speaking your support for the EEA is strong and you agree that we are headed in the right direction.

Your feedback has been an essential input into the discussion around the EEA strategy and

Thank you also to everyone who applied to join one of our Standing Committees. It is fantastic to see the level of interest across our industry in contributing at this level. A recommendation on these new appointments is going to the Executive Committee next week so stay tuned for the outcome.

A further thanks to everyone who returned their Safety Performance Indicator Survey. For those who haven't, it is not too late to get it in and your data will make the survey even more valuable. We will be working hard over the next few weeks to get initial insights out to you by the end of the year.

It's been a fantastic month for me getting out and about, meeting with members and industry. Thanks to everyone who has hosted and spoken with me this past month especially the enthusiastic group of young engineers who participated at APEX this week. It is really special to see the next generation coming together to share and connect and knowing they're our leaders of the future.

Congratulations to William Thomas and Abigail Field who took out the Best Paper and People's Choice Award respectively.

My final thanks goes to everyone who completed our post-conference survey – your feedback will help us to make EEA2025 even better than before. Congratulations to Euan Robinson from Beca and Chris van der Werff, NZ Insulators, who each won a prize gift card for completing our conference survey – and to the ten lucky prize winners from our stakeholder survey, whose vouchers will be mailed out shortly.

EEA2025 will be back at Te Pae in Ōtautahi Christchurch on 9-11 September and believe it or not, our conference website will go live next Friday December 6 when you will be able to book your exhibition site. Get in fast because we sold out of space this year. See more on that below.

It's as busy as ever despite the rapid approach of Christmas! Wishing you all a productive few weeks as we turn our attention to the well-earned break ahead.

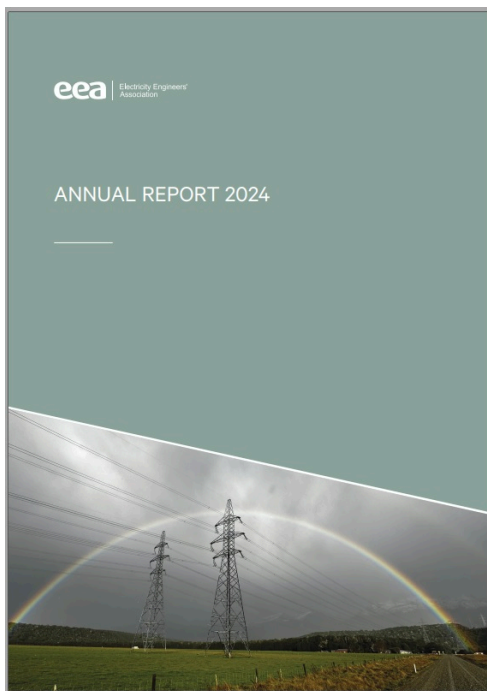
Ngā mihi nui,

Nicki

## LATEST NEWS



## Photo Competition - extended into the New Year!



Great news for all you budding photographers. We have extended our Annual Photo Competition into the New Year meaning you can use your summer break to capture more amazing images of our industry and be into win.

Entries need to show the 'power of the industry' be it assets, people, technology or electricity in use.

Entries now close **Friday 24 January 2025** before member voting to select our winner begins. The winner will be announced on Friday 14 February (yes – Valentines day!)

All eligible entries will go into the EEA photo library for use in our publications, social media or website. The winning shot – as voted by you

– will feature on the cover of the 2025 Annual Report and the winner can choose either a free registration to the annual EEA conference, or a \$250 gift card.

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!

[All you need to know is here.](#)

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**EEA2025: 9-11 September**  
**Exhibition site bookings open next week!**

## Electrifying Aotearoa Today's innovation, tomorrow's system

Our annual conference and technology expo is the electricity industry's largest collaborative forum and your opportunity to learn about the latest research and development, technologies and innovations.

The conference website will go live next week and bookings for stands in our technology exhibition open. Keep an eye on your email when we will send notification of the website going live.

Our theme this year is Electrifying Aotearoa: Today's innovation, tomorrow's system. We want to continue the focus on supporting industry innovation as we drive toward electrification of the country.

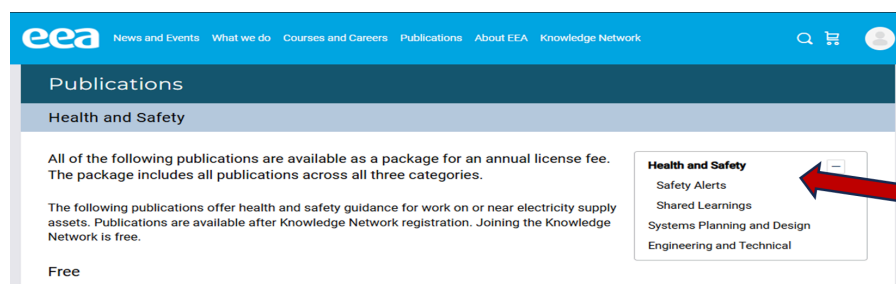
The conference is also a fantastic opportunity for you to present to your peers on key topics that speak to our theme and apply for one of our EEA Awards.

So, start thinking now about what role you want to play at the electricity industry's biggest event of the year, and plan to be a part of this must-attend conference.

## Tips for navigating our new website

Our new website went live in October and there are a few differences from the old. Below are a couple of tips to help you navigate the new.

- **Safety Alerts:** We have fielded several questions asking where the safety alerts have gone – they are still available for users who are logged into the site, and they now live under [Publications >Health and Safety >Safety Alerts](#). Look for the + symbol on the right-hand menu to find the page. Bookmark this page to make it easy to find in future!




When you first log in, you will be taken to the Knowledge Network landing page. Here

- **Discussion Forums inside the Knowledge Network:** Inside the Knowledge Network are several different discussion forums that you can join to get your questions answered and share knowledge. These forums are user-driven – that conversations that take place are for you, by you. Check out what is available and what interest you from health and safety, live work, trainer's forum or general discussion forum.


Knowledge Network

Forums



[My publications](#)  
[My courses](#)  
[Activity](#)  
[Members](#)  
**[Forums](#)**


Welcome to EEA Knowledge Network Forums. Join discussions that interest you such as Public Safety, Stay Live, Live Work, Trainers or Common Competency Framework. The Ask EEA forum is a space to engage with EEA directly.



[About the forums](#)


All new users to the forum must read this discussio...

No Discussions



[Private: Asset Information Forum](#)

1 month, 2 weeks ago



[Asset Management Group](#)

A private forum for the EEA asset Management...

No Discussions

## Recent submissions available on our website

In the past month, we provided submissions for the following consultations which you can access on our website, once you are logged in.

- Electricity Authority: *Part 8 Code amendment proposal – Part 1*
- Electricity Authority: *Addressing common quality information requirements*
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment: *Amendments to the Electricity Safety Regulations to expand the permitted voltage range for electricity supply.*

We are also developing two more submissions which will be delivered to the Electricity Authority in the coming days.

- Electricity Authority: *Network Connections Project – Stage one*
- Electricity Authority: *Distribution Connection Pricing Proposed Code Amendment*

You can access all past submissions made by the EEA by logging onto our website under

## Annual Power Exchange: APEX



We had a great turnout for this year's extended APEX in Wellington with graduates and students participating in a day of presentations and a day of site visits.



Congratulations to William Thomas of Meridian Energy for taking out the Best Presentation Award for his paper Developing secondary system upgrades, a case study of the Waitaki 110V upgrade, and to Abigail Field of ElectroNet for winning People's Choice for her paper Hybrid Solar and BESS – to DC or not to DC.

APEX provides our younger engineers with the opportunity to meet each other, connect, share knowledge and gain some new experiences from their peers.

Huge thanks to Transpower for hosting our attendees at Haywards substation, and to Meridian for playing host at West Wind wind farm.

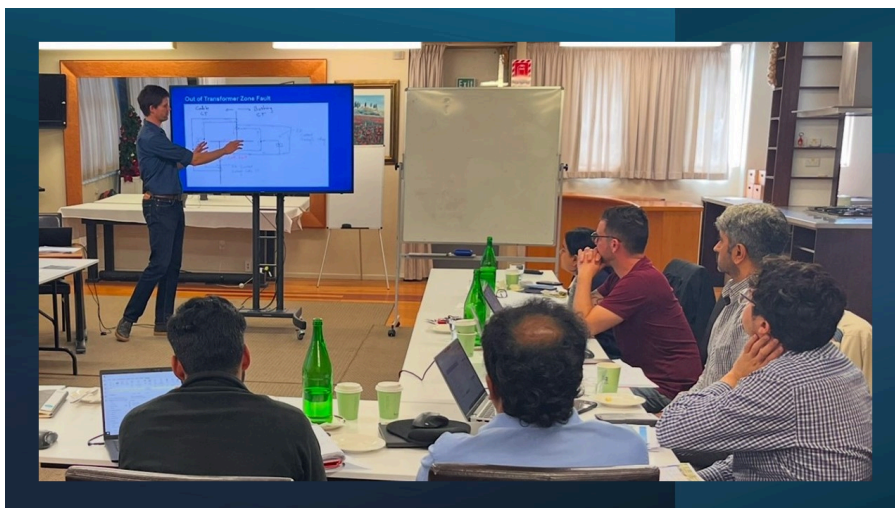
## Save the date!

**Trainer's Forum** – 6 May, 2025: After a wonderful response to this year's trainers' forum we will be doing it again next year, to be held in Christchurch.

**Health and Safety Workshop** – 16-17 July, 2025: This year's event will be held at Jet Park Hotel, in Auckland conveniently placed near the airport.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Power Systems Protection with Wellington Electricity



A big thanks to Wellington Electricity for hosting a protection systems workshop as part of the EEA's PSD-040 Protection Systems for Electricity Supply course, which forms part of the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design. [Read all about the Certificate here.](#)

The Professional Certificate was designed and is delivered, in collaboration with ElectroNet. Our thanks to Morgan Muller who facilitated the workshop.

Ten of WE's staff first completed a four-part online course, and then applied what was learned in a one-day workshop.

If you or your team are interested in participating in the Protection Systems course, you can enrol on the website for the January cohort or contact the EEA.

Courses have been designed to take approximately 20 hours and you can credit your participation to your Engineering NZ CPD hours.

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## Learning over summer

professional development! Especially if the weather is a bit blah or you find yourself at a loose end.

The EEA is offering three of its introduction courses online over the summer period.

These include:

- Line Design Principles (from the micro-credential in overhead line design)
- Safety in Design course
- Power System Components for Electricity Supply (from the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design)

These courses are available whenever you wish to complete the work – at the time of your choosing and at your pace. Once you have registered, you have access to the content and are ready to go.

To register for any of these courses please [visit the EEA website](#) or contact us at [admin@eea.co.nz](mailto:admin@eea.co.nz).

Please remember – the EEA is your association, and if you have a learning need that we are currently not meeting please get in touch. We are keen to work with you to deliver a quality outcome!

*All our courses are listed on the Courses and Careers section of the website.*



## SSPG company visits

Members of the SSPG had a great visit with Marlborough Lines this month where more than 50 staff members attended one of three discussion sessions. It was fabulous to see such engagement from the team and the commitment to organisation wide health and safety.

The team would love the opportunity to visit your organisation and demonstrate how to make the most of what's available through the EEA and the Knowledge Network.

If you are keen to know more, please contact [hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:hayley@eea.co.nz) or give her a call on 027 7024746



## 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.

24 December	EEA Office closes for the summer break
<b>2025</b>	
6 January	EEA Office opens for the new year
20 January	<b><a href="#">PSD-040 Protection Systems for Electricity Supply course commences</a></b>
24 January	Entries close for the annual <b><a href="#">EEA photo competition</a></b>
29 January	Voting commences for photo competition entries
14 February	Winner of photo competition announced
6 May	Trainer's Forum
16-17 July	Health and Safety Workshop
9-11 September	EEA2025 Conference and Technology Exhibition

## 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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