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Electricity Engineers'
Association

Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2025

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)



Kia ora tātou,

In big news this month for our team - we've moved! It is fantastic to be in our new space at 40 Mercer Street and to now be able to host more of you for meetings, workshops, training and social get togethers.

To mark this change, we will be holding a dawn kawanga where on Monday 17 March, starting precisely at 5:50am. Although numbers are limited we do have space for a few more who wish to experience this richly spiritual ceremony.

The kawanga where recognises that this is a new space for us, not just physically but also in

snacks afterwards. If you would like to join us please email admin@eea.co.nz and we will send you a detailed invitation.

In a few weeks' time we will also send out a wider invitation to an evening function at the new offices – our first stakeholder function of 2025 and launch of our new strategy.

In other news, it is all go for EEA2025! Early bird registrations are now open, there are just a handful of exhibition spaces left and the call for papers has gone out. Do not miss this opportunity to learn from your peers or to stretch yourself by presenting a project of your own. September will come around before you know it so don't delay – the time to get organised is now!

Finally, we were thrilled to see FlexTalk feature as a case study in international partner OpenADR Alliance's Annual Report this year! Check out the report on [their website](#).

This month also marks the conclusion of the latest FlexTalk project, known as the Seed project, with key findings set to be published in early March. Plus we will be publishing our 'round up' of flexibility projects identified across New Zealand and the globe so keep an eye out for this work coming soon!

Ngā mihi nui,

Nicki



Join an EEA Standing Committee and influence industry outcomes

We are currently seeking new members to join our influential standing committees – the National Committee for Live Work and the Public Safety Working Group.

This is your chance to contribute to innovation and influence how live work and public safety are delivered across the industry. Members of our standing committees are the powerhouse of delivery that make the EEA what it is.

We are recruiting to fill vacancies on the following committees:

We are seeking expressions of interest from people who can help us deliver safety campaigns to the wider public and support our member companies with best practice guidance on public safety issues. Your expertise might be in health and safety, operations or it could be in capability training, communications or social marketing!

[See more about the group here.](#)

National Committee for Live Work – chaired by Geoff Thorburn, PowerNet.

We are seeking expressions of interest from people who can provide leadership, guidance, and expertise to support continual improvement in high voltage and low voltage live work activities in the electricity supply industry, in both overhead and underground work.

[See more here.](#)

For more details and how to apply, [visit the website](#). Applications close Friday 7 March

Photo Competition sees record entries and votes; it's a clean sweep for Meridian

A huge thanks to everyone for submitting their photos into this year's competition and to all of you who voted. We received a record number of entries for this competition, in its fifth year, as well as an unprecedented number of votes received.

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.

Congratulations to Manesh Malla from Meridian Energy for their winning entry “Aoraki sunrise over looks foggy Twizel”.

It was a Meridian clean sweep this year with entries from Tim Preston-Marshall claiming second and third place!

[Please visit the EEA website](#) to see all entries.



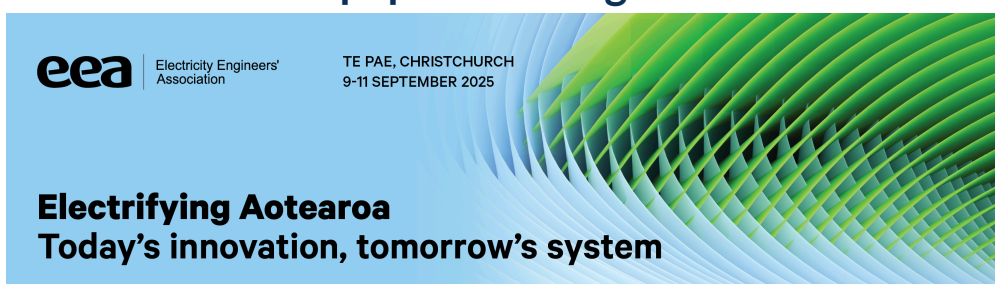
Did you know? Members can post vacancies on our website

The EEA website is another channel that members can use to promote their vacancies at no cost.

We will post your vacancy for free and link visitors over to your job advert. [Check out the page here](#), there is a lot going on!

If you are interested in advertising, email us at admin@eea.co.nz

EEA2025: 9-11 September 2025 Call for papers and registrations



The EEA annual Conference and Technology Exhibition in Ōtautahi / Christchurch on 9-11 September 2025 is not to be missed whether as an exhibitor, presenter or delegate! Our 2024 conference attracted over 1,200 delegates and visitors and more than 60 technical presentations. This is your chance to be part of it.

Early bird registrations are now open – get in quick to ensure you grab a discount. Early Bird ends on 24 June.

Do you have an idea for a paper to present? EEA2025 is a fantastic opportunity for you to profile and share new knowledge, practices or technology. It's also a platform for a company

People's Choice award.

This year's programme will be designed around the topics we are seeking papers on. [Check out the call for papers here to get a sense of what you can expect to hear more of at EEA2025.](#)

Exhibitors, we have only a few stands left so if you haven't made up your mind yet – don't delay any longer. [Book your exhibition space now!](#)

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

Growth opportunity for Young Professionals with the IEC



Are you a young professional in your 20s or 30s with an interest in standards? Standards NZ is supporting the IEC in its call for nominations to join the IEC Young Professionals programme.

Each year the International Electrotechnical Commission – the world's leading developer of global standards for electronics – runs a programme dedicated to encouraging the next generation of standards makers.

This is a fantastic opportunity for young professionals to get involved in the significant work they deliver.

The IEC Young Professionals programme brings together young people working in electrical engineering to build international networks of peers, learn more about standardisation and conformity assessment work and share perspectives and get exposure to new ideas.

Nominations close on 14 May. [Find out how to make a nomination, here.](#)

the Standardisation Broadsheet

This month marks the conclusion of the latest FlexTalk project, known as the Seed project, with key findings set to be published in early March. In this pilot we tested smart technology in 10 homes to explore the potential for scaling up and optimising energy use in kiwi homes.

Our report will cover the insights and learnings gained including:

- Technology: an evaluation of product performance, ease of use, cost-effectiveness, and suitability for scaling.
- Installation: the identification of best practices, potential challenges related to existing infrastructure in homes, and opportunities for increased installer efficiency (training and equipment bundling)
- Signalling strategies: an initial exploration of effective signalling methods to optimise energy consumption without impacting customers' comfort or quality

Introducing the Standardisation Broadsheet

The future of New Zealand's electricity system depends on interoperability and standardisation—ensuring that consumer-owned energy devices, networks, and the grid can work together seamlessly.

The FlexTalk project have recently published a Standardisation Broadsheet, providing key information on how we enable demand flexibility through industry-wide alignment on connection, communication, and behavioural standards to achieve interoperability.

With standardisation we can unlock smarter grid integration; support plug-and-play solutions for new technologies, maximise consumer value through vendor choice and market competition, and ensure reliable, scalable, and secure demand flexibility.

EEA, in partnership with EECA and industry, is driving this effort through the FlexTalk initiative to maximise participation in demand flexibility services. [You can access the broadsheet and all our FlexTalk resources here.](#)

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. [What we do > Consultations and Submissions.](#)

- EECA: Regulation Impact Statement for Distribution Transformers

Vocational Education and Training Reforms

As touched on in the January newsletter, we are working collaboratively with key infrastructure associations to ensure vocational education and training (trades etc) continues to be accessible to industry, nationally consistent, and able to be adapted in a controlled way to meet evolving industry needs.

Earlier this month we met with Minister Simmonds to relay our concerns, and we lodged a joint submission with Civil Contractors NZ, Water NZ, ENA and Straterra.

There is a lot of alignment across this group and heft in the joint emphasis of key messages. We intend to continue this through the next two stages of public consultation on policy and funding.



ICAM Training - secure your seat today!

The EEA, in collaboration with Safety Wise Solutions is pleased to announce the organisation of a ICAM Lead Investigator training course **20-21 March**, in Auckland.

High quality Health and Safety in Employment (HSE) investigations that consistently identify factors to prevent recurrence are critically important to the sustainability of organisations, to maintain employee, customer and shareholder confidence.

Through the lead incident investigator course, participants will learn to use the Incident Cause Analysis Method (ICAM); a highly practical and structured method in which to conduct HSE investigations.

[Register on our website](#) (you need to be logged in to do so)

Downstream: 20-21 March 2025

held in the South Island and will be held at Te Pae in Ōtautahi / Christchurch.

This year, the team at Downstream have introduced some changes and will be bringing you

- A wider range of international influencers, and thought leaders
- Parallel sessions running across three presentation spaces
- New presentation and engagement formats
- Extended networking
- A selection of round table discussions
- More audience participation options
- Energy innovators updates

To find out more and to purchase tickets, visit the [Downstream website](#).

Trainer's Forum - 6 May

After a wonderful response to last year's trainers' forum we will be doing it again this year, to be held at the Novotel near the airport in Christchurch.

The theme this year is: **Thinking differently** – and our keynote speaker Natasya Jones from Divergent Thinking will delve into the opportunities and challenges of neurodiversity; neurodiverse individuals, including those with ADHD, autism, or dyslexia. By adapting training methods to leverage their strengths, organisations can enhance their operational excellence while ensuring compliance with stringent regulatory requirements.

We also have guest speakers from transmission, distribution and generation showcasing the excellent work they are doing thinking outside the box, as well as updates from the Common Competency Framework and Connexis.

This was a sold-out event last year so don't miss your spot this year. Registrations are now open, [visit the EEA website](#).

Calling all Overhead Line Designers

Pre-Forum Event - Tuesday, 20 May

The pre-forum event will start with a CIGRE B2 (Overhead Lines) committee meeting. Anyone wishing to find out about CIGRE will be welcome to come along. To attend the full day will require registration, see below.

In the afternoon, product focus workshops will be held. At these workshops software and material suppliers will provide educational workshops on topics relating to their products,

Overhead Line Designers Forum - Wednesday, 21 May

The purpose of this annual forum is to support industry OHLD teams, and improve industry knowledge, capability and safety in line design by sharing learnings and good standards/practices, discussing common issues, understanding changing technology, and supporting designers in growing their professional contacts and industry relationships.

Call for Presentations closes Friday 25th April.

As this is an interactive forum for OHLD professional, we invite attendees to present on topics they are interested in. Talks can be 5-20 minutes in length. So, if you have some design challenges to share or have been involved in any interesting work/projects from which others could learn from please contact carl@linesmarts.com who is putting the Forum Agenda together. Presentations could include:

- New products, techniques, experiences
- Unresolved problems
- Problems solved, learnings
- Proposals for collaborative work

Registrations for both the pre-forum and forum [are available on the EEA website](#). Note a self funded dinner will be organised for the evening of Tuesday, 20 May.

Save the date - Health and Safety Workshop - 16 - 17 July

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.

If you have anything you would like to share with industry or any topics that you would like covered at these events, please let Hayley@eea.co.nz know!



We are now taking enrolments for the following courses to be run in March.

- OLD-020 Conductor Solutions – Part of the Micro-credential in Overhead Line Design. In this course you will learn to design a conductor solution for an overhead distribution line, using a whole-of-life design approach, and in accordance with sound Safety in Design (SiD) principles. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- PSD-030 Earthing Systems – Part of the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design. In this course you will learn the purpose and objectives of earthing, understand how design decisions are made, and resolve earthing system design problems. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- PSD-040 Protection Systems – Part of the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design. In this course you will learn the purpose and objectives of protection systems, evaluate a range of protection devices, and design a protection scheme to meet a given set of safety and performance requirements.

This course was over-subscribed in November and we expect places to fill fast! [Learn more and register here.](#)

Let EEA help with professional development in 2025

The EEA have worked with industry to develop a common, structured programme of learning and development, that supports current and future industry needs.

In the year ahead we will continue to develop and deliver the micro-credential in Overhead Line Design, the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design and its Safety in Design courses.

In April, we expect to offer OLD-050 Crossarm Solutions, a new module being developed by Cath Rathbone.

If you (or your organisation) would like to discuss scheduling needs or in-house training opportunities please contact the EEA directly on admin@eea.co.nz, or register via the EEA courses webpage.

All our courses and micro-credentials [can be found on the website](#) which makes it easy for you to pick the ones that best suits you, your team and your organisation.

Courses use 'blended learning' and have been designed to fit around full-time work. They are delivered via a mix of self-directed online learning, webinars (led by industry subject matter experts) and written (scenario-based) assessments.

Alternatively, get in touch to discuss a tailored solution for you on admin@eea.co.nz.

HEALTH & SAFETY



Recent consultation on industry guides

We received great feedback from the Permit Area Guide consultation, thanks to everyone who submitted. The SSPG are currently reviewing the feedback and will respond to those who submitted.

The consultation is also now closed on the Temporary Traffic Management– Risk-based Scenarios, Electrical Distribution Industry Guide. The SSPG and working group will run a webinar covering the requirements of this guide, date to be confirmed.

Learn more about our work

A massive thanks to Horizon Energy Group for hosting Hayley and Graeme in Whakatane recently for some great discussions about why the industry rules, SM-EI and the EEA guides are so very important, and how to access the guides and the SM-EI.

If you would like members of the SSPG to come and visit your company safety days please contact 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.

7 March	Applications close to join NCLW and PSWG Standing Committees
17 March	Kawanga whare at 5.50am; Level 5, Simpl House, 40 Mercer Street, Wgtn

Subscribe	Past Issues		Translate ▼
	20-21 March	EEA is a proud supporter of Downstream	
	6 May	Trainer's Forum - Christchurch	
	20 May	Overhead Line Designers Pre-Forum Event - Pukekohe	
	21 May	Overhead Line Designers Forum - Pukekohe	
	16-17 July	Health and Safety Workshop	
	9-11 September	EEA2025 Conference and Technology Exhibition	
	21-23 October	Connexis Annual Connection - Christchurch	

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- 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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