

[View this email in your browser](#)Electricity Engineers'
Association

Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - MARCH 2025

VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)

Kia ora tātou,

Three months into 2025 already and like many of you, my current focus is on end of financial year wrap up and planning for the year ahead. That's created a huge amount of excitement as we have big plans that we can't wait to share.

To mark the start of our new journey, key industry stakeholders and Executive Committee members joined us at dawn on Monday 17 March to bless our new office and fill us with spirit for the challenges ahead. Thank you to those who joined us so early, and to mana whenua Taranaki Whānui for leading us through the tikanga.

Our new physical space is anchored in 90 years + electricity history and provides an inviting multi-purpose space for EEA members and staff to come together. We're looking forward to inviting you for events and workshops, and to start hosting EEA members visiting Wellington who want to use our new (complimentary) EEA member hot desks and wifi.

The sun is fading and yes winter is coming. There was plenty of kōrero about this last week at Downstream 2025 in Ōtautahi Christchurch. As expected, security of supply was the key focus with pointed messages to industry (by industry) on the importance of working together.

Like me, you've probably heard the cry for collaboration at most events over the years. But this year the call for collective action and openness met resounding agreement. There seems to be a genuine commitment across industry to work together to deliver solutions, and the EEA has a stronger part to play in this than ever. We'll continue to raise our independent,

sure it's well informed and workable.

I was fortunate to facilitate a discussion on unlocking and unifying workforce development alongside Sheree Long from Energy Resources Aotearoa. It was a good discussion with a variety of perspectives and voices around the table. This is a critical area for industry and the EEA is keen to work alongside others to make sure industry is aligned on a workforce strategy. We are working on refreshing the Capability Development Group Standing Committee and I'd love to hear from people interested in workshopping its role with us.

Another key theme was the role of demand response – with some confusion whether this meant deindustrialisation (no!) and whether it was all talk and no progress. In fact a huge amount of work is being done. Earlier this month we published a flexibility scan that shines light on the 88 projects underway in Aotearoa New Zealand and the rest of the world. The scan is a much-needed overview of what's underway, what's working well and what are the future opportunities. If you haven't had a chance, check out the scan on our website [here](#). We're working closely with Flexforum and Future Networks Forum in this area, with the industry collaboration here gold standard.

With so much going on, having clarity about our strategic purpose and key focus areas is critically important. Thanks to the fulsome feedback from our stakeholder survey, we've been able to develop a strategy on a page that we think clearly articulates our purpose, three strategic focus areas, key strengths and tools. It's clear and simple, highlighting the EEA's role and value well. I can't wait to share this with you at our first stakeholder event for 2025, pencilled in for May.

Ngā mihi nui,
Nicki

The Flextalk logo features the word "flex" in a bold, dark blue font and "talk" in a lighter blue font, all in a sans-serif typeface.

eea Electricity Engineers' Association

EECA
TE Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri
Electricity Commission

The EEA-EECA scan of demand flexibility projects across Aotearoa and internationally is [here](#)!

We recently published our 'flexibility scan' providing an overview of some of the projects underway around the world, what they're focussing on and what learnings are being shared. The scan provides a valuable resource for anyone with an interest in the integration of consumer energy resources and demand flexibility into the electricity system.

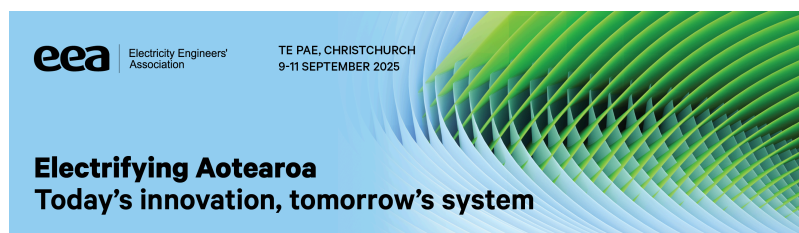
Publications in the flexibility scan include:

- a searchable spreadsheet of projects separated into Aotearoa and international outlining project objectives, deliverable and key learnings
- a summary report that presents key findings and insights alongside takeaways for decision makers, and
- radar charts showing the different concentration of focus across the projects.

[Visit our website for more information](#)

The flexibility scan was funded by EECA and completed by EA Technologies.

In addition, the Flextalk project team has completed the SEED report which we'll publish at the beginning of April on our Flextalk website page. The report documents the trial of the installation, connection and control of smart home technologies and provides the



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 or individual to get recognition as an engineering leader. We are looking for papers on the challenges and opportunities as electrify Aotearoa. Plus – you could win a Best Paper or 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.](#)

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

EEA Workforce Capability Development

Standing Committee

Workforce capacity and capability is a key barrier to the electricity sector successfully delivering electrification, with stakeholder survey feedback highlighting that you want to see us leading and doing more in this space.

Our new strategy and plan for the year ahead reflects that, with our ability to do this well coming from our independence, pan-industry reach, pool of trusted expertise, and practical industry perspective. Having a strong and focused Workforce Capability Development Standing Committee will be a key pillar to success, and so we are looking to refresh its purpose and objectives before reviewing membership. If you are interested in participating in a workshop about the Standing Committee's potential role and focus please email admin@eea.co.nz – and thank you to those who have already volunteered.

Submissions

Recently completed submissions

Electricity Authority consultation – Requiring distributors to pay a rebate when consumers supply electricity at peak times

incentivising consumer flexibility but advocates for a principles-based, locally adaptable approach that aligns with broader regulatory developments and practical implementation realities. For more information, contact Dr Stuart Johnston at stuart@eea.co.nz.

IRD consultation – Taxation and the Not for Profit Sector

We made a brief submission on the IRD's consultation on taxation and the not for profit sector. Our submission supports continuation of tax exemption for tiers 3 and 4 charities (like us) and recommends an approach that is not a broad brush and does not sweep in charities that exist to serve rather than turn a profit.

Read all of our completed submissions when you log into the EEA website. Submissions are published [here](#).

Have your say in our current submissions

Electricity Authority cross submissions - Distributed generation pricing principles

We are preparing a submission on the Electricity Authority's consultation paper regarding the *Distributed Generation Pricing Principles*, which aim to improve the cost structures for connecting distributed generation, such as wind and solar farms, to the network. Members are invited to provide their input to Dr. Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz) by Tuesday 1 April so that we can finalise our response before submissions close on Thursday, 3 April 2025.

Read more information in the [consultation document on the EA website](#).

Electricity Authority Consultation paper – Level playing field measures

We are preparing a submission on the Electricity Authority's consultation paper "*Level Playing Field Measures*", which proposes mandatory non-discrimination obligations for major gentailers to support fairer competition in the wholesale and retail electricity markets. We welcome input from members—please send any comments or suggestions to Dr Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz) by 18 April 2025 so we can finalise our response before submissions close on 23 April 2025.

Read more information in the [consultation document on the EA website](#).



REMINDER: Trainers' 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 DivergenThinking 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

This was a sold-out event last year so don't miss your spot this year. Log in to the EEA website to [register now!](#)

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, and there will be opportunities for attendees to meet and talk to suppliers.

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

Register for both the pre-forum and forum [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 you would like covered at these events, please let Hayley@eea.co.nz know!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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 [are on our 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.

IEC opportunity for Young Professionals

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. Nominations close on 14 May, more information in our February newsletter. [Find out how to make a nomination, here.](#)

HEALTH & SAFETY

New members on the PSWG and NCLW

Public Safety Working Group (PSWG)

Thanks to everyone who put their name forward to join the PSWG. We are delighted to have new members and the PSWG's 2025/26 work plan has been approved by the EEA executive. The objectives of the group and membership are on our website [here](#). The work plan will be published soon.

We had an overwhelming response to people wanting to join the NCLW and thanks to everyone who put up their hand to offer support. Group membership and the objectives of NCLW are on our website [here](#). The NCLW 2025/26 work plan has been finalised and approved and will be published soon.

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.

6 May	Trainers' Forum - Christchurch
20 May	Overhead Line Designers Pre-Forum Event - Pukekohe
21 May	Overhead Line Designers Forum - Pukekohe
25 June	Asset Management Forum
26 June	Asset Management Information Forum
16-17 July	Health and Safety Workshop - Auckland
9-11 September	EEA2025 Conference and Technology Exhibition - Christchurch
21-23 October	Connexis Annual Connection - Christchurch

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.