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ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - AUGUST 2025

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)



Kia ora tātou,

July is an important month for the EEA as we celebrate the previous year at our Annual General Meeting and acknowledge the hard mahi/work of our members, staff and executive.

This was my first AGM as EEA's Chief Executive and Josie Boyd's last as EEA President. It has been an honour to work alongside Josie for the past ten months. An exceptional leader, Josie's commitment to the EEA and her drive to make it the best membership body possible is impressive.

And so too is our new President, Geoff Douch. Geoff has been vice President since 2019 and

goodbye and sincere thanks for the service of outgoing members, John Batchelor, Thahirah Jalal and Michael Whaley. More details of the 2025-2027 Executive are included below.

I've just returned from the Clean Energy Summit in Australia. It's important we keep up to date on international developments and share knowledge and experience from other jurisdictions facing similar challenges. There was much to learn that we're looking forward to sharing.

A consistent, global challenge for the energy sector is workforce – capacity and capability. Our work in this area is ramping up with the launch of the 2025 Electricity Supply Industry Workforce Survey on 4 August. This is the third time the EEA has run this survey and comes at a crucial time for our industry as we seek to gather valuable data and insights to inform workforce planning. There's no better time or imperative for our industry to work together to develop a workforce strategy that meets current and future needs.

With two months to go, we're in serious conference planning mode. Tickets are selling fast, and I can't wait to see you all there!

Ngā mihi nui,

Nicki



Your EEA Executive Committee 2025-2027

Thanks to all members who voted. Once again, we had a great response.

Outgoing members include previous President, Josie Boyd as well as committee members John Batchelor, Michael Whaley and Thahirah Jala. Josie has been an exceptional leader and driver of continuous improvement, and we thank her for her service to the committee. We also extend our sincere thanks to John, Michale and Thahirah – your commitment and mahi over the years has been greatly appreciated and we thank you for your service.

Geoff Douch, President	Chief Executive, Electra
Pete Armstrong	General Manager Network, EA Networks
Chantelle Bramley	Executive General Manager Operations Transpower
Chris Ewers	Electricity Security Manager, Meridian Energy
Karen Frew	General Manager Electricity, Powerco
Michael Gibbs	Chief Operating Officer Network, Northpower
Emma Lloyd	Intermediate Electrical Engineer, Connetics
Steve Macdonald	General Manager Infrastructure, Orion NZ
Mat O'Neill	Program Manager: Network Planning and Development, – Waipa Networks

Electricity Supply Industry Workforce Survey goes live

Earlier this week, [we launched the 2025 Electricity Supply Industry Workforce Survey](#). This is the third time the EEA has run this survey and it comes at a crucial time for our industry.

The survey has been distributed to our corporate members and offers valuable potential as a source of aggregated insights into industry workforce trends and needs. Organisations that participate will receive detailed reporting of the insights, and findings will also be published in anonymised, aggregated format in the *Re-Energise* report.

You can help by ensuring your company is aware of and undertakes the survey. We would love more companies to participate, so please contact heath@eea.co.nz if you would like to be involved. Participation is vital to its success.

The survey forms part of broader data work led by Waihanga Ara Rau and the EEA encompassing census and statistical analysis, interviews, reviews of asset management and planning data, and scenario forecasting.

All findings will be aggregated and featured in the *2025 Re-Energise* report – a joint effort between the EEA and Energy Resources Aotearoa, with support from both industry and government. While data provides the foundation of this report, its scope and value go well beyond the numbers.

We will be holding a webinar explaining the *Re-Energise* project in the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for more on the [EEA website under upcoming events](#).

EEA 2025 award entries extended until 12 August

Thanks to everyone who has submitted entries for the EEA 2025 awards.

Life gets busy and we've extended the entry deadline until Tuesday 12 August 2025. We

For example, the Engineering Excellence Award is a great opportunity to celebrate hard work, contribution and impact. This award is about celebrating recent activities or projects associated with the development of new infrastructure or the improvement of existing infrastructure in the New Zealand electricity supply industry.

Last year, Northpower took home the trophy and the cash prize for their Te Ao Māori approach to the construction and installation of a new transmission tower in Whangārei.

You could be the next winner!

[Visit our website for information about the award and how to enter.](#)

EWRB publishes updated notice

The [Electricity \(Prescribed Classes of Registration\) Notice 2025](#) was published in the New Zealand Gazette on Friday 1 August, replacing the 2023 Notice. The updated notice focuses on:

- simplifying and correcting transitional provisions by bringing forward the commencement date for all new registration classes
- changes so electrical workers can test and certify any prescribed electrical work they are authorised to, regardless of who carried out the work, in accordance with obligations under the Electricity Act 1992 and Electrical Safety Regulations 2010
- changes to the Associated Tradesperson limits of work for Licensed Building Practitioners to address safety concerns
- other improvements for clarity and to fix minor errors.

[Contact EWRB](#) for more information

EWRB is on the road

The EWRB is travelling around the motu providing an opportunity to meet the Board. There will be light refreshments, a presentation, and opportunities for you to ask questions of the Board.

Upcoming dates and places

- August 22nd – Napier Central War Memorial
- September 17th – Wanganui
- September 19th – Palmerston North

Please email meetandgreet@ewrb.govt.nz with your name and the event you wish to attend

Note: the meeting schedule is subject to change.



EEA2025: 9-11 September 2025 Ōtautahi Christchurch

Registration is underway and tickets are selling fast. Don't miss out on 3 days of workshops, presentations, panels, people and exhibitions. The programme is available on the [conference website](#) and features keynotes from Thomas Ackermann giving a European perspective and Lynne Gallagher of the AER challenging us on putting consumers at the centre.

[Register now](#)

EEA 2025 Conference workshops

If you have registered for the conference, you can attend our pre-conference workshops for free. Places are limited but there are still spots open for our Flex and Connections workshops. [Find out more and register.](#)

Powering the future generation: a network event for emerging electricity industry professional

Join us for an energising evening of networking, connection, and conversation with fellow young professionals across Aotearoa's electricity sector.

Whether you're new to the industry or growing into your next big role, this is your chance to spark new relationships and plug into the community. This is an opportunity to meet with other young professionals from outside of your organisation and make some new connections before the start of the EEA2025 Conference. [Find out more and register](#)

Be part of our Conference team

We're looking for members to join us in making EEA2025 a massive success. We have opportunities across the conference for keen and experienced members to chair conversations; judge presentations and be part of the EEA conference team having a jolly good time while making things happen. Email admin@eea.co.nz if you're interested.

APEX Summit 2025

This year's Annual Powering Exchange (APEX) Summit is locked in for 11 November at Connectics in Ōtautahi Christchurch. APEX is for graduate engineers with up to 5 years' experience of any discipline, in the power engineering industry. Registrations are open

[Find out more and register here.](#)

EEA submissions: have your say

It's a very busy time in the world of submissions. Here's the list of submissions currently underway including timeframes and who to contact to discuss or send us your thoughts.

Electricity Authority: Promoting reliable electricity supply – Code amendment proposal on common quality-related information

The EA is consulting on a Code amendment to improve the timeliness and accuracy of common quality-related information supplied to the System Operator. The proposal updates current requirements and introduces a new system operation document with technical specifications, to be rolled out in stages before wider information-sharing with Transpower and distributors.

EEA deadline for comments or suggestions: **Monday 11 August 2025**

Contact: Dr Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz)

EA consultation closes **Tuesday 12 August 2025**.

Electricity Authority: Enabling consumer mobility by improving access to electricity product data

The EA is consulting on changes to improve consumer access to electricity product data, helping customers better understand and compare retail electricity offerings. The proposed Code amendments aim to enable easier access to product information (such as pricing plans and contract terms), supporting greater consumer mobility and engagement in the electricity market.

EEA deadline for comments or suggestions: **Monday 11 August 2025**

Contact: Dr Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz)

EA consultation closes **Tuesday 12 August 2025**.

Electricity Authority: Future system operation: DSO models

The EA is consulting on future system operation models to support the evolving role of Distribution System Operators (DSOs). The paper explores potential DSO models, roles, and responsibilities to enable more efficient coordination of distributed energy resources, flexibility services, and local network management as the electricity system becomes more decentralised.

EEA deadline for comments or suggestions: **Friday 15 August 2025**

Contact: Dr Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz)

EA consultation closes **Tuesday 19 August 2025**.

Electricity Authority: Establishing an Emergency Reserve Scheme

The EA is consulting on a proposal to establish an Emergency Reserve Scheme to help manage rare but high-impact events where electricity supply is insufficient to meet demand. The scheme would provide a mechanism for procuring additional reserve capacity as a last resort to support system reliability and security.

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Contact: Dr Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz)

EA consultation closes **Tuesday 26 August 2025**.

Electricity Authority: Technical amendments to the Transmission Pricing Methodology (TPM),

The EA is consulting on Technical amendments to the Transmission Pricing Methodology (TPM), focusing on two areas: clarifying the treatment of regulatory asset base (RAB) indexation and refining the application of the simple method benefit-based charge (BBC) cap. These changes aim to improve the accuracy and workability of the TPM while maintaining consistency with its policy intent.

EEA deadline for comments or suggestions: **Wednesday 27 August 2025**

Contact: Dr Stuart Johnston (stuart@eea.co.nz)

EA consultation closes **Friday 29 August 2025**..

[Read our recent submissions on the EEA website.](#)



Empowering workers to lead: a consistent theme at the annual health and safety workshop

The annual ESI Health and Safety Workshop was in July in Tāmaki Makaurau. We enjoyed two powerful days of insights, innovation, and industry collaboration dedicated to improving health, safety, and wellbeing across the electricity sector.

It was also a perfect opportunity to celebrate 30 years of health and safety in the electricity supply industry. A strong theme throughout the workshop was the critical role of *worker engagement*. Across all presentations, there was a common thread: the people closest to the work are the ones who understand the risks best.

Empowering workers to lead, contribute to, and shape safety practices emerged as a key driver of effective health and safety outcomes.

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Local body elections and avoiding billboard hazards

Advertising for local body elections is in full swing. That means the inundation of billboards across the motu and the potential for safety issues. For example, during 2022 regional mayoral elections, a candidate's billboard damaged a fibre cable, causing an outage.

It's a good reminder for EDBs to communicate with their local communities on how to install billboards safely and what tools and services are available to support this. Incidents do happen. Let's keep our people and communities safe and connected.

National Committee for Live Work (NCLW) survey

The NCLW want to hear from you! We will be sending out a survey soon to ask questions about Live Work being carried out by your organisation.

The NCLW will also be holding industry wide workshops to discuss any suggestions for proposed changes to ECP 46. Energy Safety has said that any changes would need to be significant, and improve safety in HV Live Work. If you would like to have your say, please contact Hayley@eea.co.nz

Find out more about the [NCLW](#) on the EEA website.

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Sharing safety alerts and knowledge

Did you know we publish industry safety alerts on our website? Login to the website and click on Knowledge Network to view these alerts. By sharing alerts, we are building a safer workplace together. Every alert counts.

We also have a Knowledge Network Health and Safety Forum – [login to the website](#) to find out what it's all about.

Looking ahead

Visit the [EEA Upcoming Events](#) page on our website for event information and registration

4-22 August	Re-energise ESI survey open
9 September	Pre-conference workshops
9 September	Conference networking event: Powering the future generation
9-11 September	EEA2025 Conference and Technology Exhibition
11 November	APEX Summit in Ōtautahi 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.

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