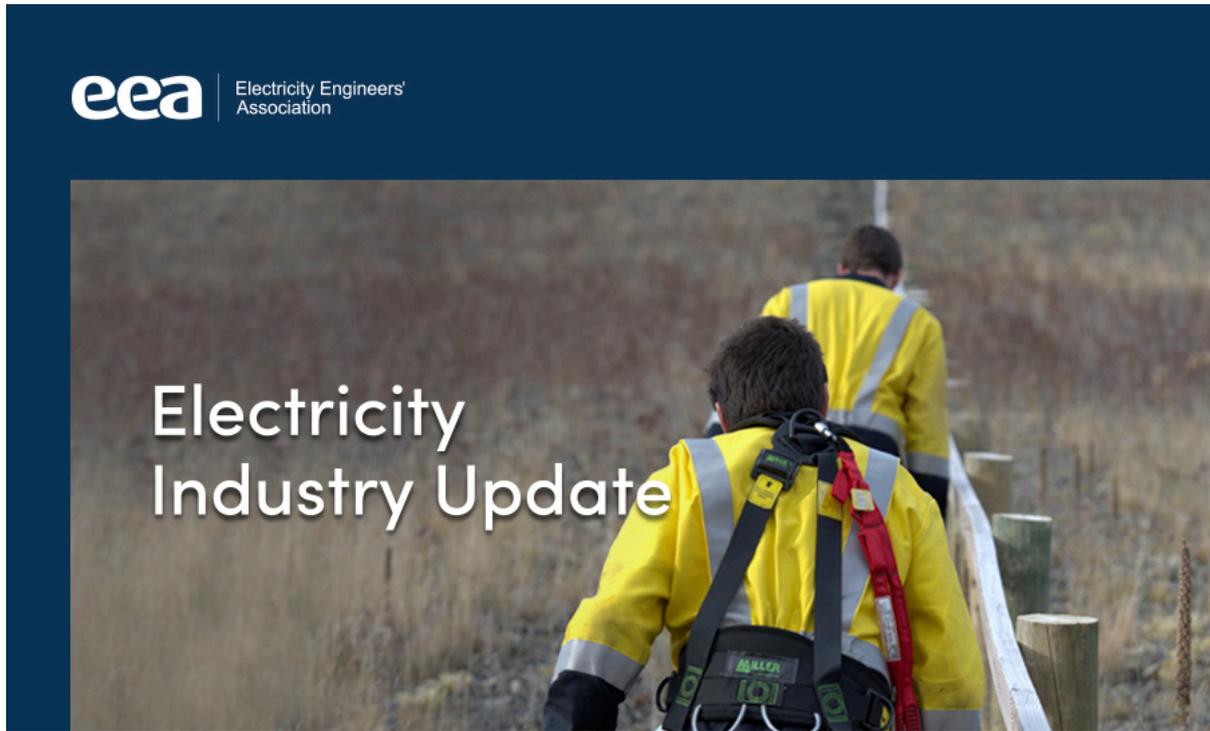


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ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2025

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)



Tēnā koutou

The past fortnight has been very challenging for our industry, but our workers have shone with their unrelenting commitment to consumers, and skill and safety under pressure. Your commitment, resilience, and teamwork truly embody the spirit of our industry.

With uncanny timing, New Zealand's best lines crews were in Otautahi Christchurch for the annual Line Mechanics and Cable Jointers competition, and many teams stayed on to help with the South Island's clean up. Congratulations to Northland's Top Energy whose impressive team won the line mechanic competition, with Omexon runner up and The Lines Company third. Congratulations also to Waipa Network's Zak Ramsey who

close action.

You'll all be aware of significant changes to low voltage regulations. We welcome this shift and are busy drafting guidance to support its implementation. Read on to find out more about this.

We're also working on our plan to ensure our health and safety guides are fit for purpose given recent changes to the HSW Act that enhance their status. Related to this, we're starting to look at how we can improve industry's safety performance survey and reporting, and will likely reach out for views on how you'd like us to improve this, early next year.

We're excited about progress in organising the first EEA study tour, to San Diego, for February's Distributech Conference and site visits. With logistics now locked in, we have 22 senior leaders from across our industry attending and have secured significant group discounts. The tour represents our commitment to advancing technical best practice and innovation, and we look forward to bringing learning home, and creating closer connections between Aotearoa's industry leaders.

Ngā mihi nui,
Nicki



EEA 2026 course schedule is live

We're committed to guiding and equipping workers with the knowledge and practice they need today and in the future. Our courses are designed to fit alongside work commitments, delivering practical, real-world knowledge you can apply immediately.

We've recently published our 2026 Course schedule. Registration is live on our website, and we're working at pace to bring all additional modules to market as quickly as we can.

You may have seen our LinkedIn call for more subject matter experts as we try to grow our pool of talent. If you're an electricity supply expert with a passion for sharing knowledge

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contracting opportunity.

We're looking for expertise in the following areas of training development or delivery:

- Power systems design or operations
- Overhead line design and construction
- Safety in design
- Protection, automation, or control systems
- Distribution or transmission network engineering
- Emerging technologies, renewables, or digital systems?

Please contact our Workforce Capability Lead, [Heath MacKenzie](#) if you or someone you know would be interested.

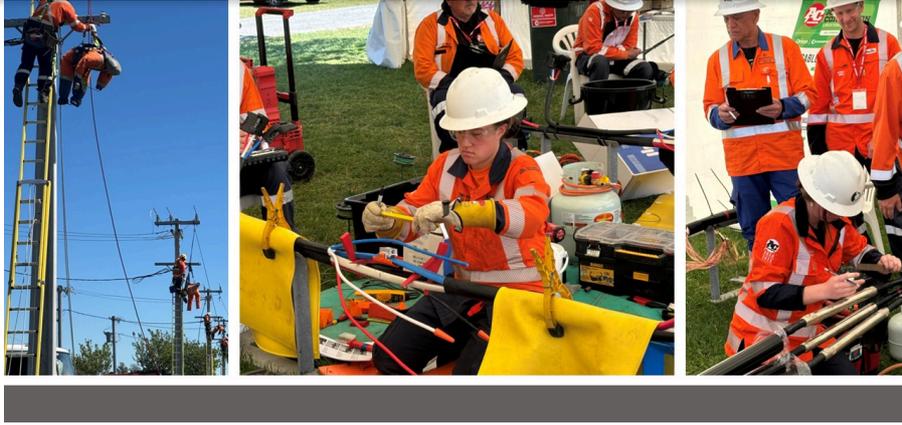
Connexis Annual Connection 2025



We were proud to have been involved in the Connexis Annual Connection 2025. Huge thanks to Connetics, Orion, and EA Networks, whose ongoing support helps make this important industry gathering possible. This year Connexis introduced two exciting new pilot competitions:

- The ESI Electrical Apprentice Competition, proudly sponsored by the EEA
- The Apprentice Cable Jointer Competition

Next year's Annual Connection will be hosted by Counties Energy in Pukekohe.



Changes to the regulated low voltage range: EEA guidance underway

As you'll be aware, the regulated low voltage range is changing from 230 volts $\pm 6\%$ to 230 volts $\pm 10\%$. The updated regulations come into effect on 13 November 2025.

Like any new regulation, there will be a transitional period before the changes are enforced, which allows time for industry to develop new guidance, systems, and processes. As an interim, members are recommended to follow the current Australian settings in AS4777 until the standard is updated.

The EEA's role includes reviewing and updating all impacted EEA guides to ensure they are aligned with these changes. This includes updating the Low Voltage Connection Technical Guidance to provide practical direction on applying the new limits and how they interact with inverter settings, and compliance with AS/NZS 4777.1 and 4777.2.

We are also working with the ENA on implementation to ensure consistency and alignment across the sector. In the meantime, we recommend you exercise caution when relying on guides that may be impacted, particularly old hard copies. Check with us when you need to.

Once our updates are complete, we'll send out another reminder to replace old hard copies and only rely on 2026+ versions.

Timeframes

We will consult on the updated guidance in two tranches:

1. November 2025 – Consultation on guidance for low-voltage (residential and non-residential) connections

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The EEA Technical Guidelines Steering Group is responsible for consultation and publication including receiving and reviewing feedback and finalising the guidance.

These updates form part of the broader Streamlining Connections work programme. Additional guidance — including that specific to high-voltage connections and other related topics — will also be reviewed and released for consultation over time. The staggered approach ensures people have time to engage properly with the material and enables us to prepare and publish guidance for the new low-voltage connections as quickly as possible.

Please contact [Stuart Johnston](#) if you have any questions about the LV guidance or how the new $\pm 10\%$ voltage limits interact with inverter settings and compliance requirements.

Inverter settings and the proposed standardised approach

In a [related consultation](#) the Electricity Authority (EA) is proposing a default 10 kW export limit for small-scale generation. The proposed Code change says:

“A distributor must require a distributed generator that injects electricity at low voltage to use an inverter that is compliant with and applies the ‘Australia A’ inverter settings specified in AS/NZS 4777.2:2020 incorporating Amendments No. 1 and 2.”

This is a proposal, and the details may change in response to submissions. In developing our guidance, the EEA will reference the ‘Australia A’ settings as a starting point to maintain alignment with AS/NZS 4777.2 and the EA’s current proposal, noting these remain subject to change following consultation.

The Technical Guidelines Steering Group, in consultation with the wider industry, will decide on the final guidance taking into consideration whether to align fully with the Australian profile or adapt it for New Zealand conditions — particularly around voltage management, inverter interoperability, and the evolving export-limit methodologies.

Upcoming Webinar - 14 November

To support members in understanding these changes, we’ll be hosting a short EEA webinar on **Friday, 14 November from 11:00am to 11:30am NZDT**. The session will cover the new voltage regulations, recommended inverter settings (including the proposed “Australia A” profile), and the sector’s proposed standardised approach.

All members are welcome to join, [please register here](#). A recording and slides will be shared after the session.

The focus group considering the EEA's new name has had its first meeting, making good progress on relevant considerations. We want our new name to be relevant, clear and appealing. It needs to be enduring, and resonate across the full electricity supply chain, including new technologies and roles, while continuing to reflect our trusted reputation and technical leadership. We are starting to field emails from members with great suggestions for potential new names and are happy for more of these! Expect opportunities for wider engagement in the coming months.

Re-Energise 2025 Workforce Initiative

The *Re-Energise 2025* report project team has been working hard accomplishing a number of milestones to date. A record number of respondents completed the industry workforce survey. Analysis is now well advanced, complemented by insights from the student perception survey which over 300 students completed.

We're grateful for MBIE for seconding staff to us to connect our industry findings with wider labour-market, immigration/emigration, job vacancy and training system insights. This adds real depth to the evidence base that will inform future workforce planning and sets up government's appetite for acting on recommendations from the report.

We are still working towards a report launch at the end of February.

Short & Sharp

- Our annual Safety Performance Indicators survey is about to go live in the next few days. This annual survey and report will only be available to participating companies. To join in, contact [Hayley Head](#).
- Our live work survey is almost complete – a big thank you for those who contributed. These insights are highly valuable and inform our National Committee on Live Works's work programme and focus areas.
- We have been contributing to two qualification reviews: the NZ Diploma in Infrastructure Asset Management, and the NZ Diploma in Engineering (NZDE). You can find out more about the NZDE Review here: [NZDE Qualification & National Curriculum Review Project - veenz](#)

Have your say

Effective resilience planning is critical to supporting the industry's ability to manage and mitigate risks arising from major emergency events or supply interruptions.

While this guide focuses primarily on the impact of major emergency events on network assets, its principles can also be applied more broadly to other business vulnerabilities. These include economic downturns and the increasing integration of customer-owned embedded generation technologies.

Email your feedback to admin@eea.co.nz. **Consultation closes 7 November.**

Consultation on the LOTO guide

The LOTO Guide has been prepared to provide clear, practical guidance on the lockout and tagging of switches and equipment that serve as isolation points within the electricity 'works' environment. Its purpose is to support a consistent, industry-wide approach to LOTO, raising the standard of health and safety practices across New Zealand's electricity supply sector.

The guide is intended to complement, not replace, existing legislative and regulatory requirements, and is based on good practice as recognised by industry representatives.

Email your feedback to admin@eea.co.nz. **Consultation closes 17 November 2025.**

Testing of Service Connections guide update

We have updated the Testing of Service Connections Guide to clarify the requirements for an Electrical Safety Certificate (ESC) if replacement of an electricity network fitting affects the supply to an installation.

Changes to the Guide:

- Updated Preface of the Guide to include the query and WorkSafe response.
- Section 7.2 updated to highlight the correct EEA documents



REMINDER APEX SUMMIT 2025: Engineering Tomorrow's Energy Future



The Annual Power Engineering Exchange (APEX) 2025 will be held on 11 November 2025 at Connetics, Christchurch. This premier event brings together graduate engineers and students from across the electricity sector to share knowledge, discuss innovation, and strengthen professional networks.

Focusing on “Engineering Tomorrow’s Energy Future,” APEX 2025 will highlight sustainability, technology, and resilience in the evolving energy landscape. The programme includes technical presentations, industry insights, and recognition through the APEX Awards.

Registration is free but essential. [Find out more and register to secure the last remaining spots!](#)

Webinar: Update to ASNZS1891.4:2025

The SSPG will be hosting a webinar on 19 November at 9am about the changes to ASNZS1891.4:2025, focussing on the requirement for additional control measures (fall protection system) to be implemented when a work positioning system is used while working at height.

We encourage active participation in this webinar to share ideas about how companies are implementing solutions to this requirement, what their rollout strategies are, how they’re engaging with their staff, and managing compliance.

The updated Standard is available on the Standards NZ website - [Standards New Zealand](#)
[Register for the webinar.](#)

(IWRMC) Conference 22-25 March 2026

The International Wildfire Risk Mitigation Consortium is a pivotal platform for sharing innovative practices and insights from utilities across Australia and North America.

US and Australian utilities are well acquainted with this phenomenon and spend much of their efforts to manage bushfire risk. Bushfires are starting to emerge in New Zealand and utilities would do well to be on the front foot by leveraging off the experiences of US and Australian utilities.

The 2026 Consortium will be held in Brisbane, including international speakers and an exclusive site visit to the Mapleton National Park in partnership with the **Queensland Fire and Biodiversity Consortium**. Visit the [website](#) for more information and registration details.



EEA regulatory submissions - keeping Members' voice strong

The EEA continues to front-foot regulatory and policy reforms on behalf of members. Heading into November, there's a dense cluster of consultations that touch day-to-day network operations, data and digital, DER enablement, and system security. Our role is to translate technical realities into practical rules—so engineers, operators, and consumers all win.

[Current consultations \(November 2025\)](#)

EECA – Unlocking the Potential of Demand Flexibility in Homes

Closes: 10 Nov 2025

Why it matters: Residential demand flexibility is central to hot-water, heat-pump, and EV optimisation—core to member operations and FlexTalk initiatives.

EEA Position (draft): Support a practical roadmap enabling interoperable devices, simple consumer experiences, and clear roles for EDBs—linking price signals to safe, network-aware control and visibility.

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Closes: 12 Nov 2025

Why it matters: Billing standards can accelerate TOU adoption and flexible demand if they're clear and comparable for consumers.

EEA Position (draft): Provide targeted feedback on elements that unlock demand flexibility and network-supportive behaviours; avoid straying into purely retail matters.

EA – Emergency Reserve Scheme Code Amendment Proposal

Closes: 14 Nov 2025

Why it matters: ERS settings affect reliability and how demand-side resources support system security.

EEA Position (draft): Support clarity on triggers, roles, and data flows; ensure distribution-connected resources can safely and fairly participate.

EA – Proposed Code Amendments to Improve Access to Product Data

Closes: 18 Nov 2025

Why it matters: Better access to product and tariff data enables innovation and consumer tools—potentially linking to flexibility and network signals.

EEA Position (draft): Conditional support if proposals align with interoperability, security, and practicality for EDB interfaces (and avoid duplicating network datasets).

EA – Maximising Benefits from Local Electricity Generation

Closes: 19 Nov 2025

Why it matters: Goes to the heart of DG/export integration, hosting capacity, and connection consistency.

EEA Position (draft): Strongly support a coherent framework aligning incentives and standards across distributors, with clear export-limit methodologies and safety/quality safeguards.

EA – Requiring the Use of Half-Hourly Data for Reconciliation

Closes: 21 Nov 2025

Why it matters: HHR affects metering, data exchange, and the fidelity of signals for flexibility and planning.

EEA Position (draft): Support, provided implementation timeframes, data quality thresholds, and system change requirements are realistic and minimise rework for EDBs.

EA – Level Playing Field Proposed Code Amendments

Closes: 25 Nov 2025

Why it matters: Market design settings can shape participation models for network-connected resources.

EEA Position (draft): Submit a concise network-focused response—supporting

Have your say on the future of our electricity system

Members who wish to contribute to these submissions are invited to send feedback to:

Stuart Johnston

Lead Advisor – Engineering & Technical, EEA

stuart@eea.co.nz | 021 198 6535

Feedback deadlines (internal):

- EECA Flexibility in Homes – by 7 Nov
- EA Billing Improvements – by 7 Nov
- EA Emergency Reserve Scheme – by 11 Nov
- EA Product Data Access – by 15 Nov
- EA Maximising Local Generation – by 16 Nov
- EA Half-Hourly Reconciliation – by 18 Nov
- EA Level Playing Field Amendments – by 22 Nov

Submissions recently completed

[Read all EEA submissions on our website](#)



Safety Standards and Procedures Group (SSPG)

In July 2023, the SSPG consulted with industry regarding possible changes to AS NZS1891.4 and served as representatives for the New Zealand electricity industry on the SF015 AS NZS Working at Height standards committee.

Over the past two years, the SF015 committee has reviewed proposed modifications to the 1891.4 standard and sought input from industry participants in both New Zealand and Australia.

The revised AS NZS 1891.4:2025 was published in September, introducing several

2.5.1 General principles

The general principles for use of fall-protection systems are the following:

a) When a work positioning system is used, additional control measures (such as a fall-protection system) shall also be implemented to provide protection in the event of system failure.

NOTE Users should consider and evaluate the risk of failure with the use of work positioning systems such as pole straps, confined space rope positioning devices and winches.

The Reference Guide for the use of Personal Fall Arrest Systems used in the Electricity Supply Industry has been updated accordingly. This Guide was previously called the Guide to the use of Personal Fall Arrest Systems.

Don't forget to [register for the webinar](#) for more information.

Updates to Electricity and Gas Safety Regulations

Recent amendments to the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 and the Gas (Safety and Measurement) Regulations 2010 modernise references to more than 600 technical standards, bringing them up to current versions.

The new standards can be adopted from 13 November 2025, with full compliance required by 12 November 2026. Updates also clarify certification processes and reflect emerging technologies such as EV charging, solar PV, and smart gas systems.

Industry participants are encouraged to review their compliance frameworks, update technical references, and plan for a smooth transition ahead of the 2026 deadline.

For details, visit [worksafe.govt.nz](https://www.worksafe.govt.nz) or [mbie.govt.nz](https://www.mbie.govt.nz).

Sharing safety alerts and knowledge

Industry safety alerts are published on our [website](#). Login to view these alerts. By

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Looking ahead

Visit the [EEA Upcoming Events webpage](#) for event information and registration

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 11 November | APEX Summit in Ōtautahi Christchurch |
| 14 November | New Voltage Regulations webinar |
| 19 November | Changes to fall protection requirements webinar |

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