



Electricity Engineers'
Association



ESI Health and Safety Workshop | 2025

16TH AND 17TH JULY 2025

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKSHOP 2025

16TH AND 17TH JULY



ABOUT THE PRESENTERS — Day 1: 16th July 2025

9.00 — Welcome and opening remarks from Nicki Sutherland, EEA Chief Executive



Nicki is a seasoned energy practitioner, with more than 20 years' experience in the sector. She has worked for retailers, generators, manufacturers, transport operators, transmission operators, developers and regulators – and before this with local government and their communities.

Most recently, Nicki was GM Investment and Engagement at EECA where she led a team helping New Zealand businesses successfully navigate the transition to clean and clever energy use.

Prior to that she led MBIE's Provincial Development Unit, responsible for an investment portfolio worth over \$2.5 billion, delivering innovative investment programs and support to help Aotearoa's regions prosper and thrive.

9.30 — Human Organisation Performance | Rob Kirkwood, Consultant



Rob is a Taranaki based Consultant specialising in contemporary safety thinking and practices. He has worked in a number of operational and safety roles across a number of high risk industries in New Zealand, Europe and Antarctica.

Rob also works as a leadership coach for senior health and safety leaders and their teams across a number of industries in Australia and New Zealand. Rob is also a regular keynote conference speaker of contemporary safety thinking.

Rob has a vision to build greater collaboration between safety and operations, and importantly to ensure organisations do safety with their people and not to their people.

10.30 — Morning Tea

10.50 — Car Vs Pole Intervention—EEA Public Safety Award Winner 2024 | Ken Pattie, Principal Engineer Overhead Assets (Part Time) – Overhead Assets & Investment Delivery



Ken has fulfilled several roles in the electrical industry over his 48 years' experience including maintenance and construction work, network performance, fault work, automation planning and has 16 years' experience in network operations. Also, over the past 20 years with Powerco Ken has been involved with contract management and network planning.

*Powerco's 'Car versus Pole' initiative won the **Public Safety Award** for its use of extensive data modelling and stakeholder engagement to first identify high risk power poles and then implement change to prevent serious harm incidents and fatalities.*

11.20 — Low Voltage Works Management – EEA Workplace Safety Award Winner 2024 | Mark Keller, Trade and Competency & Development Manager and Stuart Langslow, Network Operations LV Planner, WEL Networks



I have been in the Electricity Supply Industry for 30 years working in various roles for Electrix, ABB and Singer Group delivering maintenance and project work for Transpower, Genesis Energy, Contact Energy and Mighty River Power. I have worked on thermal, geothermal and hydro power stations, transmission substations and more recently WEL's distribution network.

I managed the Electricity Supply Apprenticeship Programme, a joint venture partnership between Mighty River Power and Contact Energy which was formed in 2011 to meet shareholders' needs for high quality tradespeople. Other organisations joined the programme including WEL Networks, Vector and Northpower.

After initially joining WEL as Field Delivery Manager, I am currently the Trade Competency and Development Manager. This involves managing WEL's training programme, establishing the competency framework, developing learning and assessment material (in particular for high risk work), and assessing staff against the competency framework.

Stuart has over 18 years of experience in the electricity industry, and built a diverse career spanning hands-on technical roles to strategic operational planning. He began as a domestic electrician, then advanced to roles as an electrical technician and inspector with Aggreko, where he was responsible for installing generation systems across New Zealand and the Pacific.

Stuart later joined Powerco, where he served as an Electrical Switching Coordinator and then as Outage Systems Lead, gaining valuable experience in network operations and outage management. Currently, he is the LV Operations Planner at WEL Networks, where he plays a key role in managing and implementing our Low Voltage (LV) management program—helping to drive efficiency, safety, and innovation in our network operations.



EEA Workplace Safety Award Winner 2024. *The team used best practice in instructional design and significant staff engagement to transform the EEA’s Guide to Low Voltage Works Management for Distribution (Network) Infrastructure Assets, into practical, visual guidelines to improve safety across the industry.*

They adopted a ‘field-up’ approach to deliver an outcome that was firmly based on worker needs and was welcomed by staff.

11.50am — Achieving a great safety climate through effective leadership and measuring current state | Pete Armstrong, General Manager Networks, EA Networks



Pete Armstrong is a power systems engineer with over 30 years of industry experience in distribution, transmission and generation sectors in NZ and internationally.

He is EA Networks' General Manager - Network and is qualified with a Bachelor of Engineering and a Master of Business Administration with distinction. He has a strong interest in safety climate and effective safety leadership through his MBA major Research Project “The relationship between Safety Climate and Safety Leadership in an Electricity Distribution Company” and applying that knowledge in safety leadership within the electricity sector.

12.20pm — Skin Health - Hiding in Plain Sight | Chelsea Langman - Director Skin Aware / Clinical nurse specialist skin cancer, and Jane Cummings - Health and Safety Co-ordinator Contact Energy



Chelsea Langman is a dedicated and experienced Clinical Nurse Specialist in skin cancer and the Director of Skin Aware. With over two decades of nursing experience across surgical, angiography, district, and primary care settings, Chelsea brings a deep commitment to patient wellbeing and preventative healthcare. Her expertise in dermoscopy and skin cancer detection is complemented by a compassionate, patient-centered approach.

In 2024, she was recognized nationally with the Wellbeing Category Award at the NZ Energy Excellence Awards for her collaborative work with Contact Energy, highlighting her leadership in health innovation and workplace health and safety.

1.00 — Lunch

1.40pm — Taking Time to Understand the Risk | Myles Connew, General Manager Contracting, EA Networks



Myles has been in the industry for 30+ years joining EA Networks in 2005 as an Electrician bringing experience from transmission and generation sectors.

Myles has held several roles during his time at EA Networks and is now responsible for the Contracting team. He is focused on maintaining and continuing to build depth and resilience in a highly skilled team that keeps the lights on and fibre connected, providing a great service to our customers and community.

2.10pm — State of Health and Safety in NZ 2025 - Focusing on what matters | Francois Barton, Chief Executive, Business Leaders' Health and Safety Forum



Francois is the Chief Executive of the New Zealand Business Leaders’ Health and Safety Forum – New Zealand’s largest CEO membership group, representing a coalition of more than 440 CEOs who lead more than 25% of our national workforce, and committed to building cultures that enable people and business to thrive.

His motivating belief, developed and confirmed by more than 20 years of working with business and across government in policy, strategy and regulation, is that progress only comes when leaders confront difficult realities together. This is why Francois was one of the founders of the Business Leaders’ Health and Safety Forum back in 2009 and is immensely proud and privileged to have been Forum Chief Executive since 2015.

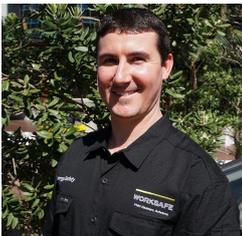
3.10—Afternoon Tea

3.30pm — Energy Safety Update | Gareth Le Roux and David MacLaughlin, Technical Officer High Hazards, Energy and Public Safety, Energy Safety



David has been with Energy Safety for 15 years, bringing deep expertise and continuity to the team. Energy Safety became part of WorkSafe in December 2013 and is responsible for administering and enforcing the Electricity Act 1992, the Gas Act 1992, and associated regulations to ensure the safe supply and use of electricity and gas in New Zealand.

As part of this mandate, Energy Safety conducts enquiries, tests, audits, and investigations to assess compliance with relevant legislation. David is a registered Electrical Inspector and holds significant authority under the Electricity Act 1992. He also holds a warrant as an inspector under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA), further strengthening his role in promoting electrical and gas safety across the sector.



Hello my name is Gareth and I am a member of the Energy Safety business unit for almost 4 years, at WorkSafe New Zealand. I came from South Africa and visited New Zealand which ended up with me working, studying, and living in Aotearoa.

I have worked in the electrical industry for the majority of my life in a variety of different electrical environments. I enjoy contributing to the Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) where possible.

4.00pm — Safety Standards and Procedures Group Update | Graeme Johnson, SSPG Chair and Distribution HSEQ & Technical Support Manager, Omexom



Graeme has worked in the electricity supply industry for 40 years. During this time he has held numerous positions from lineman through to Company Director, currently the HSEQ Manager for Omexon.

Graeme has been actively involved with the EEA since 2010 when he joined SSPG, where he is currently the Chair, he is also a member of the National Committee of Live Work NCLW. In addition to the work with the EEA, Graeme represents industry on a number of other organisations including being involved in standard development and reviews, development of industry qualifications with Connexis and an Electrical Workers Registration Board examiner for Line Mechanics and Registered workplace assessor.

Graeme is a passionate industry leader who focuses on worker safety and raising the bar in industry best practice, In 2010 he received the ESITO Contribution to Industry Award and in 2018 the EEA Professional Development Award. Graeme is also responsible for introducing the industry to the LineFit concept and the widely used Equipotential Bonding Solution utilised by industry today.

4.30pm — Closing Remarks | Hayley Head, Technical Safety and Engagement Lead, EEA



Hayley started in the electricity supply industry in 1995, as an apprentice electrician, she gained her electrical trade working in the different departments at Connetics.

In 2003 she was lucky enough to spend a winter working at McMurdo Station on Antarctica, following that she worked at Orion, as a cadet and ending up managing the training team and relief Network Controller.

Hayley has a diploma in Electrical Engineering, and Health and Safety at the Workplace, and a Certificate in Adult Education, she now works at the EEA as the Technical Safety and Engagement Lead.

SOCIAL FUNCTION AND WORKSHOP DINNER

6.00pm to 7.00pm — Social Function

7.00pm to 9.30pm — Workshop Dinner

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ABOUT THE PRESENTERS — Day 2: 17th July 2025

8.30am — Welcome | Hayley Head, Technical Safety and Engagement Lead EEA

8.30am — Losing a Loved One in Workplace Accidents | Bill Martin, New Zealand Safety Advocate



People are at the forefront of what I do, fuelling my drive to create impactful change across New Zealand. I connect, collaborate, and elevate those around me with the infinite goal of continual innovative growth and development.

I have operational, senior executive and governance experience across a range of industries, IT and telecommunications, supply chain and logistics, marketing, and engineering, enabling me to empathically understand organisations from the ground up. This all-around insight solidified my passion for better workplace health, safety and wellbeing and has led me down a path of actioning positive culture and systemic change within organisations and industries.

My current focus is to elevate the nation by activating health, safety and wellbeing collaboration and developing leadership maturity. In short, I want our leaders to be forward thinking and I want every worker returning home to their friends and family.

9.30am — Public Safety Working Group Update | Zoe Jamieson, PSWG Chair, Health and Safety Business Partner, Powerco



Zoe Jamieson is a seasoned Health and Safety (HS) professional with over 10 years of experience spanning the energy, food production, and infrastructure sectors. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Public Safety Working Group for the EEA, where she leads cross-sector initiatives to improve public safety outcomes in the electrical industry. Zoe is also a Health & Safety Business Partner at Powerco, a mother of two young boys and live music enthusiast.

Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Communications and certifications in occupational health and safety, adult education, and mental health first aid. A dedicated community leader, Zoe has volunteered with organizations such as NZISM, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Victim Support and Taranaki Surf Lifesaving. Her work reflects a deep commitment to advancing safety leadership and fostering resilient, people-centered safety cultures.

10.00—Morning Tea

10.30am — Critical Risk – Work Capacity (Psychosocial Risk) | Sacha Montgomery, Quality, Health and Safety Manager, Orion



Sacha is a career Health and Safety practitioner and has worked internationally across hospitality, construction, mining and rail before joining power distribution in 2024.

Working across so many types of organisation has presented Sacha with opportunities to experience a wide range of workplace culture and risk management approaches.

Over the last 8 years, Sacha has built skills beyond her technical ‘safety’ practice and she has focused on leadership, strategy and governance.

Sacha’s presentation will share with us her approach to facilitating worker engagement through Critical Risk workshops and showcase a recent approach used to develop a psychosocial risk assessment for Orion.

11.00 — Critical Risk Validation | Darryl George, Group HSW Manager, Pioneer Energy



Darryl is an experienced health, safety, and wellness leader with over 20 years of international experience spanning Canada, the United States, and New Zealand. He currently serves as the Group Health, Safety & Wellness Manager for Pioneer Energy, overseeing risk management across renewable energy operations including hydro, thermal, biomass, and biogas facilities. Darryl’s work focuses on embedding critical risk controls, driving cultural safety improvements, and aligning operational safety with strategic goals.

A former ski patroller and paramedic, Darryl brings a grounded, people-first approach to safety leadership. His recent work includes developing safety audit frameworks, improving emergency response planning, and launching a safety culture campaign, The Could’ve Been Crew. He is passionate about making safety real, relatable, and effective.

11.30am — Critical Risk—Falling Objects | Julie Muxworthy, Group Safety Systems Manager, Northpower



Julie has over 20 years Health, Safety & Environmental experience in Electrical Supply, Utilities, Manufacturing and Agriculture industries.

She specialised in Risk Management, Critical Risk Management, Incident Management, HSQE Management Systems, Contractor Management, Systems and Assurance, and Safety Leadership

12.00 — Transpower’s Health and Safety Journey through Growth | Toniette Salt, Head of Health and Safety and Priyanka Victor-D’Souza, Principal Health and Safety Advisor, Transpower



Toniette started with Transpower as the Head of Health and Safety in May 2023.

Her professional life started in positions including manufacturing operator, followed by roles in quality control, quality assurance, and later, health and safety.

She has over 20 years of experience in health and safety management in a variety of industries. This includes manufacturing (Heavy Steel industry and large volume Direct Mail Printing), UK Prison Service, Construction (Infrastructure, Commercial and Residential both national and international), Energy (Electricity/Gas), Global manufacturing and Distribution (Appliances).

Toniette is also a member of several professional organizations including IOSH, NZISM, NZSC and HASANZ and this enables Toniette to influence positive changes for businesses through evolving the safety profession. Through the NZSC Toniette mentors aspiring safety professionals to help them achieve success. 2 recent graduates have secured their own senior H&S roles.



Priyanka has recently joined as the Principal Health & Safety Advisor at Transpower. She stepped into the role earlier this year, bringing with her a rich and varied background in health and safety across several high-risk environments - including transportation, logistics, distribution, and labour hire - spanning both the private and public sectors.

Most recently, Priyanka led the health and safety function supporting the safe delivery of major public events, from large-scale concerts to national sports gatherings across Auckland. Though relatively new to Transpower, she’s quickly recognised the depth and evolution of Transpower’s health and safety journey through growth. Today she and Toniette will walk us through how the organisation has evolved - and where it’s heading - with a focus on what it takes to embed safety in a growing and changing business.

12.30—Lunch

1.10pm — Measuring Safety | Jon-Harper Slade, GM Health and Innovation and Chris Alderson, CEO, Construction Health and Safety NZ



Jon plays an essential role at CHASNZ, undertaking key initiatives and researching innovative solutions that contribute to the organisation’s aspirations for world-class construction health and safety. Before CHASNZ was formed, Jon was the GM of the Construction Safety Council.

Jon’s passion for helping people has motivated him through a varied career. Arriving in New Zealand in 2014, Jon worked mainly in the construction and transportation sectors for client and constructor organisations. Previously, Jon was Head of Health, Safety, and Environment in the UK for a global research and consultancy business that worked internationally, including in the Middle East and Africa. Before this, Jon worked as a Pavement Engineer and had a career in the military working with Ammunition and Explosives.



Chris leads Health and Safety in the Construction sector through Construction Health and Safety New Zealand (CHASNZ) Chris brings more than 30 years of experience leading business transformation across global organisations.

His passion for Health and Safety transformation has driven Chris to lead programmes across many of New Zealand’s leading organisations, including Fonterra and in his capacity as the National Consulting and Safety lead at Price Waterhouse Coopers.

1.40pm — Aggression In The Field | Becky Arnold, Consumer Data Solutions Manager, Mercury



Becky is an accomplished Operations and Commercial Finance leader with broad experience across the Wine & Brewing, Dairy, Telecommunications, and Energy sectors, most recently at Mercury. She led strategic programmes focused on profitability, data simplification, customer experience, and fostering a strong Health & Safety culture.

Becky played a pivotal role in reducing manual meter reading and achieving a 25% drop in injuries within the Customer Business. She established a Health & Safety Squad to boost hazard awareness and risk mitigation across field operations. Her leadership in transitioning metering data systems and improving customer-centric processes has enhanced safety and service efficiency. Her recent work in mitigating aggression during field operations has further strengthened her commitment to industry-wide collaboration, and she joins this event as a speaker to foster shared learning and drive improved safety outcomes across the electricity supply sector.

2.10pm — StayLive Update | Richard Luoni, StayLive Chair, and Head of Health and Safety, Manawa



Richard is the Head of Health & Safety for the Manawa Hydro division of Contact Energy, bringing deep experience in safety leadership, maritime operations, and regulatory environments. He is pleased to collaborate with Callum Dimond from Pioneer Energy in a Co-Chair arrangement to support the future growth of StayLive. Ryan Kelly has effectively shaped the pathway, and now they will join efforts to provide the necessary tools for continued industry support. Callum brings operational experience, while Richard brings health and safety expertise, making it a valuable team.

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2.30pm — National Committee for Live Work Update | Geoff Thorburn, NCLW Chair and GM Operations, PowerNet



Geoff joined PowerNet as General Manager Operations in August 2022. In this position, he leads the team responsible for delivering capital and field operations across PowerNet’s managed networks.

He brings over 20 years of extensive operational leadership and management experience in varied positions across the electricity sector. Geoff is a strong relationship builder and communicator. He is passionate about developing workforce capability and driving continuous improvement in safety, efficiency and reliability.

3.10pm — Closing remarks | Hayley Head, Health and Safety and Engagement Lead, EEA

Engineering Excellence—Electricity Engineers' Association | EEA



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