

## EEA2025 Pre-Conference Workshop

### Streamlining Connections: Consistency, Clarity and Confidence in New Network Connections



1:30 – 1:40   10min	<b>Welcome and Purpose</b> Opening remarks and objectives: <b>Stuart Johnston — Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA)</b>
1:40 – 2:10   30 min	<b>Keynote: International Perspectives on Connection Processes and Grid Integration</b> <b>Dr Thomas Ackermann — Energynautics</b> Lessons from Europe and Australia on integrating DER and streamlining connections: Future proofing for EVs, storage, grid forming inverters, and large loads (data centres, electrolyzers): How New Zealand can leverage international best practice.
2:10 – 3:20   1 hr 10 min	<b>Regulatory &amp; Industry Update: Electricity Authority and Electricity Networks Association</b> <b>Allen Davison — Electricity Authority</b> Electricity Authority (EA): Upcoming changes to load and generation application processes Allen will discuss the new requirements for application processes to connect load and generation to networks. These requirements come into effect from late 2026. This session will be most useful for those wanting a recap on the new requirements and to ask questions about implementation. At the workshop, Allen will also take comments and questions on whether the draft Code accurately reflects the new requirements and what changes should be made, if any, such as errors, omissions and inconsistencies. The draft Code will be published on the Electricity Authority's website in early September for feedback. <b>Electricity Networks Association (ENA): Consistent Connection Guidance</b> <b>Rachel Wansbone — Northpower</b> How ENA / industry guidance and national technical connection work align with the EA changes; opportunities to lift consistency across EDBs and reduce friction for customers and installers. <b>Joint Q&amp;A</b>
3:20 – 4:00   40 min	<b>Technical Connection Guidelines — Evidence and Insights: What We've Learned So Far</b> <b>Stuart Johnston and Peter Berry — EEA, Yogendra Vashishtha — EA Technology</b> EEA update: Milestones since 2024; programme overview; draft National Technical Connection Guidelines: Household DER, Medium Voltage Connections Operational Practice Standards (COPs) review: Findings and common themes Survey results (Aug 2025): Industry priorities for national guidelines International literature: Examples and lessons from the UK, Australia, and other markets.
3:55 – 4:10   15 min	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
4:10 – 5:05   55 min	<b>Breakout Group Discussions: Technical Content of Draft Guides</b> Mixed group discussions (EDBs, technology providers, installers, regulators, consultants). <b>Prompts:</b> what works/clarifies, where more detail or simplification is needed, challenges applying across 29 EDBs. Feedback captured on common templates.
5:05 – 5:25   20 min	<b>Report Back, Synthesis and Next Steps (Workshop Chair)</b> Groups share top recommendations; facilitator synthesises common themes, alignment and differences, and confirms immediate actions and next steps, including how insights feed into the next iteration of LV & MV National Technical Connection Guidelines (Oct–Nov 2025 consultation) and the wider DER Technical Subject Matter Steering Group work programme.
5:25 – 5:30   5 min	<b>Close</b>