

PUBLIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP WORK PROGRAMME



The Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) works with the electricity supply industry and other key stakeholders to connect the industry across Aotearoa New Zealand to coordinate, collaborate and develop consensus outcomes to solve public safety issues, share knowledge and promote standardisation.

PRIORITY

P1 **MUST COMPLETE**

P2 **SHOULD COMPLETE**

P3 **MAY COMPLETE**

ETA

BAU **ONGOING**

Q1 **JUNE**

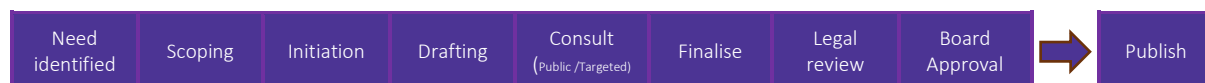
Q2 **SEPT**

Q3 **DEC**

Q4 **MARCH**

TECHNICAL BEST PRACTICE

The publication development process will generally follow the below steps. In general, the end-to-end process spans a number of months. Individual development processes can be staggered and run in parallel.



New Guides

The PSWG has identified the following new industry guide(s) as necessary to enhance public safety and support consistent management of public interactions with ESI assets across the industry.

Close Approach Consents - Ongoing

Continue the development of guidelines for ESI asset owners outlining the responsibilities and requirements for issuing and monitoring close approach consents for work near ESI assets, with consideration of underground cables. Finalise the guidance in accordance with EEA Guide development processes and undertake targeted industry engagement and promotion to support awareness and consistent application.

P1

Q2

Publication Review/Update

With a growing number of publications, reviews must be focused and efficient to keep guidance current. Where a publication remains fit-for-purpose, significant change is not expected. PSWG will include a standing agenda item to review guides published more than five years ago.

This year, PSWG will review selected publications to confirm their relevance and value by analysing usage data, seeking targeted industry feedback, and assessing whether more current guidance exists (for example, from WorkSafe). Recommendations will be made to retain, update, or retire each publication, with any updates completed in accordance with the EEA Guide review template.

Safety with Underground Services Review the Safety with Underground Services Guide following its removal from the WorkSafe website, confirm its ongoing relevance, and ensure the content is appropriately maintained and accessible through an alternative platform if required.	P2	Q4
Electrical Network Safety for Emergency Personnel Engage with organisations who originally participated in the last review of the Guide (2015), to confirm that it is still fit for purpose and ensure the content updated to include new information and technologies or removed if not relevant or required.	P2	Q3
Safety Management Systems for Public Safety - EEA/GANZ Handbook 2010 for Electricity & Gas Industries (Issued 2010) Safety Management Systems for Public Safety - EEA/GANZ Handbook 2015 for Electricity & Gas Industries (Issued 2015) Safety Management Systems for Public Safety - Interim Audit Tool (Compliance Guide) Review the Safety Management Systems for Public Safety handbooks (2010 and 2015) and the Interim Audit Tool (Compliance Guide) to confirm their ongoing relevance, alignment with Electricity Regulations 49 and 50, AS/NZS 7901, and overall value to industry. Provide recommendations on whether to consolidate, update, or retire these documents to support a clear, compliant, and contemporary approach to public safety management.	P2	Q3

CONNECTING THE SECTOR

As industry representatives it is imperative that the PSWG continues to promote best practice in safety around electricity supply industry assets and environments

The outline below shows the proposed engagement opportunities for 2026/27

Support the Sector Continue industry engagement to support public safety awareness across the ESI by sharing initiatives, opportunities, updates, and challenges through EEA channels, including (but not limited to) the Knowledge Network, EEA events, and newsletters	P1	BAU
EEA Health and Safety Workshop 11-12 August Ensure PSWG has a strong presence at the Annual Health and Safety Workshop by launching the Public Safety Website and the Close Approach Consent Guide, and presenting PSWG work to build awareness and support industry adoption	P1	Q2
Energy Safety Maintain a strong relationship and lines of communication with Energy Safety on public safety issues and opportunities, including industry communication and initiatives.	P1	BAU
EDI Health and Safety Forum	P1	BAU

Attend and promote the PSWG work activities at the EDI forum meetings and through EDI representatives on the PSWG.		
StayLive Attend and promote the PSWG work activities at StayLive meetings and through Generation representatives on the PSWG	P2	BAU
Industry Queries Monitor and respond to industry queries, that arise from Knowledge Network, industry events or through other EEA channels.	P1	BAU

WORKFORCE CAPABILITY

Workforce capability in public safety is cross industry, making sure that the ESI understand their responsibilities, as well as informing and education others that interact with ESI assets

Public Safety Website Development of public safety website to enable consistent messaging nationally, provide one source of truth and provide links to specific asset owners safety pages	P1	Q2 \$14k
External Industry Engagement Undertake external industry engagement to promote the public safety website by contacting relevant industry bodies, Councils and organisations to establish website links, and developing supporting promotional material (for example, flyers) to increase awareness and accessibility.	P3	Q4
Promotion and implementation of Close Approach Consent Guide Promote and support the implementation of the Close Approach Consent Guide through an industry webinar and at key industry events, including the Health and Safety Workshop, Engineering Conference, Line Design Forum, and Annual Connection, to build awareness and encourage consistent application across ESI asset owners and stakeholders.	P2	Q4
EEA Public Safety Award Promote the EEA Public Safety Award recognising excellence in Public Safety initiatives in the ESI and identifying any opportunities to share the mahi throughout the industry.	P2	Q2

PSWG Membership

Zoe Janieson - Chair	Northpower
Ben Albany	WEL Networks
Braden Bethwaite	Wellington Electricity
Jacques Brown	Top Energy
Marty Fox	Electra
Steve Herbst	Meridian
Ian Hunter	Aurora

Richard Luoni	Contact Energy
Brian Ultee	Contact Energy
Gareth Le Roux -Observer	Energy Safety

Meetings 2026/27*

4 March	Christchurch	31 March	Online
3 June	Auckland	23 June	Online
21 July	Online	10 August	Christchurch
29 September	Online	27 October	Online
2 December	Wellington	26 January	Online
23 February	Online		

*Updated 15 June 2026