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**eea** | Electricity Engineers'  
Association

# Electricity Industry Update

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY UPDATE - DECEMBER 2024

## VIEW FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

[Editorial from Nicki Sutherland](#)



Kia ora tatou,

As the calendar year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a significant past 12 months it has been for the EEA – with most of it being before I joined you.

This year we published new guides including ones on Power Quality and Conductor Condition, and we updated existing ones including Low Voltage Bonding and Supervision for Health and Safety. Work continues on several others with Temporary Traffic Management and the Permit Area Guide now out for consultation.

We furthered knowledge sharing and professional development with the ongoing provision

handed out six university scholarships and gave seven awards to outstanding individuals and projects.

In May, we concluded the first research trial within the FlexTalk programme and released our technical reports on demand flexibility common communication protocols. We now have another FlexTalk project underway seeding and tracking the installation and operation of 10 smart devices in homes. We expect the outcomes of this work early in 2025 with the plan being to scale up the lessons.

And it was a huge year for creating new connections across the sector. Our events, networks and channels helped us all to reach consensus, solve problems, learn and share. We hosted our Asset Management Forum, our Health and Safety Workshop, our Trainers' Forum, and the Annual Power Exchange for young engineers. We also launched our new website, bringing the EEA site and Knowledge Network together.

We also maintained our advocacy for the sector, delivering 13 submissions to government agencies.

September was a significant month as it saw the delivery of another highly successful conference before the departure of Chief Executive Peter Berry after 31 years. It was a pleasure to be able to send Peter off on such a high and I am very grateful that Peter and the Executive gave me a full month to work alongside him and learn the ropes.

As we close out the calendar year, our final newsletter tracks a few key news items for you. We welcome new members to two of our steering committees and provide an update on Conference 2025 (yes we are taking stand bookings already!), opportunities for learning over summer and our regular update on consultations, submissions and industry events.

All in all, it has been a massive year and I expect next year to be no different! So I hope you all get the opportunity for some downtime over the Christmas break period – I am certainly looking forward to some quality time with family and friends.

Ngā mihi nui,

Nicki



LATEST NEWS

Congratulations to the recently appointed members of our Asset Management, and Safety Standards and Procedures steering committees. These groups are the powerhouse of the EEA working across industry to deliver standards, rules and best practice documents to guide and equip the sector as they electrify Aotearoa.

We are thrilled to welcome new members to the committees and are grateful to have had a strong pool of applicants – which bodes well for the upcoming recruitment to our other standing committees.

#### Asset Management Group

- Kannan Munisamy of Alpine Energy
- Adrian Nadan of Counties Energy
- Les Pepper of Edison Consulting
- Claire Picking of Top Energy
- Carl Rathbone from Linesmarts

#### Safety Standards and Procedures Group

- Mark Adams of MITA
- Andrew Morton of Unison Networks

Congratulations and welcome to all of you.

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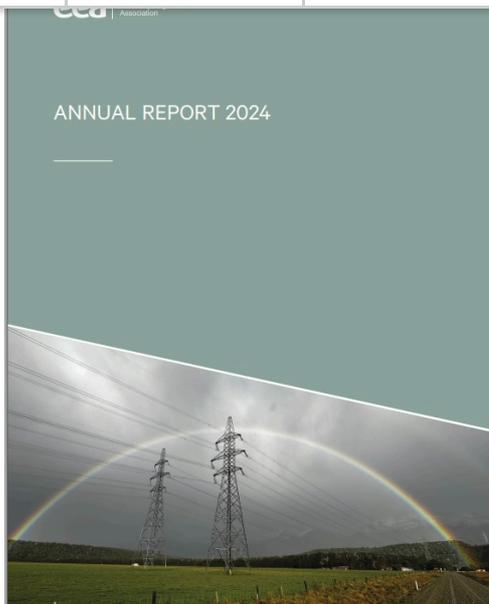
## Photo Competition - get snap happy on your holidays!

Great news for all you budding photographers and electricity asset aficionados. Our Annual Photo Competition is **open until Friday 24 January 2025** meaning you can use your summer break to capture more amazing images of our industry and be in to win.

Entries need to show the 'power of the industry' be it assets, people, technology or electricity in use.

The winner will be announced on Friday 14 February. All eligible entries will go into our photo library for use in our publications, social media or on the website. The winning shot – as voted by you – will feature on the cover of the 2025 Annual Report and the winner can choose either a free registration to the annual EEA conference, or a \$250 gift card.

To be eligible, everything shown in the photo needs to comply with all relevant regulations, standards and best practice guidance. Images that show a breach of these will not be considered.

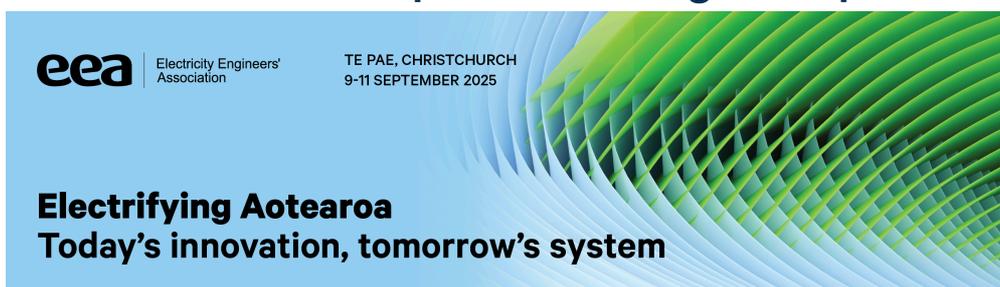


agree to the image being submitted or they might get a shock when they turn up on our website or the cover of a publication!

[All you need to know is here.](#)

## EEA2025: 9-11 September 2025

### Website live - expo site bookings are open!



Our annual conference and technology expo is the electricity industry's largest collaborative forum and your opportunity to learn about the latest research and development, technologies and innovations.

[The conference website is live](#) and bookings for the expo are open, with more than two thirds of stands already sold!

Our theme this year is **Electrifying Aotearoa: today's innovation, tomorrow's system**. We want to continue the focus on supporting innovation as we drive toward electrifying the country.

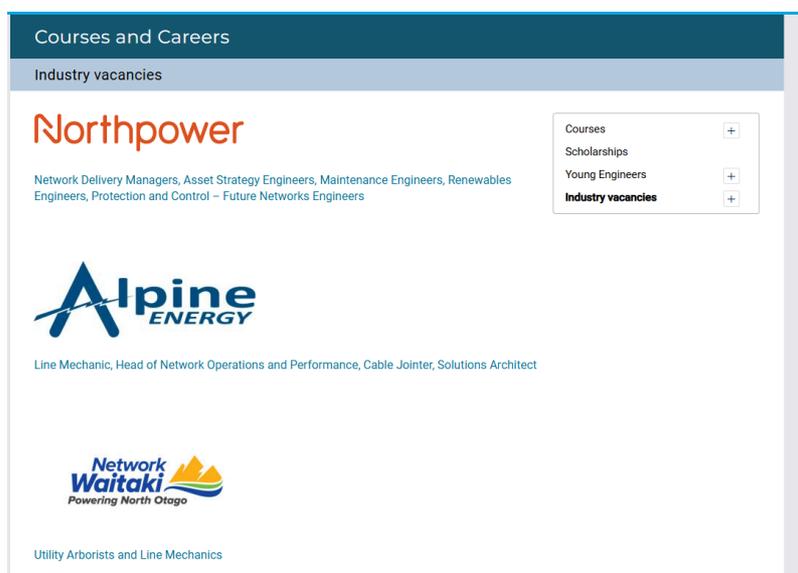
The conference is also a fantastic opportunity for you to present to your peers on key topics that speak to our theme and apply for one of our EEA Awards.

So, start thinking now about what role you want to play at the electricity industry's biggest event of the year, and plan to be a part of this must-attend conference. We are already receiving recommendations for our key note speakers so please get in touch if you have great ideas.

## Tips for navigating our new website

Our new website went live in October and there are a few differences from the old. Below are a couple of tips to help you navigate the new.

1. **Did you know we host industry vacancies:** [Check out the vacancies page here](#). If you want to advertise your vacancies on our site – you can! Just email [admin@eea.co.nz](mailto:admin@eea.co.nz). It's a free service for EEA members.
2. **Complete your profile and connect with others:** The Knowledge Network is the place to connect with others and share information with peers. Once you have logged onto the Knowledge Network, navigate to the Activity page, listed on the right-hand menu. Here you will find a news feed, latest updates and a list of other Knowledge Network members. This is also where you can update your profile with a photo, your role and your areas of expertise, making it easier for others to connect with you!



## Recent submissions available on our website

In the past month, we provided submissions for the following consultations which you can access on our website, once you are logged in.

- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; Amendments to the Electricity Safety Regulations: Expanding the Permitted Voltage Range for Electricity Supply
- Infrastructure Commission: Testing our plan on infrastructure
- Electricity Authority: Distribution Connection Pricing Proposed Code Amendment

## Learning over summer

While many like to wind down over summer, there is also the option of getting in some professional development! Especially if the weather is a bit blah or you find yourself at a loose end.

The EEA is offering three of its introduction courses online over the summer period.

These include:

- Line Design Principles (from the micro-credential in overhead line design)
- Safety in Design course
- Power System Components for Electricity Supply (from the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design)

These courses are available whenever you wish to complete the work – at the time of your choosing and at your pace. Once you have registered, you have access to the content and are ready to go.

To register for any of these courses please [visit the EEA website](#) or contact us at [admin@eea.co.nz](mailto:admin@eea.co.nz).



## Save the date!

**Trainer's Forum – 6 May, 2025:** After a wonderful response to this year's trainers' forum we will be doing it again next year, to be held at the Novotel near the airport in Christchurch.

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**Overhead Line Designers' Forum - 21 May, 2025:** Hamilton

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**Health and Safety Workshop – 16-17 July, 2025:** This year's event will be held at Jet Park Hotel, in Auckland conveniently placed near the airport.

covered at these events, please let [Hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:Hayley@eea.co.nz) know!



## Power Systems Protection with Wellington Electricity

A big thanks to Wellington Electricity for hosting a protection systems workshop as part of the EEA's PSD-040 Protection Systems for Electricity Supply course, which forms part of the Professional Certificate in Power Systems Design. [Read all about the Certificate here.](#)

The Professional Certificate was designed and is delivered, in collaboration with ElectroNet. Our thanks to Morgan Muller who facilitated the workshop.

Ten of WE's staff first completed a four-part online course, and then applied what was learned in a one-day workshop.

If you or your team are interested in participating in the Protection Systems course, you can enrol on the website for the January cohort or contact the EEA.

Courses have been designed to take approximately 20 hours and you can credit your participation to your Engineering NZ CPD hours.

The EEA is your association, and if you have a learning need that we are currently not meeting please get in touch. We are keen to work with you to deliver a quality outcome!

[All our courses are listed on the Courses and Careers section of the website.](#)

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## Planning ahead for 2025

Next year we will be providing even more opportunities for upskilling including 1) ICAM courses, 2) Learning Teams courses and 3) Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) courses.

More information will be available in early 2025.

## HEALTH & SAFETY



### Electrical Workers Registration Board Stepped Changes

The EWRB has requested that we gather any questions and concerns regarding the stepped changes introduced so it can continue working with us to understand where issues may need to be addressed, and whether actions like a joint industry webinar could provide better communication about how the changes will be implemented.

We appreciate those who have provided feedback on the challenges with these changes. We are now sharing the identified issues with the EWRB and have follow up meetings in the new year. The issues include:

- Poor and inconsistent communication
- The removal of the Distribution Line Mechanic Endorsement
- The identification of worksite supervisors
- Training availability for the introduced endorsements
- Certification of completed work

If you would like to have input or have any other issues to be addressed, please email [hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:hayley@eea.co.nz).

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### Consultation on industry guides

We are currently seeking feedback on two new guides with consultation [documents available here on the website via this link](#). Feedback closes on **Friday 31 January 2025**.

If you have any questions, please contact [Hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:Hayley@eea.co.nz)

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**Permit Area Guide – combining Principles of permit areas and Guide for marking of equipment for access for work.**

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combined into one making the requirements for permit areas and equipment marking simple and easy to understand.

The purpose of the new Permit Area Guide is to provide industry good practices and standardisation on the principles and requirements for the application and the management of permit areas in switchyards and stations as defined in the Safety Manual-Electricity Industry (SM-EI).

The guide also includes the good practices relating to the signage requirements that can be used within permit areas of Switchyards and Stations to define safe access limits for work being undertaken within the permit area.

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### Temporary traffic management

Following the introduction of the New Zealand Guide to Temporary Traffic Management, the EEA established a working group to identify where our industry differs from other contractors working in the road corridor, and where we can provide specific guidance for certain activities.

This Guide provides a list of factors to consider for work that is of short duration, low risk to road users and being undertaken outside of live lanes.

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## SSPG company visits

Members of the SSPG had a great visit with EA Networks this month, diving deep into their critical risks, in particular the risk of impaired decision making. We used the four Ds: dumb, dangerous, difficult and different to look deeply into how impaired decision making can change the way we work and what can be improved.

There was even some fun communicating with Lego involved. We hope to get the chance to visit more of our members in 2025 and demonstrate how to make the most of what's available through the EEA and the Knowledge Network. Your next safety day would be the perfect opportunity for a visit.

If you are keen to know more, please contact [hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:hayley@eea.co.nz) or give her a call on 027 7024746

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## Networking across the ditch

their Live Work Forum in Melbourne, where around 40 people representing 17 organisations gathered to share their safety stories, lessons learnt and best practices including the issuing of permits and working at heights.

Copper theft is an ongoing issue on their networks as is the challenge of managing back-feeding into worksites through embedded generation. There is still plenty we can work together on solving. If you want to find out more, contact [hayley@eea.co.nz](mailto:hayley@eea.co.nz).



## Looking ahead

To keep up to date with all of the EEA's activities and projects or to register for an event please visit the [Upcoming EEA Events page](#) on the EEA website.

20 December	EEA Office closes for the summer break
<b>2025</b>	
6 January	EEA Office opens for the new year
20 January	<b><a href="#">PSD-040 Protection Systems for Electricity Supply course commences</a></b>
24 January	Entries close for the annual <b><a href="#">EEA photo competition</a></b>
29 January	Voting commences for photo competition entries
31 January	<b><a href="#">Feedback closes on EEA guides: Temporary traffic management and permit area guide</a></b>
14 February	Winner of photo competition announced
20-21 March	<b><a href="#">Downstream25 - Te Pae, Christchurch</a></b> EEA is a proud supporter of Downstream
6 May	Trainer's Forum
21 May	Overhead Line Designers' Forum
16-17 July	Health and Safety Workshop
9-11 September	<b><a href="#">EEA2025 Conference and Technology Exhibition</a></b>

- 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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