



Asset Management  
**FORUM | 2024**

**12TH JUNE 2024**  
**RYDGES WELLINGTON AIRPORT**  
**28 STEWART DUFF DRIVE, RONGOTAI, WELLINGTON**  
Timing: 8.30 am to 3.30pm

**ABOUT THE PRESENTERS**

# ASSET MANAGEMENT FORUM 2024

WEDNESDAY 12TH JUNE 2024



**9.00 am** **Welcome from Peter Berry** EEA Executive Director

**Opening Remarks from Waqar Qureshi** EEA Asset Management Group (AMG) Chair



Waqar Qureshi is an accomplished leader with a proven track record in the electricity and energy sector, having served in various senior positions for over 17 years. He is currently the General Manager Asset Management at Wellington Electricity, where he is responsible for managing the company's assets and ensuring the safe and reliable supply of electricity to customers.

Waqar is a Chartered Engineer and a member of Engineering New Zealand since 2017. He is also a certified Project Management Professional with the Project Management Institute since 2015.

**9.20am** **Sean McCready** — Commerce Commission

*Topic: Asset management priorities of the Commission*



Sean is a Principal Adviser – Engineer for the Commerce Commission providing engineering advice to commissioners and for the development of policy.

Sean has held engineering and commercial roles in the power generation and transmission industry in New Zealand.

**10.00am** **Sheila Matthews** — Electricity Authority

*Topic: Future security and resilience work program*



Sheila is Manager - Future Security and Resilience, at the Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko. She holds an electrical engineering degree with an MBA, and has over 32 year's experience in the electricity industry. Prior to joining the Authority, she worked at Transpower for over 19 years in the Protection and Automation area, as an engineer and then led the team till she left at the start of this year.

She has also worked in the distribution sector and with engineering consultancies. In her current role, her team is focussed on work to ensure the power system remains secure and resilient as New Zealand transitions towards a low-emissions economy.

**10.40am** **MORNING TEA**

**11.00am** **Allen Davidson** — Electricity Authority

*Topic: NCTG—'Streamlining Connections Programme*



Allen started in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry in the UK. He joined Housing New Zealand Corporation in 1999, where he spent five years working on the Building Code and energy policy. He worked at the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority from 2004 – 2021, specialising in the Building Code, renewable energy and building energy performance. Has been at the Electricity Authority for the last two years, focusing on Part 6 and distributed energy resource standards.

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## 11.25 am Sian Hughes—Orion

Topic: ENA FNF Connections work—'Streamlining Connections Programme'



Sian joined Orion at the end of November 2023 in the Connections team and joined the ENA Future Networks Forum in January. Prior to coming to NZ, she worked for Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) in the UK for 7 years as a Commercial Contracts Manager negotiating Major Connections Contracts and then leading the Connections Stakeholder Engagement team, responsible for an annual £5.5million penalty only incentive which was set to ensure we were engaging with large and major connections customers and delivering on projects to improve the connections customer journey.

## 11.50am Dr Stuart Johnston—EEA



Stuart is the Lead Advisor, Engineering & Technical at EEA where he is responsible for leading the Asset Management and Future Networks workstreams. Prior to joining EEA he had over 20+ years of experience in across various roles in the Electricity Supply Industry in Australia, including TransGrid, Energy Networks Australia and AEMO.

His experience includes operational activities including asset management, as well as being involved in national energy policy development and supporting Australia's work on navigating the energy transition pathway for the sector.

## 12.10pm

### Panel Session — 'Streamlining Connections Programme'

#### Panel Members:

⇒ **Allen Davidson** — Electricity Authority / **Sian Hughes**—Orion / **Stuart Johnston**—EEA

**Facilitator: Paul Blue**—Counties Energy



Paul is a qualified Engineer with a BE (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Canterbury University and an Executive MBA from the University of Auckland Business School. He has spent his entire working career in the electricity Industry, beginning at the New Zealand Aluminium Smelter, followed by a number of roles over thirteen years at Transpower, New Zealand's National Grid.

From 2015 to 2019 he led the WEL Networks Asset Management team and from 2017-2019 both the Asset Management and IT teams. From 2019 to present he has been the General Manager Network for Counties energy.

## 12.30pm

### Working Lunch and Networking Opportunity

## 1.15pm FlexTalk—Insights and Findings

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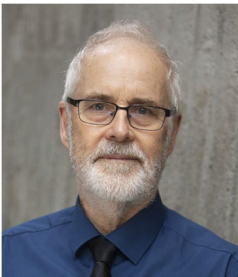
## Panel Session — Overview and Panel discussion with Technical Leads

### FlexTalk—Insights and Findings

*Topic: Overview and Panel discussion with Technical leads*

#### Panel Members:

- ⇒ **Ron Beatty**—Consultant / Contractor
- ⇒ **Connie Dunbar**—EEA Project Lead: FlexTalk
- ⇒ **Astad Kapadia**—OpenLoop
- ⇒ **Terry Paddy**—Cortexo
- ⇒ **Eric Pyle**—SolarZero
- ⇒ **Russel Watson**—Northpower



**Ron Beatty** is a private consultant / contractor working in the electricity industry, with particular emphasis on electricity market processes and systems, regulation, and the adoption of new technology into the electricity industry. Ron retired from full-time work after 50 years in the industry, in December 2021 to work on technology implementation in the industry. In those 50 years', Ron gained significant experience in the electricity industry that included design, manufacture, construction, operational management, and the electricity market (distribution, retail, generation, metering, settlement systems, and regulation).

Ron worked for the electricity regulator (Electricity Commission and then the Electricity Authority) for 15 years until his retirement. His most recent position was Principal Adviser Market Services. He specialised in complex technical issues, market operations, physical and financial settlements (which included the design and implementation of current systems), and industry training. During his time in the industry, Ron worked in most developmental working groups and was actively involved in the development of most industry regulation, particularly the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010. Consequently, Ron has very detailed knowledge on electricity industry operations, most regulatory requirements, and electricity industry standards.



**Connie Dunbar** studied Anthropology and sociology before pursuing a career with a digital delivery consultancy helping organisations going through change. Connie has worked across many industries including, finance, credit and banking, transport, media and latterly the electricity industry. She thrives on understanding organisational challenges and identifying a solution to drive business performance. Connie believes organisations can best position themselves for success by continually understanding their customers' needs and evolving their processes to create value and minimise waste.

She enjoys building relationships and facilitating collaboration to enable innovation, she works to keep key stakeholders informed and engaged through any project, program or piece to work. Connie is not afraid to challenge ways of working, and brings a unique, curious, visual and impactful flavour to the teams she works with. Connie's role since February 2023 has been working as the Project Lead for FlexTalk.

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**Astad Kapadia** is an experienced electrical engineer specialising in new energy technologies and product management with over 9 years of experience in the electricity industry. He is a Chartered Professional Engineer, his recent work has been focused on Hot Water Load Control, DERMS, E-Mobility, LV Strategy, DSO Strategy, Solar PV, Batteries and enabling Energy Orchestration.

Astad has a Masters in Engineering, where his thesis focused on solutions to high proliferation to residential solar in NZ. He has recently completed his Masters of Business Administration, where his final year project focused on the DSO Strategy for Counties Energy. He has worked with organisations such as Vector, and Counties Energy; partaking in large scale future networks and technology transformation initiatives. He is the product manager for OpenLoop and oversees all the strategy, operations, sales and marketing of the product.

He is Counties Energy's Head of DSO Strategy that was tasked with creating a strategy and now responsible for the delivery of that strategy which will enable Counties Energy to transition to a more modern utility that enables new and renewable technologies.



**Terry Paddy** is the Managing Director of Cortexo, a New Zealand software company that provides monitoring, control, and data services in the electricity sector. Cortexo is a member of the OpenADR Alliance and actively contributes to the international working group updating the specification.

Terry is a founding member of the industry group FlexForum, and is a member of the Electricity Authority's Innovation and Participation Advisory Group (IPAG). He also serves on the advisory board for Sustainable Energy Association of New Zealand (SEANZ).



**Eric Pyle** is Director of Public Affairs and Policy at SolarZero. Before joining SolarZero Eric was CEO of the Wind Energy Association. Before that Eric worked at the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology leading environmental, social and energy research policy.

SolarZero is the largest solar company in New Zealand, with around 13,000 residential solar and battery systems that it manages in near real time. Panasonic is SolarZero's technology partner and SolarZero is owned by BlackRock.



**Russell Watson** is currently the Principal Engineer at Northpower. He has been in the electricity distribution industry for 39 years, working on both high voltage and low voltage networks in a number of engineering and engineering management roles. He is a member of the EEA Asset Management Group and has been and continues to be involved in a number of EEA technical working groups.

Russell has specific EV expertise and was a member of the technical working group writing the 2<sup>nd</sup> addition of WorkSafe's EV Charging Guidelines and Standards NZ PAS 6010 & 6011 for EV charging.

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## 2.15pm Brian Fitzgerald—EECA

*Topic: EV chargers common design standards and the EV charger rollout*



For the past twelve years Brian has been employed by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), in a variety of technical and management roles. EECA is a central government agency tasked with reducing NZ's energy footprint and related emissions. We do this with a combination of regulatory and incentive based programmes across the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

Brian's current position at EECA is Technical Lead. This role focusses on provision of robust, science based Standards for use in Energy Efficiency Regulations and in the programmes that EECA delivers. Between 1990 and 2005 Brian worked in Europe for the process engineering division of Ingersoll Rand.

The role involved delivering turn key process solutions into the food, manufacturing and waste sectors. Brian specialised in developing and delivering high end process control systems and monitoring equipment for use in these sectors. Prior to leaving NZ, Brian worked exclusively in management roles in the NZ motor industry.

## 2.30pm Tas Scott — ElectroNet

*Topic: Resilience Guide*

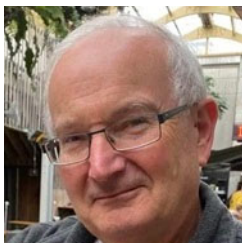


Tas is an electrical engineer with over 50 years' experience in the electricity industry as a design engineer, project manager corporate manager, industry body governance leader, and consultant. Tas initially worked as an engineer with the NZED joining the Canterbury Distribution Sector , designing and commissioning NER's and implementing SCADA designs. He has worked for WEL Networks and served as the President of the Electricity Engineers' Association executive committee from 1993 – 1997.

Tas is a Fellow of Engineers New Zealand and a Member of the Institute of Directors and a Life Member of the EEA NZ. He joined Electronet Consulting in 2014, has provided a range of strategic high-level advice in areas such as quality of asset life cycle management and planning, risk and maintenance practice.

## 2.45pm Robin Pittwood—Powerco

*Topic: Power quality metering, including PQ data, asset health, and the impacts of DER on voltage and current quality*



Robin Pittwood completed his engineering degree at Canterbury University (NZ) in 1975 and has worked in the electricity distribution industry since. His roles have always had a high engineering content, including design and specification of substations, protection, control and metering equipment, upgrading a small hydro station, fault analysis, network planning and economics.

His current job title is Principal Engineer – Power Quality. His attention has been focussed on distribution network power quality issues since 2018.

## 3.30pm Summary and Closing Remarks

## Networking Drinks

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NOTES



Engineering Excellence—Electricity Engineers' Association | EEA

EEA | PO Box 5324, Wellington, New Zealand

Phone +64 4 473 8600 | [admin@eea.co.nz](mailto:admin@eea.co.nz) | Website [www.eea.co.nz](http://www.eea.co.nz)