



February signals momentum across advocacy, workforce development, member value, and industry leadership.

We are pushing for regulatory clarity.
We are strengthening the skills pipeline.
We are expanding national engagement.
We are delivering tangible financial value.

The industry is evolving fast. Our role is to ensure it evolves in the right direction.



Regulatory Review Committee Hearing

CEO Alex Vranjac-Wheeler will appear before the Regulatory Review Committee regarding our formal complaint into the Electricity (Prescribed Classes of Registration for Electrical Workers) Gazette Notice 2025.

In partnership with NZEIA, we are seeking disallowance of the Gazette Notice and a comprehensive overhaul of the licensing framework. The current 41-class licensing structure, coupled with endorsement requirements lacking viable training pathways, is creating:

- Reduced workforce capacity
- Increased compliance costs
- Ambiguity around authorised work
- Escalating risk to public safety

As outlined in our joint statement , the regime is not only unworkable in practice — it risks undermining the very safety outcomes it intends to protect.

This is about restoring clarity, proportionality, and a risk-based licensing model that supports electrification, workforce growth, and public confidence.

We will continue to keep members informed as this progresses.



Update to Our Wellbeing Support (EAP) Provider

We're pleased to let members know that from 1 March, Master Electricians will be transitioning our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) provider to Vitae.

This change ensures we continue offering high-quality, confidential wellbeing support for members and their teams across New Zealand.

What stays the same

- **Members, employers and employees will continue to have access to three free confidential counselling sessions per issue.**
- The service remains completely private, professional, and easy to access.
- Support is available for both personal and work-related challenges.

Currently accessing support?

If you or someone in your team is already working with our current provider, **those sessions will continue as planned and will be fully honoured — even beyond 1 March.** There will be no disruption to ongoing support.

We'll share updated contact details and access information for Vitae shortly. Supporting the wellbeing of our members and the wider electrical industry remains a priority, and we're confident Vitae will continue delivering valuable support to you and your teams.

Please contact one of our team if you have any questions or concerns.

Help Drive Change - Share Your Lines Company Experience Today

Help us act on line company issues — your input matters

We've been hearing consistent feedback that Powerco has been creating challenges for members. More broadly, this is an ongoing issue for many members dealing with line providers across the country.

To take meaningful action, we need strong industry evidence. The more data we have, the more effective our advocacy and intervention will be.

[Complete the survey and make your experience count.](#) Your feedback directly informs what we do next.

ISB Update

New Chief Executive Appointed – ETITC ISB

We welcome the appointment of Jenni Pethig as Chief Executive of the Electrotechnology, Information Technology and Creative Industry Skills Board.

Jenni joins from Toi Mai Workforce Development Council, bringing deep vocational education and training expertise.

Board Chair Mike Barr welcomed the appointment, noting her leadership will be pivotal as the sector transitions into a new skills governance model.

A strong ISB is critical to delivering a competent, future-ready workforce. We look forward to constructive engagement.



Master Electricians Apprentice Challenge – 25 Years

The Master Electricians Apprentice Challenge turns 25 in 2026 — and it's going bigger than ever.

Provisional Regional Dates:

- Wellington: 5–6 August
- New Plymouth: 12 August
- Napier: 19 August
- Hamilton: 26–27 August
- Auckland: 1–3 September
- Christchurch: 16–17 September
- Dunedin: 23–24 September
- Invercargill: 30 September

This year's finals will feature a Trans-Tasman showdown with Master Electricians Australia — the Bledisloe of electrical excellence.

It's industry pride. It's future workforce development. It's 25 years of raising the bar.

A hand holding a black marker is writing on a technical diagram of a solar panel array. The diagram shows three solar panels labeled "SOLAR PANEL" with "6V / 3A" below each. Below the panels, there are sections for "Characteristics" and "Advantages". The "Characteristics" section lists: "Current adds up: Total current = sum of each panel's current.", "Voltage stays the same: Voltage = same as one panel.", and "Independent operation: One shaded panel affects only that panel." The "Advantages" section lists: "Better performance under partial shading" and "Active panels of different specs to be combined." The text "KNOW YOUR REGS" is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the top of the diagram. Below it, "FREE e-Learning" is written in smaller, bold, black letters. At the bottom left, the Master Electricians logo is visible. At the bottom center, a yellow button with the text "ACCESS HERE" is present. At the bottom right, the Trad Master logo is visible.

**KNOW
YOUR REGS**
FREE e-Learning

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MASTER ELECTRICIANS

TRAD MASTER

Know Your Regs - Hitting the Road Nationwide

Last year's **FREE** Know Your Regs sessions sold out across the country. Demand remains high — and so do the questions.

Thanks to our partners Powerbase and PDL by Schneider Electric, we're taking Know Your Regs nationwide again in 2026.

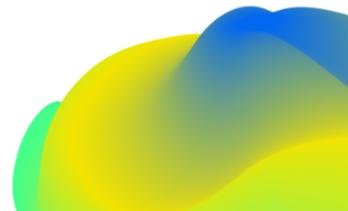
If you want clarity on evolving standards, regulatory interpretation, and compliance expectations — this is your forum.

Prefer Online?

[You can still access Know Your Regs via our online learning platform](#) — on demand, practical, and aligned to real-world application.



MORE VALUE
from Marsh



Marsh – Premium Reductions Secured

The insurance market has shifted — and members benefit. Working with Marsh and incumbent provider NZI, we've secured:
Premium Reductions:

- Material Damage: ↓ 20%
- Commercial Motor: ↓ 15%
- Liability: ↓ 12.5%

Policy & Excess Improvements:

- NIL excess on Keys & Locks
- Single excess for theft of tools from vehicles
- Loss of Use excess reduced (7 days → 5 days)
- Signwriting cover increased (\$5,000 → \$10,000)
- NZI Roadside Rescue included
- Standard excess reduced (\$500 → \$250)
- Burglary excess reduced (\$1,000 → \$500)

If you're up for renewal — or not yet with Marsh — now is the time to reassess your position. Hard cost savings plus improved conditions equals immediate bottom-line impact.

UP COMING EVENTS

Save the Date – Key Events

AGM – 3 June

Mark it in your calendar.

Auckland Industry Breakfast

30 April | 7:00am - Eden Park

Master Electricians Auckland Branch is very excited to confirm the date for our 2026 Business Breakfast, proudly delivered in partnership with Ideal Electrical.

Keynote Speaker: Darren Shand

Get in touch with Karyn Mitchell - Auckland Branch Secretary - karyn@akecanz.org to purchase tickets



**MASTER
ELECTRICIANS**



LIGHTING THE WAY
100 YEARS OF ELECTRIFICATION