

**Minutes of Health and Safety Group**

Thursday, 25 January 2024, 10.30am

Teams Meeting

**Present:**

Kevin Hart – Chair	NZWEA
David Campbell	Siemens Gamesa
Bobby Ball	VHNZ
Maria Fernando	Antarctica
Joe Forsyth	Siemens Gamesa
Gerry McAndrew	SRG Global

**Apologies:**

There were none.

**1 Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**2 Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**3 Safety Moment**

Gerry shared an Auckland division driver in a work utility vehicle was on a job to deliver supplies and stopped at a red light. He saw the light turn green and started to drive, but the green light was for the left-hand turn (not for going straight as he was) and he subsequently crashed into a car's passenger door. Fortunately, no one was injured. Once he got back to work, he was asked if he was ok. He explained his mind had not been on the job that day as his daughter was sick and he was thinking about her and getting her seen to. This was a good example of how important it is to be present both in body and mind when operating vehicles of equipment.

The Chair also shared how important it is to check certifications on various parties you engage. There was a hedge on the Chair's property, near 11kV power lines that needed trimming, so he engaged an arborist, and asked if they were certified to do work near power lines and certified with the local lines company, to which they confirmed they were. Half an hour into the job, they extended an aluminium ladder on the side of the hedge and were utilising long metal clippers that extended to 2-3 meters away from the 11 kV power lines. They were not aware of the danger they were putting themselves in due to the safety clearance breaches, and subsequently admitted they were not certified. They were immediately stood-down from the site and not re-hired. The learning is to always check certifications and also check safety clearances are adhered to when working next to, or close to high voltage power lines.

#### **4 StayLive Update and Collaboration**

StayLive, an industry participated programme, with members in the broader renewable energy sector is a well established HSE forum. John Skudder from Meridian is the current Chair of that group and invited the NZWEA HSE Chair to attend their next in-person meeting in March. This is a step towards aligning and collaboration between the two groups. The HSE group agreed collaboration and coordination between the two groups would be beneficial.

Bobby Ball noted that StayLive has been more hydro and geothermal focused, and it is pleasing that they have acknowledged the importance of wind energy, especially with the pipeline projects planned for construction.

#### **5 VHNZ/NZWEA – Industry Training Centre of Excellence**

Bobby Ball presented on the benefits of a global recognised standard. The Global Wind Organisation (GWO) standards are created by the industry, for the industry, and members are global leading turbine manufactures and owners, who represent a majority of installed wind energy capacity around the world.

There is currently the NZQA developed Connexis level 3 and 4 programme, but these are 9- and 12-month programmes, and learners must already be employed in the electricity supply industry in order to participate. The Connexis programme is assessed on-the-job and there is no school of excellence, or training centre to go for a specific wind energy course.

VHNZ are aiming to create centres of excellence to support the growth and demand in the sector, but to do so VHNZ needs input from the industry.

The Chair believes the industry needs a consolidated training programme and NZWEA is supportive of VHNZ's directions and intended outcomes.

#### **6 Next Meeting Date**

The Chair will send an invitation for the next meeting.

#### **7 Closure**

The meeting closed at 11:40am

#### **Summary of Action Items**

Subject	Action	Who/When
Next meeting date	▪ Send meeting invitation	KH/March