Lighting Council New Zealand News - Summer **2026**

Lightline

FROM **THE CHAIR** CHRIS BYRNE **LCNZ CHAIR**

CANTERBURY: LEAVING THE NORTH IN THE DARK (BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY)

2026 may technically be a new year, but across the lighting and construction sectors it's still feeling a lot like 2025 — steady, subdued, and a touch sluggish in many areas. That said, Canterbury is once again proving to be the reliable overachiever, quietly outshining Auckland and Wellington. The South Island's resilience is becoming increasingly visible, not just in economic indicators but in the day-to-day reality our industry sees on the ground.

Christchurch and the wider South continue to show real momentum, supported by stronger business confidence, improving employment, and a tourism-fuelled services sector that refuses to dim. This is feeding directly into healthier demand across both residential and non-residential construction. While Auckland and Wellington grapple with affordability pressures, slower public-sector activity, and global uncertainty dragging on investment, Christchurch is keeping pipelines warm and projects moving.

For our industry, these differences are impossible to miss. Canterbury's ongoing infrastructure work, stable residential build activity, and more confident commercial sector are all generating steady demand for lighting solutions. Meanwhile, many northern projects remain paused, delayed, or progressing cautiously as market confidence rebuilds.

All up, the South Island remains the bright spot as the North resets and regroups. Well done to all our Southern members — you're keeping the lights on for the rest of us.

LIGHTING COUNCIL NZ WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Lighting Council New Zealand is an industry association with around thirty member companies, representing NZ lighting industry interests to government agencies, regulators, and other industry and professional associations, spanning commercial, industrial, municipal, and residential lighting.

More information on the LCNZ website: here.

WELLINGTON WATERFRONT LIGHTING ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Lighting Council New Zealand Innovation Award is an accolade that is presented in addition to the annual IESANZ Lighting Awards to recognise exceptional innovation in the lighting sector. The award is judged by LCNZ and showcases an IESANZ awards entry that stands out as one

that pushes the boundaries of conventional practice and raises the bar for lighting sector peers, the lighting market, and the wider built environment.

The Wellington City Council 'Wellington Waterfront Lighting Enhancement Project' was the standout winner of the 2025 Award, held in November at the IESANZ gala event at the Viaduct Events Centre at Wynyard Quarter, Auckland. This project showcases a landmark urban waterfront precinct improvement aimed at creating a safe, vibrant and exciting city-space, rendered large-scale.

LCNZ Executive Director Bryan King comments on the award winning project

A meticulous lighting strategy breathes new life into an illuminated nightscape across a previously basic and uncoordinated waterfront transit area. This provides evening browsers with strong perceptions of safety, facial recognition for human sociability, and reassuring navigation around water-edges and marine hazards.

It wasn't all men in black and white!

A range of internet-enabled smart poles, adaptive controls, and precision-optic projector luminaires delivers programmable lighting scenes and multi-layered vistas for general lighting as well as special events in multi-functional spaces. A smart pole design accommodates low-glare, warm-white projector luminaires, multiple saturated colour luminaires and event power supplies, all remotely controlled across three separate wireless control systems.

This is a solution that balances next-level functionality along with the demands of environmental protection, energy performance, and operational economics. A world-class result that will serve Wellington residents and visitors for many years to come.

Congratulations to Shane Binnie and the WCC team, and to Glen Wright and the S&T Lighting design team.

WCC Project Manager Shane Binnie and partner

ANOTHER BIG YEAR FOR IEC STANDARDS

For over twenty years LCNZ has invested substantially with expertise and funding in support of NZ participation in International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) lighting product standards. Geneva-based IEC is the global organisation for developing electrotechnical product standards covering safety, performance, interoperability and environmental stewardship. IEC standards act as the foundation for later adoption as AS/NZS or NZS product standards in NZ.

The IEC Technical Committee TC 34 is responsible for the standardisation of lighting products and systems, including international standards for:

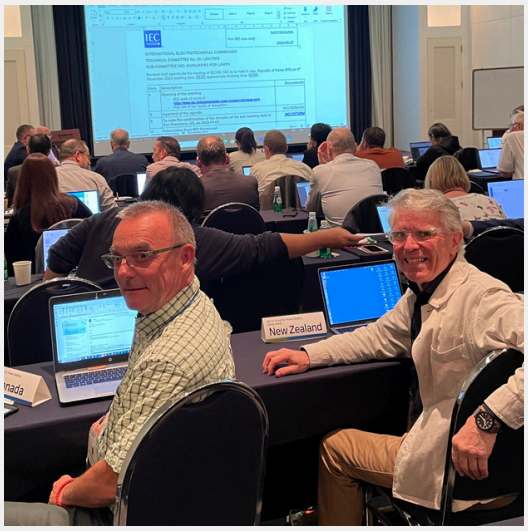
- Lamps and light sources
- Lamp and light source caps and holders
- Controlgear and control devices
- Luminaires
- Lighting systems

The scope includes emergent market sectors with products and systems for optical radiation for germicidal UV-C, horticultural applications, and human wellbeing. In addition, the growing imperative for quantification of the environmental performance of lighting products and systems is much to the fore.

Luminaire committee standards drafting work underway in Hangzho China in June 2025 (left) and Delft Netherlands in october 2025 (right)

Each year the IEC TC 34 lighting committee meets for three seasons of working group sessions, spread over a two-week window of meetings. The first session in February is a virtual event with June and October being face-to-face meetings organised by the IEC National Committees of a host country, by rotation. Over the last decade or so, NZ has hosted TC 34 sessions in Auckland and in Wellington. Numerous virtual working group meetings are interlaced with the formal sessions, usually at very antisocial timeslots for southern hemisphere members!

Luminaire Committee Chair and Secretaries: Stuart Burns (UK), Hans-Gerd Kaiser (Germany), and Franco Rusnati (Italy)



The voices of Canada and New Zealand

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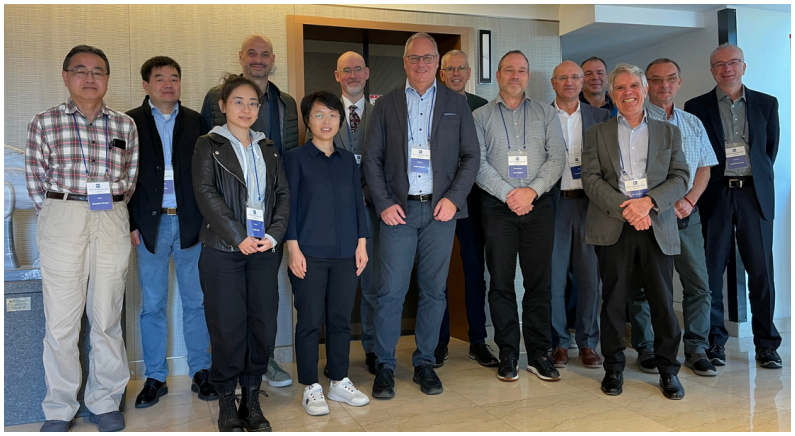
LCNZ Executive Director Bryan King has represented New Zealand for 13 years. This work is funded entirely by LCNZ members, with no government contribution. Bryan currently serves as a project leader on the luminaire committee, convenor of the environmental working group (WG 24), and represents the lighting sector on the IEC Advisory Committee for Environmental Aspects.

In 2025, in-person meetings were held in Hangzhou, China and Delft, Netherlands. With rapid developments in IoT connectivity, smart systems, digital data management and environmental performance reporting, the committee's workload continues to expand.

A highlight of the year was the presentation of the prestigious IEC Thomas Edison Award to TC 34 luminaire committee chair Hans-Gerd Kaiser of Germany — a rare honour recognising exceptional contribution to international standardisation.

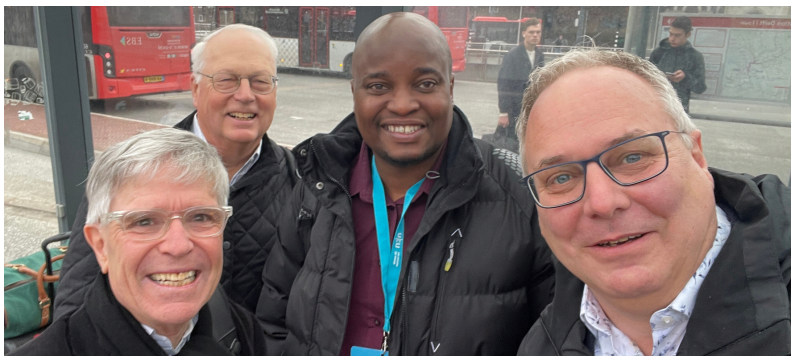
The IEC TC 34 web dashboard is Here



IEC Environmental Working Group - 12 nationalities

Long serving TC 34 luminaire committee chair Hans-Gerd Kaiser speaking after his presentation ceremony for the prestigious IEC 'Thomas Edison Award' for 2025.

The CEO of Standards Netherlands welcomes the IEC



A chilly October 2025 winter session for IEC TC 34 lighting committee members in Delft Netherlands –Bryan King (NZ), Dr Mark Duffy (US), Sekwanele Kubeka (South Africa), Dr Armin Konrad (Germany).

USA and NZ Heads of Delegation - Mark Duffy and Bryan King

ONLINE LIGHTING RETAILER RESPONSIBILITIES

In recent times LCNZ has been following the activities of some offshore-based online lighting retailers, also known as 'drop shippers', who are targeting NZ consumers and are failing to comply with NZ product safety regulations and NZ consumer protection obligations.

LCNZ has fielded enquiries and complaints from NZ customers who are unhappy with their experiences with such offshore-based retailers. LCNZ investigations of particular situations have identified supplied lighting products that are not fit for purpose, do not conform with AS/NZS safety standards, or are provided with Supplier Declarations of Conformity (SDoCs) that do not meet NZ safety requirements.

In some non-compliant cases, online suppliers have refused to offer customer refunds unless they paid to have the items shipped back to warehouse locations overseas, even though the products were perceived to have been ordered and paid-for on a NZ website. LCNZ lodged a formal complaint with the NZ Commerce Commission regarding avoidance of consumer protection law and the issue of misrepresented identity. The Commerce Commission advised they would not investigate the case at present, with no reasons given for this inaction.

LCNZ has discussed this topic as part of Global Lighting Association (GLA) policy debate, as the problem has become international. It is a particularly pressing issue within the EU, where safety protection, consumer protection and end-of-life waste handling obligations are being avoided by online traders, creating a non-level business climate with unfair financial advantage. At present there is no legal or regulatory action possible within any country jurisdiction when stateless traders are active. It appears that the primary recourse is regionally-based awareness-building communication aimed at influencing the public to steer clear of such traders.

Brussels-based Industry association LightingEurope conducts annual 'mystery shopper' exercises for online lighting retailers supplying the EU. The 2024 results reveal alarmingly high rates of non-compliance. Of the 275 products surveyed, 100% of those inspected online were found to be non-compliant with information requirements. In addition, 29 products were selected and lab tested against the relevant safety standards and 81% were found to be non-compliant.

The Lighting Europe mystery shopper exercise revealed alarming rates of safety compliance

In the short term in NZ it appears that there is scant opportunity to scrutinise such business models, other than to raise consumer awareness of questionable business models to act as a 'caveat emptor' to those considering online purchasing from non-NZ companies.

LightingEurope Online Mystery Shopper 2024 Here

COMING GUIDANCE - CYBERSECURITY OF LIGHTING SYSTEMS

There is seldom a week that passes without some media headlines in NZ and internationally about IT system, hacking, scamming, ransoms, or systems failures, and the reputational and financial fallout that ensues.

Now that almost all currently supplied commercial, industrial and municipal lighting installations are internet connected and enabled systems or devices, it is surprising that there are not yet any international standardisation publications that provide guidance and requirements specifically for lighting system cybersecurity and information security. There are many generalist publications available on good IT and data protection practices, but such information is a far cry from the hard specifics needed to protect suppliers, users and consumers of lighting systems.

This situation is now changing as the IEC TC 34 committee working group on lighting systems is commencing development of an IEC Technical Report specifically for lighting systems, that will be called 'Lighting Systems - information on security risk assessment', with publication likely in 2027.

This publication will provide guidance for those responsible for the supply and operation of lighting systems, with 'security' including both cybersecurity and information security. It will explain various lighting system architectures and examine their features from a security perspective.

The scope will stretch from simple standalone luminaires, through to autonomous systems, remotely controllable systems, and to DALI systems with access gateways to building automation systems or to the internet.

When designing a lighting system designers, manufacturers, installers, and users need to consider the threats and their impact on the lighting system. Well known threats include theft or modification of information, denial of service, and prevention of authorized access. The guidance also covers lesser known threats such as worms, trojan horses, trapdoors, service spoofing, media scavenging, masquerading, replaying, and intercepting.

Cyber threats within the built environment are no longer a theoretical notion, and impartial and globally aligned guidance should assist practitioners to navigate avoidable pitfalls.

LightingEurope: Brussels - Cybersecurity requirements applicable to lighting systems: An overview Here

IESANZ AUSTRALASIAN 'LIGHT IN FOCUS' CONFERENCE

The 2026 Australasian IESANZ 'Light in Focus Conference' has the theme 'The Future Illuminated' and will be hosted in Auckland at the new International Convention Centre.

Encompassing the ambit of designers, engineers, architects, and suppliers, this conference will connect, share insights, and seek to shape the future of lighting in New Zealand and Australia.

The aim is to explore new technologies, environmentally sustainable solutions, and creative applications that are redefining how we light the built environment. From smart lighting systems and human-centric design to energy efficiency and the latest in LED innovation, the programme includes top-tier keynote speakers, local experts, and panel discussions.

The event will include the 2026 IESANZ Gala Awards Dinner, and will incorporate the IESANZ 2026 NZ Chapter Awards and the AU+NZ International Awards, recognising the very best of lighting achievements across Australasia.

Conference details are Here

WHAT ARE DIGITAL PRODUCT PASSPORTS?

With the emergence of the Digital Product Passport (DPP) scheme in Europe, the European Commission (EC) is seeking to introduce a process for providing transparency of product provenance and operation, end-to-end, throughout the entire life cycle, including manufacture, use, end-of-life, orthrough several stages of reuse.

The DPP scheme is part of the EC Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) for circular economy and applies to Energy Related Products (ErP), including lighting. It is intended to provide the basis for informed decisions on resource use and environmental performance by consumers, market participants, and regulatory authorities. The aim is to strengthen material use efficiency, environmental sustainability, and to accelerate the uptake of the circular economy.

Beginning in 2022, EC work has been progressing to develop a system that includes a digital registry, global data sources, standardised interfaces, and a range of access and usage applications.

The introduction of the DPP will affect global manufacturers supplying the EU market across their entire value chains. DPPs will become mandatory for all products and components offered into the European market that are within the scope of the ESPR. Implementing the DPP will require company investments in IT infrastructure, processes, and new data models, as well as providing access, archiving and security mechanisms. It is likely that Asian manufacturers will also provide EC compliant digital product documentation through rest-of-world supply chains.

The EC DPP system is based on these principles:

- **Decentralised data storage:** Product information is stored by the manufacturer. A QR code links the product to the DPP in the data source.
- **Centralised registration:** An EU central DPP registry is the repository for consumer access and regulator market surveillance
- **Distributed roles:** Access to information is based on defined access rights, such as, public, regulator, or manufacturer
- **Interoperability standards:** Internationally standardised DPP data formats and interfaces are required across the EU and globally, for all product groups.

European Commission

The DPP scheme is scheduled to be launched in Europe in 2027. Key issues such as guidelines on data sensitivity, cybersecurity, reliability, backup, archiving, and acceptable service levels still need to be detailed for EU application.

As the world's largest trading bloc, EC regulation has a profound impact on product design specifications and supply-chain documentation worldwide, and it is envisaged by many industry commentators that DPP declaration requirements will progressively be adopted by rest-of-world regulators.

Currently, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) TC 34 Lighting Committee is beginning work on detailing of how DPP regulation will affect international markets for luminaires. LCNZ Executive Director Bryan King is a convenor of the WG 24 Environmental Working Group which is planning development of internationally applicable IEC standards for lighting DPP formats and QR or RFID based digital data exchange protocols. The challenge is to determine a pragmatic balance between measures that materially advance environmental performance whilst minimising repetitive and costly administrative burdens.

European Commission - Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) - Here

INTERNATIONAL RULES FOR LUMINAIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

On the international stage the calculation of the environmental impact of lighting products and systems has become increasingly important to environmentally attuned manufacturers, their customers, and to government regulators.

To be specific about environmental performance there is a necessity to report quantitative information about the full life cycle environmental impact of a product or a system. However, for luminaires there have been no international rules on how to do this, to enable ISO-based Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) processes. Also, the proliferation of differing regional and country rules has made business confusing and expensive for globally active companies and their customers.

To support this quantification, the well-established standard ISO 14025 'Environmental labels and declarations — Type III environmental declarations — Principles and procedures' offers a high-level method for the specification of Product Category Rules (PCR), which sets the minimum quality standards for LCA processes needed to create EPD reports. In addition, internationally standardized Product Specific Rules (PSR) are needed for lighting products and systems, starting with luminaires

Since the need is urgent and a full IEC PSR standard may take up to three years to develop from scratch, an existing non-IEC document has now been published as an IEC Publicly Available Specification (PAS) document to close the time gap and guide stakeholders until IEC international standards have become available. This is IEC PAS 63629:2025 'PSR – Specific rules for luminaires.'

The source document published as the IEC PAS is the European Product Environmental Profile (PEP) Ecopassport Program publication No. PSR0014 entitled 'PSR – Specific rules for luminaires'. Although elements of PSR0014 are European in nature, it's overall approach is globally applicable. This will allow luminaire manufacturers in all parts of the world to push on at speed with EPD developments knowing that their efforts will structurally align with future EC International Standards.

The IEC weblink to the PAS is Here

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BILL

Public submissions recently closed on the proposed Natural Environment Bill, which together with the Planning Bill is intended to replace the 35-year-old Resource Management Act. The legislation is being led by Hon Chris Bishop.

The Bill could have significant implications for how outdoor lighting is planned and implemented in New Zealand. If implemented effectively, it could improve awareness and enforcement of technical lighting requirements through nationally harmonised rules applied at the regional level. It could also help councils reduce disputes related to astronomical and ecological light pollution and nuisance from poorly designed obtrusive lighting.

LCNZ has raised concerns about ambiguity in the Bill around the term "national standards." New Zealand already has established AS/NZS and AS standards covering the planning and technical aspects of outdoor lighting.

LCNZ's submission recommends referencing these existing standards within the legislation to support consistent implementation and improved environmental outcomes.

The LCNZ submission to the Select Committee is here

MEMBER PROFILE

Kevin Cawley

Total Lighting Ltd

Kevin Cawley is founder and creative lead of Total Lighting Ltd, a Christchurch based independent full service supplier delivering creative and innovative lighting solutions since 1993. Kevin is an internationally recognised lighting designer and educator and is a frequent conference speaker on creative lighting design.

Dunedin born Kevin had an early life performing in musical theatre stage shows and then went on to designing lighting for world-class musical theatre productions. This evolved into bringing theatrical lighting techniques into retail merchandising. Kevin was one of the first to apply the then new 'retail theatre' approach, which kicked off lighting of sportswear chain stores across Australasia. Kevin then spent many years commuting between NZ, Australia and the Middle East designing lighting schemes for musicals, high-end hotels, and for retail merchandising projects.

Clients often refer to Total Lighting as the 'A' Team as it brings visual impact and the look and feel needed to deliver 'the dream' by assembling contracted teams of professionals configured to suit the exact needs of each project.

Kevin says .... "I focus on creating ambience and emotional impact with light, it's not just about illumination. Regulations and compliance matters are important, but for standout results the key is the look and feel of a space".

"The best architectural lighting schemes show restraint, and are often about what we don't light, as darkness and shadows introduce mystery and depth. Just like in music, the most powerful compositions are rarely the loudest."

Total Lighting Ltd website Here

MEMBER PROFILE

Michael Strong

Evolve Lighting Ltd

Evolve Lighting Ltd is a New Zealand-owned and operated lighting supplier active in commercial, industrial, and outdoor lighting solutions, primarily working through electrical wholesalers while supporting contractors, lighting designers, consultants, and councils with technical design assistance.

Whanganui-based Evolve was founded by Trevor Strong, building on many years of experience in the electrical contracting industry specialising in commercial and industrial projects. The lighting business has grown through close relationships with electrical wholesalers, contractors, and consultants.

General Manager Michael Strong has a background in product design and lighting design and completed the Lighting Technology course through Massey University. The Evolve team combines broad experience in lighting design and product engineering, supported by a national sales team active throughout NZ.

The product range for commercial interiors includes recessed luminaires, linear systems, modular panels, and utility luminaires. For industrial and warehousing applications, the core products are high-bays, under-canopy, and chemical-resistant luminaires.

Outdoor applications include carpark lighting, floodlighting for work areas such as ports and transport hubs. A particular specialisation is lighting systems for outdoor sports fields for rugby and hockey, courts for tennis and netball, and recreational facilities including skateparks.

Future growth for the Evolve Lighting business will focus on strengthening relationships with wholesalers and specifiers while continuing to develop sports lighting and large-scale outdoor lighting projects.

The Evolve Lighting Ltd website Here