

## Event backgrounder: Information to support your attendance at the opening of the new Etco electrical apprentice training facility in Wellington, on 21 July 2021

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<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
<b>From:</b>	Gillian Dudgeon, Acting Chief Executive
<b>Date:</b>	19/07/2021
<b>Reference:</b>	E-21-00441

### Purpose

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1. You are attending the opening and cutting the ribbon for The Electrical Training Company Limited's (Etco) new electrical apprentice training facility in Wellington, at 4.00 pm on Wednesday 21 July 2022, at 191 Thorndon Quay, Wellington.
2. This event backgrounder provides you with information about Etco. This includes funding and matters that may be raised with you, such as the transitional industry training organisation (TITO) transition process underway as part of the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE).
3. Jeremy Sole is the Chief Executive Officer of Etco and Steve Hallett is the Board Chairman. Bernie McLaughlin, Master Electrician's Chief Executive Officer, and Tim Fowler, TEC Chief Executive, will also be present at this event.
4. The event information sheet for this event is attached in Appendix A, and biographies of key attendees are attached as Appendix B. Talking points have been provided separately.
5. We recommend that you release this event backgrounder in full.

### About etco

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6. Master Electricians owns Etco. Master Electricians' legal name is Electrical Contractors Association of New Zealand (ECANZ) but it now wholly operates under the Master Electricians brand.
7. First registered in 1996, Etco is a private training establishment (PTE). It is a Category 1 External Evaluation and Review (EER) provider.
8. Electrical apprentices are employed by Etco, which places them with host companies for the on-job component of their apprenticeship via its Group Training Scheme (GTS)<sup>1</sup>. All

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<sup>1</sup> Group Training Schemes are industry-based training organisations which employ apprentices and provide related services to host businesses.

apprentices are signed-up to training agreements with The Skills Organisation (Skills Org). The off-job component is provided by Etco.

9. Etco advises it has 920 electrical apprentices on its payroll, and is providing off-job training to a further 1,500 independent electrical apprentices.

### **New Wellington electrical apprenticeship training facility**

10. In their 8 June 2021 letter to you, Etco outlined the significant growth they have experienced over the last two years as a result of industry growth and Government stimulus and support initiatives. This growth meant Etco needed to build two new facilities for training electrical apprentices. The new state-of-the-art Wellington centre is a relocation and upgrade from its previous premises. Etco has also built a new facility in Tauranga, a new delivery site for Etco, which was formally opened on 14 July 2021.

### **Funding**

11. Funding of \$4.85 million<sup>2</sup> was allocated to Etco in 2020 from the GTS Support Fund. The aim of the GTS Support Fund is to ensure apprentices employed by a GTS are retained, by keeping the Schemes viable immediately after lockdown due to COVID-19.
12. In August 2020, etco was publicly supportive of the GTS Support Fund, saying it would help avert a looming shortage of electricians. It also said that the funding allowed schemes to maintain their normal apprentice intake numbers, and to employ apprentices who have been made redundant because of COVID-19.
13. In 2020, Etco was funded, as a provider of foundation level Student Achievement Component (SAC) for the first time, with an allocation of \$1.41 million<sup>3</sup>. Underdelivery of SAC funding in 2020, including for Māori and Pacific Trades Training, totalled \$1.1 million, which was written off through the Funding Guarantee for 2020.
14. In 2021, etco is currently allocated \$3.34 million<sup>4</sup>. This includes \$1.79 million<sup>5</sup> of GTS Support Fund funding.
15. It also includes \$1.44 million for SAC provision of the level 3 New Zealand Certificate in Electrical Engineering Theory. This programme is to bridge the academic gap for learners wanting to gain an apprenticeship. Etco is working with Manurewa High School to provide a level 3 programme, and with Wellington schools to establish a Gateway programme.
16. Additional funding for its SAC level 3 programme, for both 2021 and for 2022, has recently been requested by Etco. This is because Etco has already delivered \$1.33 million of its 2021 funding and is reporting ongoing demand. The requests are yet to be considered.

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<sup>2</sup> Data sourced from Qlik as at 15 July 2021, My Allocations and Payments App, using the Summary sheet with filters for reporting year (2020) and TEO (5997 – The Electrical Training Company Limited).

<sup>3</sup> Data sourced from Qlik as at 15 July 2021, My Allocations and Payments App, using the Summary sheet with filters for reporting year (2020) and TEO (5997 – The Electrical Training Company Limited).

<sup>4</sup> Data sourced from Qlik as at 15 July 2021, My Allocations and Payments App, using the Summary sheet with filters for reporting year (2021) and TEO (5997 – The Electrical Training Company Limited ).

<sup>5</sup> Data sourced from Qlik as at 15 July 2021, My Allocations and Payments App, using the Summary sheet with filters for reporting year (2021) and TEO (5997 – The Electrical Training Company Limited ).

## Matters they may raise with you

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### Etco is interested in playing a greater role in arranging training through the TITO transition process

#### *Skills Org's plans and intentions*

17. Etco has indicated that it is very interested in playing a greater role in the reformed vocational education system once Skills Org transitions, particularly taking on arranging training for electrical apprentices.

18. 9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]

19. 9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]

20. Skills Org will finalise their transition plan later this year before resubmitting to TEC for formal board approval. It should be noted no approvals or decisions have been made yet.

21. 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

#### *Connexis transition*

22. 9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]

23. We have already approved Connexis' transition plan which has Te Pūkenga taking on all of its arranging training. TEC approved Connexis' transition plan on the basis that all industries supported Te Pūkenga as its preferred provider over all the other potential providers Connexis engaged with. Transition is planned to occur in September this year.

24. 9(2)(ba)(i) [Redacted]

25. TEC has previously told the TITOs that TEC will not be providing any financial support to PTEs to take on arranging training. This information has also been shared with PTEs.



**Gillian Dudgeon**  
Acting Chief Executive  
Tertiary Education Commission

19/07/2021

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

\_\_ \_\_ / 07 / 2021

## Appendix A: Event Information Sheet



### Office of Hon Chris Hipkins

*Minister of Education*

*Minister for COVID-19 Response*

*Minister of the Public Service*

*Leader of the House*

## Event Information Sheet

- Please provide as much information as you can now. If some information is not available at this stage, please supply the remainder as soon as possible.
- Please include or attach additional information as appropriate. For example, additional speech points, conference programme, awards information, etc.
- Some of the information requested below may not apply to your specific event – please indicate this by inserting 'not applicable'.
- (All invitations must be authorised by the Minister's office before sending out)

### Event details

Name of host organisation	The Electrical Training Company (ETCO)
Type of event the Minister is being invited to (e.g. conference, launch, cocktail function) and title of event	Opening of new electrical apprentice training centre
Day, date and timeframe of Minister's attendance	Wednesday 21 July 2021, 4:00pm
Venue (exact room, building and full physical address).	Etco training centre 191 Thorndon Quay – 4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Purpose of event (objectives, planned outcomes)	To open the centre, to engage with the local electrical contracting sector to show them 'their' new facility. Ideally to have them have a stronger understanding that PTEs/ Group apprentice training schemes (GTS) are an important element in the RoVE.
If the Minister is being asked to make a presentation to someone (e.g. an award), please provide details of what the presentation is, what the Minister is required to do, who the presentation is to	We would like the Minister to speak and then cut the ribbon to officially open the centre.
If a conference, please provide a programme for the full conference (or an indicative outline, with a full programme provided at a later stage), particularly indicating what is scheduled to take place <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> the Minister's speech	n/a
If a launch/function, please provide a run-sheet including timings for the event	3:30pm - event opens

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- drinks and nibbles</li> </ul> <p>4:00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minister arrives around</li> </ul> <p>4:15pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EtcO CEO opens</li> <li>- EtcO Chairman speaks briefly and introduces the Minister</li> <li>- Minister speaks and cuts ribbon</li> <li>- quick tour of facility (say 15 minute tour)</li> <li>- mix and mingle – meet apprentices until Minister needs to depart.</li> </ul>
Who will be introducing/thanking the Minister?	<p><b>Mr Jeremy Sole, EtcO CEO</b>, will open the formalities and introduce EtcO Board Chair <b>Mr Steve Hallett, Chairman EtcO Board</b>, will introduce the Minister</p> <p><b>Mr Jeremy Sole, EtcO CEO</b> will thank the Minister</p>
Dress code	Smart Casual – many of the sector people present will likely come straight from electrical contracting work.

### Facilities

How will the venue be set up? (e.g. lecture style with podium; or informal, people standing)	We will set up a podium and microphone on a low stage. Attendees will be standing – potentially around bar leaners and bar stools
Please indicate the facilities available to assist the Minister deliver the speech., e.g., Datashow, Overhead Projector, etc	We can provide a data projector if required. Microphone/sound system will be provided

### Multi-cultural dimension

Please indicate whether it would be appropriate for the Minister to include a Māori, Pacific or other ethnic greeting at the start of his speech	Definitely appropriate to include a Maori greeting
Please advise if the Minister is to be involved in a more formal/specific Māori, Pacific or other ethnic dimension to your event (e.g. pōwhiri); the nature and timing of this; will he be required to respond, in English or Māori; and if Māori, can your organisation provide a speaker/singer on the Ministers' behalf?	We will be conducting the blessing separately, so there won't be a powhiri.
Please indicate who the Minister should acknowledge (either as part of his greeting at the start of his speech, or as part of a more formal dimension)	<p>Mr Steve Hallett, EtcO Board Chair (and Board members present)</p> <p>Mr Bernie McLaughlin, Master electrician's CEO (and any Board members present)</p> <p>Host companies providing EtcO apprentices with work experiences (we call them 'exposures')</p>

**Attendees**

Please provide a guest list if possible, or indicate the makeup of the audience	The audience will be members of Master Electricians' Assn, electrical sector contracting firms, Etco employed apprentices, Etco staff, some Etco Board members, some Shareholder (Master Electricians) Board members. Some trainees
Are other Ministers and/or MPs being invited to attend? If so, who?	None
Please indicate any other important guests the Minister should be aware of	We had asked <b>Tim Fowler, CEO TEC</b> , to open the centre, but have advised him that the Minister is now able to do this.
How many people in total are being invited or are expected to attend?	Approximately 60 pax
Is an admission fee being charged?	No

**Speeches**

Length of speech requested (Note the standard length of speech is 5-7 mins.)	Probably 5 minutes
Is there to be a Question and Answer session following the speech? If so, how long will this session be?	No – mix and mingle at end
Who else has been invited to speak? In particular, are other Ministers or MPs being invited to speak?	Only Etco Chair and CEO
Content of Minister's speech – please indicate what issues you consider will be of interest to the audience  [Please be as detailed as possible. You may find it useful to view speeches the Minister has previously delivered. <a href="http://www.beehive.govt.nz">www.beehive.govt.nz</a> will take you to the Government website where you can locate photos and a CV of the Minister]	The audience is keenly interested in the RoVE - most especially the future role of PTEs and of course especially Etco as a PTE and a Group apprentice training scheme (GTS) – we are the only combined PTE and GTS in New Zealand. Etco is 30 years old this year – we now have 920 employed apprentices and will reach 1,000 by the end of the year plus we train another 1,500 independently employed electrical apprentices. We now train over 50% of NZ's electrical apprentices and in Wellington we are developing a successful partnership with schools for an electrical Gateway programme. Etco is in discussions with Skills Org (TITO) towards taking over the arranging training function for the c2,500 apprentices currently training with us. We look forward to being able to provide the same level of care and workplace support that we give our own employed apprentices – this is exciting times for us.

**Media**

Are media being invited; and if so, who?	Yes – Wellington mainstream media: NZME Stuff, RNZ (invitations arranged by Mark Russell from HotMetal agency)
Will there be a media release issued by the organiser or host of the event? If so, please supply a copy to the Minister's Office one week prior to the event, with information on when it will be released to the media and to who.	None
Will there be invitations sent out, or advertisements for the event? If so, please supply a copy to the Minister's Office at least one week prior to the event.	We are sending invitations to sector participants only.

**Contact details**

For organisational issues around the Minister's attendance	Name: Helen Stephens Tel: Mobile: 0274 769 311 Email: <a href="mailto:helens@etco.co.nz">helens@etco.co.nz</a>
For the speechwriter to make contact, if required, to discuss content and elicit further information	Name: Jeremy Sole Tel: 021 777 646 Mobile: Email: <a href="mailto:jeremys@etco.co.nz">jeremys@etco.co.nz</a>
Who will meet the Minister at the venue (mobile number, and land-line number for the venue if possible)	Name: Jeremy Sole Tel: Mobile: 021 777 646 Email: <a href="mailto:jeremys@etco.co.nz">jeremys@etco.co.nz</a>
Often photographs are taken during the Minister's visit. If the organisation takes any photos, we would be grateful to receive copies. Often a staff member accompanying the Minister will take photos. In order for us to use/publish any photos taken or obtained from you, we need to obtain consent from the people in the photos. Please supply the Minister's office with an appropriate person to contact, following the visit, to arrange consent.	Name: Genevieve Hillary Tel: Mobile: 027 537 5121 Email: <a href="mailto:genevievem@etco.co.nz">genevievem@etco.co.nz</a>
Do you have any questions you need answered in relation to the Minister's attendance?	No – but feel free to suggest tweaks to the above agenda

## Appendix B: Biographies

### Etco Chair – Steve Hallett (Director of Astech Electrical)



Steve has been a Director on the Etco board since 2011 and is the current Chair.

Steve manages a medium-sized electrical contracting firm with branches in Auckland and Northland that have a number of Etco apprentices learning from his team of skilled technicians (many of whom are former Etco apprentices themselves).

Steve has held several regional and national roles with Master Electricians during the past 15 years. His ability to network and his relationships with industry stakeholders enable Steve to offer strategic insights and advice.

### Etco Chief Executive – Jeremy Sole



Jeremy has been CEO at Etco since 2016. He is also the Treasurer of Independent Tertiary Education New Zealand, which is the largest Peak Body association representing PTEs.

Prior to joining Etco, Jeremy was at MBIE as a sector engagement lead for the Ministerial Sector Workforce Engagement Programme (SWEPP). In the SWEPP role Jeremy coordinated liaison between TEC, MBIE, ITOs, and MSD and other departments and external agencies.

Jeremy previously spent six years as CEO of the NZ Contractors Federation, the representative body for the Civil Construction industry. During that time he was appointed as Managing Director of Contrafed Publishing Limited.

Jeremy is a director of the Australia NZ Electrotechnology Training Alliance (ANZETA). He has experience in consulting and tutoring in NZ, Australia, Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Pacific Islands, and in South Africa, and has started, owned and sold a training business focussed on the retail sector.

### Master Electricians Chief Executive Officer – Bernie McLaughlin



Bernie McLaughlin was appointed CEO of Master Electricians in 2017.

Prior to taking this role, he was the Operations Manager, having joined the organisation in 2012 after a history of running his own electrical contracting business and being an electrical trainer for Etco.

Bernie represents Master Electricians on the boards of the New Zealand Specialist Trades Contractors Federation and the Construction Safety Council.

Biographies for etco's Board member, and for its executive team are available on its website; <https://www.etco.co.nz/about#our-people>.