



**To:** Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety

**From:** Christopher Jewell; Chair *Staylive*

**Date:** 22 November 2012

**Subject:** *Staylive* Submission to the Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety for the Strategic Review of the Workplace Health and Safety System

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In 2011 the five main electricity generators (Contact Energy, Mighty River Power, Meridian Energy, TrustPower and Genesis Energy) along with Transpower (2012) formed a health and safety forum. Staylive was formed with the objective of continuing to improve health and safety practices, with the understanding that industry collaboration was one of the most effective methods to achieve this outcome. One of the most important outcomes of Staylive has been the establishment of a community of safety and operational representatives who are able to collaborate on safety. There was also an express recognition that health and safety improvements for any one of the member companies would have a positive knock on effect to other member companies, as we are ultimately all linked through common contractors, and the occasional staff movements. In essence, the aim is to lift the bar on health and safety together.

Gains in health and safety performance of the electricity generation and transmission sector need to be sustainable and to a level substantially beyond any legislation, prescription or standard. The collaboration is focused on matters of common interest and in order of common highest priority, with the following key areas:

- Benchmarking health & safety data
- Provide opportunities for safety networking in the electrical generation industry that facilitates the effective and efficient transmission, to/from the front-line, of ideas, initiatives and incident experiences and outcomes
- Identify and collaborate on common improvement areas
- Collectively lifting the performance of contractors (and sub-contractors) that we collectively employ, including engagement with relevant industry associations
- Joint training standards

The forum's membership consists of senior health & safety practitioners, and senior management representatives that are responsible for generation and/or transmission plant. This mixture is to ensure that the forum focuses and executes changes in a very prioritised and

effective manner. Governance oversight is provided by the respective General Managers responsible for plant/transmission equipment from each participating organisation.

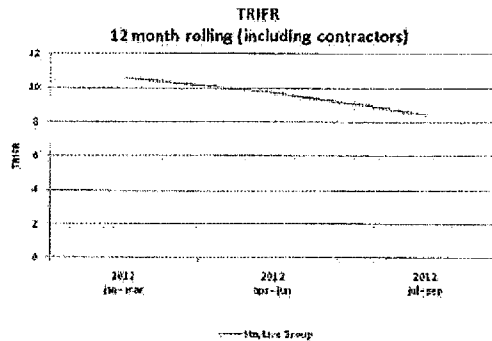
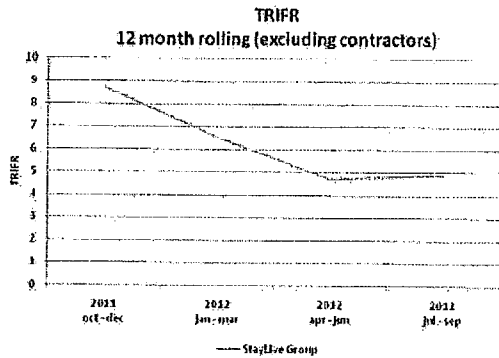
Staylive is a collaborative model, with the only overheads being internal staff time, and some travel.

Within the first year of operation we have achieved the following outcomes:

- Alignment across member companies of incident definitions (LTIFR, TRIFR) to enable genuine comparison of outcomes against a combined benchmark
- Established a process for sharing of incidents between member companies to enable collective learning on improvement strategies
- Established a common model and platform for pre-qualifying contractors and sub-contractors. This platform enables contractors to be pre-assessed against a menu of skills, and standards. This has the potential to significantly improve the efficiency for contractors of having one pre-qualification standard, and effectiveness for member companies in having common health and safety standards.
- Proactive engagement with the Crane Association which is an industry where the risks are heightened, and we have felt could benefit from a common approach to safety.
- Proactive engagement with Shell Todd (a company who has had a lot of experience in common standards within the oil and gas industry in Taranaki).
- Shared information on the following topics:
  - how best to keep people safe who are working solo, and the technology options available
  - fatigue guidelines, and effective management of fatigue
  - drug and alcohol testing policies and procedures
  - training standards for common work (such as working at heights, confined space, first aid)
  - Driving training and driving policies
  - Lifting plans

Staylive has a significant programme ahead in our second year of operation. This programme remains focussed on collaboration, broadening the existing established network deeper into our member companies, alignment (where appropriate) of standards and approaches, and developing and executing a strategy to improve the approach to safety of our contracting community.

We would encourage the Taskforce to strongly consider the value of collaborative approaches to health and safety, as opposed to solely focussing on enhancing and extending regulation. The Staylive experience to date, is a very good example of both industry self-regulation and the value of collaboration, which is already showing some positive results and has been achieved through industry initiative. The improving safety results of Staylive are represented in the two attached charts, and in part can be attributed to the value of the collaborative approach.



Note that TRIFR<sup>1</sup> (including contractors), only includes Mighty River Power and Contact as other member companies are in the early stages of collecting contractor data and have insufficient accurate history.

As is illustrated in the EEA presentation Safety Statistics Project, March 2012, the generation, retailing and transmission parts of the industry have, on a relative basis, favourable safety statistics against the electricity industry overall. Though improvement is clearly necessary. The Staylive forum intends to assist each of the participant companies and their contractors to lift performance further through collaborative focus on the highest common priorities, in addition and complementary to each participants own activities, customised for their particular circumstances.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Taskforce Panel to elaborate on Staylive's ambitions, outcomes and structure.

<sup>1</sup> TRIFR is total recordable injury frequency rate measured per 100,000 man hours