

Year in review 2026





Chair and Chief Executive's Report



Onno Mulder
Chief Executive



Andrew Barlass
Board Chair

This year has been a year of focused and deliberate investment in Mid Canterbury's future, aligned with our Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI). As a community-owned electricity distributor and fibre operator, our role is clear: to provide safe, reliable and resilient networks that enable the region's growth and wellbeing, now and over the long term.

Our electricity network performance was strong across the year and continued to meet the day-to-day needs of homes, farms and businesses across the district. At the same time, expectations are rising and solar connections are growing. Customers increasingly expect an electricity network that is reliable and consistent under a wider range of conditions. This is shaping how we prioritise investment, manage risk and plan for the future of the network.

The business delivered a solid financial result, with a net profit after tax of \$10.4 million and total capital investment of \$16.5 million. This reflects a disciplined approach to both cost management and investment. It allows us to meet regulatory requirements, progress essential upgrades, and continue our focus on affordability for our community.

Our Asset Management Plan remains central to how we balance today's performance with future demands and needs. During the year, we continued to invest in electricity network capacity and resilience, while supporting the growth of solar across the region, including the connection of two additional utility-scale solar farms to the network. This is an increasingly important part of our role, helping position Mid Canterbury for a more diverse and sustainable energy future.

Electricity pricing decisions were made within the regulatory framework and with careful consideration of fairness and transparency. From 1 April 2026, prices increased by an average of 8.2 percent, which was lower than the Commerce Commission-regulated allowable maximum revenue.

We also returned \$5 million to customers through discounts, and we are pleased to have increased our annual posted discount to \$6 million for the 2026/27 financial year, reinforcing our commitment to balancing investment needs with affordability for the community.

Safety is fundamental to everything we do, and our focus remains on reducing risk through targeted programmes, strengthened assurance and a clear expectation that everyone goes home safe every day.

Our people are central to the organisation's performance. We thank all employees for their professionalism, customer focus and commitment to safety. Their experience and judgement are critical to maintaining a reliable network and responding to the challenges ahead.

EA Networks is well placed to respond to continued growth, new technologies and rising expectations for resilience and service. With a clear plan, a strong financial position and a capable and dedicated team, we remain focused on delivering for our community and acting as a trusted steward of Mid Canterbury's electricity network.



Logan Hattrill
Cable Joiner



Tia Fasi
Trainee Cable Joiner

Shareholders' Committee Report

It is my pleasure to present this report on behalf of the Shareholders' Committee for the 2026 year.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the sound leadership and management of EA Networks throughout the past financial year. The business has continued to perform well in what remains a challenging and evolving operating environment. Sound governance, capable management, and a clear long-term focus have delivered a solid result for shareholders and the wider Mid Canterbury community.

It is particularly pleasing to note that the increase in the consumer discount from \$3 million in 2025 to \$5 million in the past financial year reflects the company's ongoing commitment to delivering value back to its customers and the wider community.

EA Networks continues to play a critical role in supporting our district's growth and resilience. We are encouraged by the continued investment into strengthening local infrastructure, including the ongoing undergrounding of lines between Ashburton and Methven. This work, along with planned upgrades to rural overhead lines, is important in improving network resilience and supporting long-term reliability across the district.

We are also pleased to see the continued support for the community through energy advocacy initiatives. During the year, an additional 264 homes across the district were insulated, along with \$30,000 being provided to support customers with energy wellness. These initiatives make a meaningful contribution to the wellbeing of our community.



Robert Newlands
Committee Chair

From an operational perspective, EA Networks continues to perform well in terms of network reliability, with low frequencies and durations of outages. This reflects the consistent investment into infrastructure and the work undertaken by the team to strengthen and maintain the network.

In addition, the initiative introduced to better notify customers of outages is proving effective. I would encourage consumers to visit the EA Networks website and register to ensure they receive timely updates regarding both planned and unplanned outages.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the Board, management, and staff of EA Networks for their ongoing commitment and contribution over the past year. Their efforts continue to position the company well for the future while delivering value to shareholders and the Mid Canterbury community.

We look forward to continuing to work constructively with the company in the year ahead.

Robert Newlands
Shareholders' Committee Chair

Performance and network

Financial performance

For the year ended 31 March 2026, revenue was \$68.4 million, up from last year's \$57.7 million. This resulted in a net profit after tax of \$10.4 million, up from \$5.5 million last year, while year-end debt was down by \$8 million to \$43.5 million. This is a strong result following several years of cost pressures, including rising operating costs that impacted profitability.

We continued to invest in our network, with \$16.5 million of total capital spend to ensure it remains reliable and capable of supporting our region.

During the year, we identified that our historic imputation credits will not be available to EA Networks to use in the future. While these credits are recorded in the taxation note in the Annual Accounts, they have not been used and do not have a direct impact on our financial results or consumer discounts. For further detail, refer to note 5 in the Financial Statements of our Annual Report.

Reliability and capacity

The way our network is used continues to evolve, with growing demand from new subdivisions, increasing uptake of electric vehicles and more solar connections at both rooftop and utility scale. To support this, we are continuing to invest in a resilient, high-performing network that can meet the region's future needs.

Network performance remained strong during the year, with average faults per customer well below one (0.81) and average outage duration under one hour (55 minutes). This reflects a balanced approach to investment in network renewal and maintenance, including proactive tree trimming to prevent outages.

We are monitoring capacity pressures in parts of the Ashburton urban network, with an upgrade programme identified at an estimated cost of \$8.5 million, although around \$4 million is expected beyond the current 10-year Asset Management Plan period. In parallel, we are exploring non-network solutions such as demand management and peak shaving as cost-effective alternatives where appropriate.

Where we invested

Investment across the network remained focused on maintaining reliability, supporting growth and preparing for future energy needs. This included ongoing urban undergrounding and network cable upgrades, with programme timing refined to reflect design requirements and access to critical infrastructure. We continue to renew our rural overhead lines to maintain reliability, safety and serve important irrigation and farming customers across Mid Canterbury.

We also continued to support new generation across the region, connecting two utility-scale solar developments at Talley's Fairfield and Melius Renewables Seafield, while progressing additional projects through development and approval stages. This growing pipeline reflects increasing interest in renewable generation and highlights the importance of ensuring the network is ready to support it.

Contracting services and capability

Our contracting services continue to play an important role in delivering work across the network and supporting customers and the wider community. They also reflect the depth of skill and capability within our team.

During the year, we co-hosted the 2025 Connexis Annual Connection Competition in Christchurch alongside Connetics and Orion, bringing together cable jointers, line mechanics and industry representatives from across New Zealand.

We proudly fielded a team of skilled line mechanics and cable jointers, reflecting the strength of our capability and the expertise required to operate and maintain electrical networks. This was further demonstrated by our trainee cable jointer, Tia Fasi, who won the inaugural Cable Jointer Trainee Competition.

Engaging our community

Customer satisfaction survey

Every two years, we connect with all our customers to understand how well we're supporting our community - from getting power connected through to how effectively we manage power outages. Your feedback is essential to helping EA Networks deliver the services you rely on, and we genuinely appreciate the time our customers take to share their experiences.

This year's Customer Satisfaction Survey shows overall satisfaction remains strong at 88 percent. These insights help guide our planning and investment decisions and enable us to focus on continuously improving the way we engage with our community.

Full survey results are available at eanetworks.co.nz

Partnerships and collaboration

EA Networks provides sponsorship to local community agencies with a focus on local sports, arts and cultural initiatives. This year, we were excited to continue our support for the annual Glow in the Park in partnership with Ashburton District Council. The event brings people together and creates something special our whole community can enjoy, and we're proud to support an occasion that's free, inclusive and has become such a special part of the Mid Canterbury calendar.

Alongside sponsoring this key community event, EA Networks focuses on enabling small community organisations to thrive, providing funding for local horse riding events, theatre productions, community gardens and sports organisations. Additionally, we are proud sponsors of Kai for Kids, a Charitable Trust helping provide meals for children and families across Mid Canterbury.

We are also proud to continue investing in the future of our region through our tertiary scholarship programme, which offers up to \$5000 per year for up to two undergraduate students for up to three years following their first year of study. Our partnership with Advance Ashburton Community Foundation has helped extend the programme's reach, ensuring more local students are supported to pursue their ambitions.

Additionally, we partnered with ElectraServe and the Ideal Foundation to deliver a solar installation at Community House. By donating solar panels, the project is now delivering ongoing energy cost savings and long-term benefits for organisations supporting the Mid Canterbury community.

EA Networks results

2025/2026



Financial

\$16.5 M Total capital spend
\$341.2 M Total assets



Network

Average customer outage duration down 2.6 minutes from last year
21,766 customer connections



Community

\$5 M discount returned to customers
\$115,472 in sponsorship funding

EA Networks Performance Highlights

21,766	Customer connections	▲	Up 266 from last year
576 GWh	Energy distributed to customers	▲	Up 9 GWh from last year
163 GWh	Energy met through local generation	▲	Up 18.5 GWh from last year
173.9 MW	Network maximum demand	▼	Down 9 MW from last year
287	Total number of faults	▲	Up 31 from last year
54.66	Unplanned outage minutes (SAIDI)	▼	Down 2.62 from last year
79.91	Planned outage minutes (SAIDI)	▼	Down 59.19 from last year
0.8167	Average number of unplanned outages (SAIFI)	▲	Up 0.0631 from last year
0.3027	Average number of planned outages (SAIFI)	▼	Down 0.2014 from last year

1. SAIDI – Average number of minutes a connection is without power during the year.
2. SAIFI – Average number of supply interruptions per connection during the year.

Summary of Accounting Policies

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The specific disclosures included in this summary financial statements have been extracted from the full financial statements adopted by Electricity Ashburton Limited on 26 June 2026. The full financial statements have been audited and an unqualified audit report has been received. The summary financial statements are in compliance with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements. The summary financial statements cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial statements on the financial performance, the financial position and cash flows of the company. The summary financial statements has been audited for consistency with the full financial statements.

Electricity Ashburton Limited is a tier 1 profit-oriented co-operative company registered under the Co-operative Companies Act 1996. The full financial statements of the company have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP. They comply with NZ IFRS and other applicable reporting standards as appropriate for a co-operative company and a profit-oriented company.

The company's financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, which is the company's functional and presentation currency.

The directors are not aware of any other matter or circumstance since the end of the financial year, not otherwise dealt with in the full financial statements, that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operation of Electricity Ashburton Limited, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of Electricity Ashburton Limited.

Contingent liabilities

Electricity Ashburton Limited has no contingent liabilities.

Summary Financial Statements

FOR ELECTRICITY ASHBURTON LIMITED trading as EA Networks for the year ended 31 March 2026

Summary Statement of Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 \$000	2025 \$000
Operating revenue		
Distribution line charge revenue	61,499	50,758
Consumer discount	(5,001)	(3,001)
Net distribution line charge revenue	56,498	47,757
Other operating revenue and other income	6,853	6,899
Operating revenue after consumer discounts	63,351	54,656
Less		
Operating expenses		
Pass-through and recoverable costs	(12,750)	(10,562)
Directors fees and shareholder committee fees	(479)	(468)
Audit fee	(124)	(124)
Employee costs not included elsewhere	(9,597)	(8,766)
Maintenance of network	(6,072)	(6,107)
Other operating expenses	(5,830)	(5,767)
Total operating expenses	(34,852)	(31,794)
Net finance costs	(2,389)	(3,891)
Depreciation and amortisation	(11,640)	(11,212)
Net profit before tax	14,470	7,759
Taxation	(4,057)	(2,210)
Profit for the year	10,413	5,549
Total comprehensive income	10,413	5,549

Summary Statement of Changes in Equity and Members' Interests

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 \$000	2025 \$000
Opening retained earnings	197,555	192,006
Total comprehensive income for the year	10,413	5,549
Closing retained earnings	207,968	197,555
Rebate shares	1,627	1,525
Member interests	31,484	31,484
Total retained earnings and members' interests	241,079	230,564

Summary Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 \$000	2025 \$000
Current assets	19,744	17,132
Non-current assets	321,446	317,196
Total assets	341,190	334,328
Current liabilities	20,194	6,452
Non-current liabilities	79,917	97,312
Total liabilities	100,111	103,764
Net assets	241,079	230,564

Summary Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 \$000	2025 \$000
Net cash flow from operating activities	23,435	19,747
Net cash flow from investing activities	(14,888)	(18,405)
Net cash flow from financing activities	(8,163)	(1,005)
Net increase in cash on hand	384	337
Opening cash and cash equivalents on hand	257	(80)
Closing cash and cash equivalents on hand	641	257



REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Directors of Electricity Ashburton Limited

The summary financial statements comprise:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026;
- the summary statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the summary statement of changes in equity and members' interest for the year then ended;
- the summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the summary of accounting policies.

Our opinion

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of Electricity Ashburton Limited (trading as EA Networks) (the Company) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Summary financial statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS). Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The audited financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 29 June 2026.

Information other than the summary financial statements and auditor's report

The Directors are responsible for the Year in Review report. Our opinion on the summary financial statements does

not cover the other information included in the Year in Review report and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information.

In connection with our audit of the summary financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the summary financial statements, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the summary financial statements

The Directors are responsible, on behalf of the Company, for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

In our capacity as auditor and assurance practitioner, our firm also provides other assurance services. The firm has no other relationship with, or interests in, the Company.

Who we report to

This report is made solely to the Company's Directors, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's Directors, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
1 July 2026

Christchurch

ANNUAL REPORT

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Report for Electricity Ashburton Limited trading as EA Networks (NZBN 9429039316172) for the year ended 31 March 2026 was published online at eanetworks.co.nz/disclosures (under "EA Networks Financial Reports"). You may access and download a copy of the Annual Report electronically from the above website, free of charge. Alternatively, if you wish to receive a hard copy by post, free of charge, please contact us at enquiries@eanetworks.co.nz or 0800 430 460. In accordance with section 209 of the Companies Act 1993, EA Networks will post a hard copy of the annual report only to those shareholders who elect to receive it.



Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of shareholders of EA Networks (Electricity Ashburton Limited) will be held at Hotel Ashburton, 11 Racecourse Rd, Ashburton on 20 August 2026 at 5pm.

BUSINESS

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 August 2025.
2. To receive the report from the Shareholders Committee for the year ended 31 March 2026 and advise the appointment of Directors.
3. To provide a briefing on the business and related industry matters.
4. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.
5. To affirm re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as the company's auditor.

PwC is the current auditor of the company and has indicated its willingness to continue in office. Pursuant to section 207T of the Companies Act 1993, PwC is automatically re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting as auditor of the company.

6. To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following ordinary resolution (Resolution 1): That the board be authorised to fix the auditor's remuneration.
7. To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following ordinary resolution (Resolution 2): That the pool of funds available for the remuneration of Directors be increased by an amount of \$11,989 (3.1%) per annum, from a maximum of \$386,754 per annum to a maximum of \$398,743 for the year ending 31 March 2027 to all Directors taken together.
8. To transact any other business that may be properly brought before the meeting.

Onno Mulder
Chief Executive
26 June 2026

Proxies

A shareholder may exercise the right to vote either by being in person or by proxy at the meeting. A proxy form is available for collection from our office, or as a download from eanetworks.co.nz

Shareholders' Committee *(as at 31 March 2026)*

Robert Newlands (Chair)
David Ward
Stuart Begg
Kate Templeton
James Reid
Gary Wilson
Vincent Lobb

Board of Directors *(as at 31 March 2026)*

Andrew Barlass (Chair)
Paul Munro
Janine Holland
Karl Smith
Rob Jamieson
Ross Bowmar
George Lilley (IoD Intern Director)

Management

Onno Mulder – Chief Executive
Nigel Thomson – Chief Financial Officer
Pete Armstrong – GM Networks
Cindy Meadows – GM Engagement, Safety & Transformation
Myles Connew – GM Contracting

Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Level 4, 60 Cashel Street
Central Christchurch
Christchurch 8013

Front cover image: Tegan Clark
Pictured: Leith Naughton, Crew Leader Line Mechanic

22 JB Cullen Drive
Ashburton Business Estate
Ashburton 7772
New Zealand

0800 430 460
enquiries@eanetworks.co.nz
eanetworks.co.nz

EA networks
enabling our region