

# Pre-reading Session 19

1 December 2022

Shared 29 November 2022

**FLEXFORUM** | 

The logo icon consists of a red circle containing a stylized white 'F' shape with an arrow pointing to the right, symbolizing flexibility or a forum.

# Session overview – topics and decisions

1. IEGA request to participant
  - a) Agree to participation of the IEGA
2. Workshop outcomes and next steps
  - a) Discuss main outcomes of the workshop and confirm next steps
3. How and when the FlexForum gets visibility of projects
  - a) Discuss how and when the FlexForum gets visibility of projects, using the Resiflex project as a reference point
4. Learning-by-doing ecosystem – project scope and approach
  - a) Confirm the scope, approach and identify resourcing options
5. FlexForum insights: network access and connection arrangements
  - a) Agree publication of the FlexForum insights paper
6. Engagement update
  - a) Update – follow up on CE Forum, webinar and anything else relevant
7. Workplan update
  - a) Update – check in on progress and follow up on resourcing options
8. Administration
  - a) Deciding a legal entity for contracting
  - b) Update on administration and budget
9. Next steps

## IEGA request to participate in the FlexForum for phase 2

The Independent Electricity Generators Association (IEGA) wants to participate in the FlexForum

The existing terms of reference say *'Membership is decided by the Group. The Group can change its membership as necessary to achieve the goal and key deliverables.'*

### **Decision: Agree to the IEGA joining the FlexForum**

- Mary Ann Mitchell will represent the IEGA

fyi - FlexForum participation – 22 participants and 4 observers

- 6 network operators (5 distributors and Transpower)
- 6 suppliers retailing electricity-related products and services to households (some with generation portfolios)
- 2 suppliers retailing electricity-related products and services to businesses
- 2 industry associations (covering small-scale DER and distributed generation)
- 2 hardware suppliers
- 2 government agencies
- 1 software platform supplier
- 1 DER/technical advice supplier
- 3 policy/regulatory bodies (observers)

# Workshop outcomes and next steps

## Workshop outcomes will be digested and regurgitated in December and January

- immediate impression is people are keen about the FlexForum and committed to helping things work
- breakout session post it notes were roughly organised and shared with attendees and people who registered – check them out here [Future FlexForum: Lucidspark](#)

## Next steps – as outlined at the workshop

1. Tomorrow you will get links to the Lucid boards with the collated comments from each breakout. Please send through any further thoughts and comments to [info@flexforum.nz](mailto:info@flexforum.nz) by Friday 16 December – **DONE**
2. We will prepare a draft 'charter' documenting the framework for the future FlexForum, it's role and functions based on your input today – **you will get a draft charter to discuss at the 2 February meeting. Who will be available in January to reality test the draft charter?**
3. We will share the draft charter with you, MBIE and other interested people in early February 2023 to check how comfortable you are with it – **this will happen after the 2 February FF meeting**
4. Then, we will share the charter for the future FlexForum with prospective participants (including existing FlexForum members), invite them to participate, and to nominate people to join the Steering Group – **this will probably happen in March 2023**
5. Steering Group will be appointed and the future FlexForum will begin delivering the Flexibility Plan – **before 31 May 2023...**

# How and when the FlexForum gets visibility of progress

The FlexForum provides a framework for coordinating and collaborating on the practical steps needed to enable a household, business or community to make choices which maximise the value of their DER and flexibility...

Coordination and collaboration require visibility of activity and progress...

- **At the outset.** Visibility of ideas and proposed projects or activities which might inform delivering the outcomes outlined in each step of the Flexibility Plan would assist with getting the scope right, finding project partners and with avoiding duplication (or achieving alignment)
- **While delivering the project or activity** (not frequently, and perhaps not in exhaustive detail). Visibility of progress and emerging outcomes would provide transparency, inform the thinking of others working on similar or complementary problems and provide an opportunity to test thinking and share challenges
- **At the end.** Visibility of outcomes is needed to demonstrate progress, enhance trust in the process and the credibility of outcomes by enabling dots to be joined and a broader whole of supply chain view to be provided to policy makers, regulators and the electricity sector

Evie and Scott will provide a brief overview of the Resiflex project to provide a reference point for discussing a process or workflow which:

- achieves the visibility needed for coordination and collaboration
- achieves the visibility of progress needed to report progress and identify updates to the Flexibility Plan
- yet isn't burdensome

**Outcome sought:** an initial process and set of expectations for obtaining visibility of activity and progress

# How and when the FlexForum gets visibility of progress – what this could look like...

The FlexForum has talked about setting up a knowledge hub listing demonstration projects, and eventually, the resulting insights and outcomes

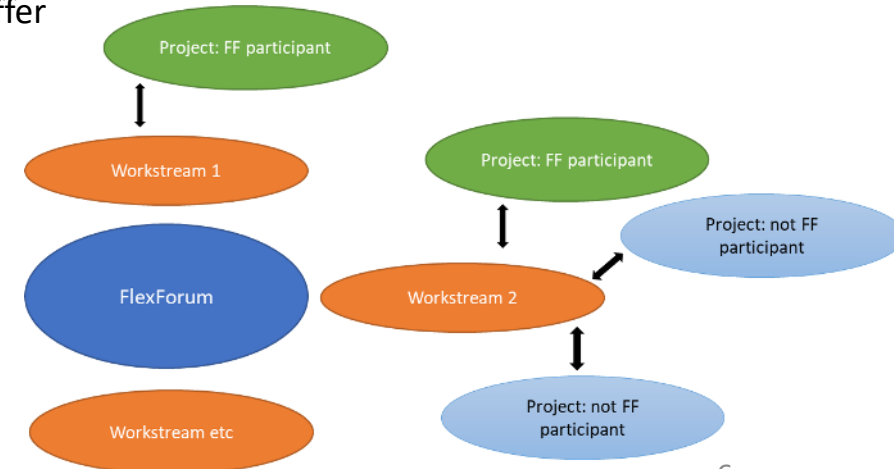
- the knowledge hub would be a starting point for match-making and information sharing, along with webinars/workshops etc
- visibility of activity and progress are needed for the FlexForum to do what people would like it to do (see selected workshop comments)

**What could this look like?** Without the FF being seen as a gatekeeper and without requiring great effort...

- nearly all demonstration projects will be 'external' undertaken by participants and others, not the FlexForum. The FlexForum is a hub for collating and disseminating information and tracking progress
- people must want to provide general visibility of their activity/project across its life cycle and offer to include it in the knowledge hub
- the activity should be related to a step in the Flexibility Plan
- project approach should be collaborative, eg, getting input on the project scope, being open to involving partners (where relevant)
- project results and outcomes should be shared, potentially during, and at the end

A selection of comments from the workshop on supporting coordination and collaboration

- Value is getting lots of feedback in one spot from diverse parties
- Knowing who is doing what to enable more and better collaboration
- Coordinate learnings between other work programmes
- Writing up and sharing case studies and outcomes
- Taking insights and making it digestible and useable to facilitate sharing



# Learning-by-doing ecosystem review – project scope, approach and resourcing

Flexibility Plan 1.0 step #B says, ‘Ensure coordination between agencies and bodies with a role in supporting learning-by-doing’.

- the purpose is to identify possible improvements to the learning-by-doing ecosystem to ensure organisations attempting learning-by-doing relating to flexibility have access to appropriate and effective support for learning-by-doing
- the step was included in the plan based on several FlexForum discussions about opportunities to improve the learning-by-doing ecosystem

A Learning-by-doing ecosystem review is part of the FlexForum phase 2 work plan

- the project would provide two outputs relevant to achieving the MBIE deliverables and to current policy and regulatory considerations ,eg, Commerce Commission review of the Input Methodologies (specifically the innovation allowance mechanism) and Electricity Authority thinking about introducing a regulatory sandpit
- a FlexForum perspective on the issues with the learning-by-doing ecosystem would have wider relevance and impact and so complement the related work underway, eg, by distributors preparing advice on changes to the innovation allowance in the IMs. However,

A draft scope and approach has been shared with the group

- **Decision:** agree the scope and approach or agree to a sub-group finalising changes to address specified issues
- **Decision:** agree the secretariat will identify and engage appropriate resourcing

# FlexForum insights – network access and connection arrangements

The phase 2 workplan includes a task to produce...A paper documenting FlexForum insights on network access and connection arrangements and identifying research questions

- the topic touches on several steps including #9, #10, #11, #25 and #27 (*see slide notes for detail*)

The purpose of the paper is to:

- share the insights, perspectives and questions coming from FF discussions in phase 1, particularly at session 11 on 23 June 2022
- inform the boundaries for expected learning-by-doing in this area
- demonstrate the FF is trying to make tangible progress

The paper is not intended to be comprehensive or conclusive...

- **Decision:** agree to publish the paper before Christmas or agree to a sub-group finalising changes to address specified issues
- A webinar will be arranged for (late) February to hear about and discuss the issues (we will try to get Lachlan Blackhall to speak [On the Calculation and Use of Dynamic Operating Envelopes](#))



# Engagement update

## 3 key engagements during November

- Playing in the sandpit webinar (10 November). The recording had been viewed 48 times by 29-11-22 (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG7BTGOIZk>)
- CE Forum presentation (11 November). The key outcome was the CE Forum asked the FF to come back before May 2023 with a funding request
- The future FlexForum workshop (21 November)

## Upcoming engagement

- Rewiring Aotearoa has been invited to the 2 February 2023 session. Go to [Rewiring Australia](#) for more context

# Workplan update: progress tracking

The workplan is here: [FF Phase 2 Workplan v1.xlsx](#)

Task	Scope & output	Timing	Resource	Notes
1. Scope and confirm a Delivery Model for the Flexibility Plan	Purpose is to get input on a minimum viable set of arrangements for the future FlexForum – role and functions, participation & resourcing – to produce and agree a charter for the future FlexForum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop – 21/11/22 (done)</li> <li>Draft charter – due 02/02/23</li> <li>Final charter – due 02/03/23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat</li> <li><b>In-kind review support needed</b> in Dec-Jan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On track</li> <li>Need to resolve Qs about legal status of the FF</li> </ul>
2. FF insights: Network access and connection arrangements	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on network access and connection and identifying research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final draft – 1 December</li> <li>Publish before Christmas</li> <li>Webinar in February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat drafting</li> <li><b>In-kind review support needed</b> in early Dec</li> </ul>	
3. FF insights: Flexibility contractual arrangements	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on the main terms of trade in contracts for flexibility and identifying research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final draft – 2 February</li> <li>Publish in February</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat drafting</li> <li><b>In-kind review support needed</b> in Jan-Feb</li> </ul>	
4. Interactions map, dependencies and gaps	An updated interaction map to highlight progress, gaps and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steps map will replace the interaction map</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>02-02-23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat with comms support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steps map will be titivated over Dec-Jan</li> </ul>
5. FF insights: Barriers to progress	Document the barriers to progress identified by the FlexForum during phase 1, the impacts and the resulting research questions (ie, steps).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>02-02-23</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat</li> </ul>	
6. Step #C Customer journey mapping	A project which undertakes a customer journey mapping exercise. The Orion Resi-flex (residential flexibility) project includes residential customer journey mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBC</li> </ul>	Delivered via the Orion Resi-flex project	
7. FF insights: valuing and pricing flexibility	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on valuing and rewarding flexibility and identifying research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>TBC - before 31 May 2023</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Resourcing TBC</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretariat may be able to prepare an early draft by 02-02-23</li> </ul>
8. FF insights: Communication and connectivity	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on communication and connectivity requirements to enable flexibility and identifying research questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>TBC - before 31 May 2023</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Resourcing TBC</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start with presentation to EEA</li> </ul>
9. Step #B Learning-by-doing ecosystem review	A project to review how well the learning-by-doing ecosystem supports firms attempting flexibility-related R&D and commercialisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft scope/approach – 01/12/22</li> <li><b>Part 1 – 28/02/23</b></li> <li><b>Part 2 – 31-03-23</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Resourcing TBC</b></li> </ul>	
10. DER supplier flexibility awareness	A project to explore the flexibility knowledge of DER installers/hardware suppliers to identify what they would like to know to enable them to provide useful information/advice to customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>TBC - before 31 May 2023</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Resourcing TBC</b></li> </ul>	

# Administration: the legal entity for contracting

## MBIE is finalising contractual arrangements for its financial contribution to phase 2

- the contract will be for supply of policy advice services, with four deliverables which align with the FlexForum workplan agreed at session 18 (03-11-22)
- ‘Someone’ needs to enter the contract with MBIE...

## The FlexForum is a coalition of willing participants without formal legal standing

- it cannot open or maintain a bank account – Our Energy provides this treasury function with oversight from a small group of participants
- it cannot enter contracts to receive or provide services – workarounds have been used

## The contracting workarounds are not sufficient this time

- the contract deliverables rely on commitments in some form by all FlexForum participants. It is unreasonable to expect one entity to solely have the contractual obligation to deliver the FlexForum workplan

## Options – 3 have been identified

- the MBIE contract could be signed by several FlexForum participants to indicate the shared commitment to delivering the workplan
- the FlexForum could establish itself as an incorporated society. The requirements are not much different to the existing terms of reference and what are likely to be included in a new charter. But it is more bureaucracy than currently in place, and will take some time
- the FlexForum could identify a host organisation prepared to hold a bank account on its behalf (and allow the FF to manage that account) and prepared to enter contracts on its behalf (raising a similar issue as currently exists)

Administration: budget

Budget update