

# Notes: FlexForum session 21 02-03-23

<b>When</b>	0900 – 1200, Thursday 2 March 2023
<b>Where</b>	Virtual
<b>Who</b>	<p>Briony Bennet (Ara Ake), Lyndon Bird (Manawa), Shay Brazier (ReVolve Energy), John Campbell (Our Energy), James Carberry (Simply Energy), Glenn Coates (Aurora), Jason Christini-Crawford (ecotricity), Andrew Kerr (Powerco), Mark Herring (Transpower/SO), Peter Kimber (Influx), Jeremy Levy (Mercury), Jenny Van der Merwe (Kāinga Ora), Mary Ann Mitchell (IEGA), Tom Rose (evnex), Terry Paddy (Cortexo), Eric Pyle (solarzero), James Tipping (Vector), Evie Trolove, (Orion), Nicolas Vessiot (Transpower)</p> <p>Guests: Ray Hardy</p> <p>Observers: Nicole Kirkham (MBIE), Andrew Zielinski (EA), Brian Fitzgerald, EECA, Sean McCready (ComCom), John Rampton (ComCom)</p> <p>Secretariat: Craig Evans, Matt Smith</p>

## Session notes

### Agenda overview

The group agreed the agenda.

### Item 1: Findings from learning-by-doing research

The group discussed the initial findings of the learning-by-doing research.

- Survey results indicate people mostly agree DER and electrification will have fundamental changes to the electricity ecosystem, there are significant benefits from unlocking flexibility, and that there is insufficient support and systems for learning-by-doing. Views on the solutions are varied
- Survey results did not throw up any surprises. The responses are not obviously biased by FF views; 40% of responses were from FF participants and 40% of these from one participant. The group requested the conclusions be tested for bias

- A member suggested the concerns relate to who is taking what risk; so understanding risk is important.

## Item 2: Process to deliver next 4 workplan tasks

The group agreed a process to deliver four workplan tasks to meet the timeframes.

## Item 3: Next phase budget estimate and funding proposal

The group agreed an approach to developing the presentation to the CE Forum and associated funding proposal.

## Item 7: Update on progress with the charter

The group heard an update on progress with the charter and advice on incorporation.

The group agreed to proceed with the incorporation process and to procuring relevant expert advice based on the quote provided.

## Item 4: Collaboration and communication tools

The group discussed the overview of collaboration and communication tools, agreeing that the FlexForum should invest in the capability it requires to achieve its objectives and purpose.

The group requested advice on options and costs for communication and collaboration tools.

## Item 5: Engagement update

The group discussed the engagement update.

- The group agreed to publish the submission to the EA.
- The group discussed the first FF Meets event.
  - keep sessions focused on a specific topic and avoid trying to do too much
  - prefer discussion rather than presentation
  - consider providing an online option
- Powerco offered to host a session on the process to get a non-network solution in Coromandel.

- the group discussed awards and conference participation (eg, EEA) as a way to build the profile of flexibility. Conclusion was to take no action on awards yet, but consider options as they arise for presenting to conferences.

### Item 6: Workplan update

The group note the workplan update.

- people were asked to contribute their thoughts on valuing and pricing flexibility to inform scope and focus of the insights piece.
- people were asked to review and comment on the scope for task 10 to explore the flexibility knowledge of DER suppliers and advise if they can help to complete a survey proposed as part of the task.

The group agreed webinars and follow-up discussions for each FF insight would be held on a as necessary basis.

### Item 8: Administration

The group noted the budget update.

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