

Pre-reading Session 21

2 March 2023

Shared 27 February 2023

FLEXFORUM | 

Session overview – topics

1. Findings from learning-by-doing research
2. Process to deliver next 4 workplan tasks
3. Next phase budget estimate and funding proposal
4. Collaboration and communication tools
5. Engagement update
6. Workplan update
7. Update on progress with the charter
8. Administration

Findings from learning-by-doing research

Findings from interviews and survey

- Ray Hardy will share emerging findings

Process to deliver next 4 workplan tasks

4 workplan tasks are scheduled for completion by 31 March

- Task 3 – insights on contracting and risk management. Publication by 31-03-23
- Task 4 – documenting dependencies, gaps and the critical path. Ongoing task (in workplan). People want the results soon
- Task 5 – insights on barriers to progress. Publication by 30-03-23
- Task 8 – insights on connectivity and communications. Publication by 30-03-23

Tasks 3 and 8 have hard deadlines. Task 4 is much sought after, including by the EA. Task 5 complements the FF submission to the EA and emerging views regarding learning-by-doing

Action for this item:

1. Confirm the process for finalising tasks 3 and 8 to meet the deadlines
2. Note the process and timing for finalising task 4
3. Confirm the process and timing for finalising task 5

Process to deliver next 4 workplan tasks – tasks 3 and 8

Tasks 3 and 8 have hard due dates

- MBIE services agreement - timely provision required to continue monthly payments

Task 3 - FF insights on contracting and risk management – process to finalise this piece

- first draft shared with the group 24 February 2023. Confirm you are comfortable with the points made – **responses by Friday 10 March**
- volunteers to assist with edits and updates – 13/03 to 24/03
- final tidyification and publication – by 31-03-23

Task 8 – FF insights on connectivity and communications – process to finalise this piece

- This piece is less advanced. Outline shared 27 February 2023 as is where is. Confirm you are comfortable with the scope and story – **responses by Tuesday 7 March**
- target is to share first draft Wednesday 15 March. Responses by 22 March
- final tidyification and publication by 30-03-23 or asap after

Process to deliver next 4 workplan tasks – tasks 4 and 5

Tasks 4 and 5 have more elastic timeframes

- timeframes are set out in the workplan

Task 4 - documenting dependencies, gaps and the critical path - process to finalise this piece

- process agreed at 02-02-23 session. Progress has not been as fast as hoped
- workshops will happen to work through the critical path analysis
- target is for results to be available for the April FlexForum session

Task 5 – FF insights on barriers to progress– process to finalise this piece

- first draft shared 8 February 2023. Confirm you are comfortable with the points made and story – **responses by [when]**
- volunteers to assist with edits and updates
- final tidyification and publication – **by [when]**

Next phase budget estimate and funding proposal

Preparation for the follow up session with CE Forum on 13 April 2023

- have asked James Kilty (current CE Forum chair) put us on the agenda. Need to confirm this happened

When we met with the CE Forum on 11 November 2022, it:

- endorsed the FlexForum (as a useful entity)
- agreed to consider a budget and funding proposal for the FlexForum by May 2023

The FlexForum needs a structured funding arrangement – a budget and funding proposal is the first step

- the CE Forum members will be key contributors
- the proposal could become an input to the MBIE 2024 budget bid process
- an initial estimate of the resourcing required given the purpose and activities outlined in the draft Charter and experience aligns with the estimate given to the CE Forum in November 2022

Action for this item:

1. confirm the FF is on the agenda for the next CE Forum meeting
2. volunteers to assist with preparing the proposal and presentation. Hopefully, these will be ready in time for the April FF session
3. volunteers to present the presentation – same gang as last time?

Tools to support coordinated, collaborative action

A flexforumnz google drive has been established to allow collaborative working

-but technical challenges are being experienced with granting access

Energy Academy has offered to support a FlexForum community on its LUMO364 platform

- community members can ask for quick help, run polls, list events, share information etc
- allows a wider audience than the existing slack channel and posts are not hidden after 3 months
- FlexForum participants (current and future) will have exclusive access to the Community (a perk of participating) and access to the wider LUMO364 platform

An improved FlexForum webpage is on its way to host documents and the knowledge hub

- a proposed site map structure has been prepared. Currently checking options with Ara Ake
- the list of projects/activities provided for the Progress Report is a starting point for the knowledge hub. Progress depends on improving the webpage

Plus external communication channels – newsletter, linkedIn, webinars, youtube

Action for this item

1. watch this space
2. sign up to LUMO364 when you get invited
3. get in touch if you can help with the google drive technical challenges

Engagement update

Engagement since previous session

- Submission to EA on updating regulatory settings – any reason not to publish ourselves?
- FF Meets: Wellington – 22 people came along. Cake was good. Action underway to scope a trial to improve understanding of the capability of flexibility to provide the System Operator with extra capacity at peak periods


Upcoming engagement

- FlexForum speaker series webinar is being arranged on share Australian experience with dynamic operating envelopes. Probably 21 March 2023
- Downstream – 4/5 panelists on ‘Rethinking energy security’ are FlexForum participants. From 1635 on day 1 (final session)
- interest in a FF catchup Monday 27 March (late afternoon or evening)?

Awards and abstracts

- A couple of people have asked about the FlexForum submitting an abstract to the EEA conference or nominating for an award, eg, Energy Excellence Award Outcomes Award or Low Carbon Future Award.
 - either of these requires a group decision to do it and a volunteer to do the work

Workplan update: overview of progress

Task	Scope & output	Timing	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	By 31-05-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting expert advice on incorporation
2. FF insights: Network access and connection arrangements	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on network access and connection and identifying specific research questions 	Published 31-01-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Webinar = 21 March 2023 Speakers from ANU and SAPN
3. FF insights: Flexibility contractual arrangements	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on the main terms of trade in contracts for flexibility and identifying specific research questions	30-03-23	
4. Dependencies, gaps and critical path	A critical path analysis exercise is identifying progress, gaps and opportunities against the steps in the Flexibility Plan	Soon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need this for EA and to inform next workplan Progress not as fast as hoped
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).	30-03-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First draft shared 80% complete
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	Expected by April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing to April FF session
7. FF insights: valuing and pricing flexibility	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on valuing and rewarding flexibility and identifying research questions	28 April 2023	Input to scope and key points is being received – this will be collated to tell a story
8. FF insights: Communication and connectivity	A paper documenting FlexForum insights on communication and connectivity requirements to enable flexibility and identifying research questions	30 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping underway
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.	By 28-04-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews and survey complete
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	By 26-05-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope shared with papers for session 21.

Update on progress with the charter

We are getting expert advice to answer the questions asked last time

1. the costs of setting up and maintaining an incorporated society
2. extent of alignment between the membership and other requirements in the draft charter and those for an incorporated society

Adjusted timeframes and process are:

- Finalise draft rules – by 13 March (availability of expert)
- Share the draft rules with existing and prospective FlexForum participants – minimal change to wording and intent
- Approve the rules – earliest is probably mid-April, based on giving about 3 weeks for people to consider the rules
- Resolve to apply for incorporation – can happen at same time as approving the rules. This is a requirement of the incorporation process
- Confirm office holders and committee members – a requirement of the incorporation process. We can ask for nominations at the same time as sharing the draft rules
- Incorporate

Administration

Budget update