

# FlexForum session 18: 03-11-22 notes

<b>When</b>	0900 – 1200, Thursday 3 November 2022
<b>Where</b>	Virtual
<b>Who</b>	<p>Briony Bennet (Ara Ake), Shay Brazier (ReVolve Energy), John Campbell (Our Energy), James Carberry (Simply Energy), Luke Cartmell-Gollan (Simply Energy), Jason Christini-Crawford (Ecotricity), Glenn Coates (Aurora), Margaret Cooney (Octopus Energy), Ryan Kuggeleijn (Meridian), Mark Herring (System Operator), Peter Kimber (Influx), Jenny Van der Merwe (Kāinga Ora), Tom Rose (evnex), <del>Terry Paddy (Cortexo)</del>, Eric Pyle (solarZero), Buddhika Rajapakse (Mercury), Scott Scrimgeour (Wellington Electricity), James Tipping (Vector), <del>Evie Trollove (Orion)</del>, <del>Mike Ullrich (Influx)</del>, Ryno Verster (Powerco), Nicolas Vessiot (Transpower), <del>Fiona Wiseman (Manawa Energy)</del>.</p> <p>Observers: Nicole Kirkham, MBIE, Geoff Parr, Electricity Authority, Clare Penno, EECA, Sean McCready (ComCom)</p> <p>Secretariat: Craig Evans, Matt Smith</p>

## Session notes

### Agenda overview

The group welcomed the new and replacement members.

The group agreed the agenda, subject to:

- discuss item 6 (Administration) immediately before item 3 (workplan and resourcing)

### Item 1: Expanding the FlexForum

The group agreed to the following people and organisations joining the FlexForum:

- Ryan Kuggeleijn, Meridian Energy
- Margaret Cooney, Octopus Energy
- Ryno Verster, Powerco

- Regan Heal, Solar Energy Association of New Zealand (SEANZ)
- James Carberry, Simply Energy

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.’

The group discussed its purpose for the coming months and longer-term aspirations, confirming the immediate focus is to begin the learning-by-doing needed to understand and address the issues in the Flexibility Plan 1.0, recognising that things will change over the next 5-10 years.

## Item 2: Delivery model workshop – purpose, structure and organisation

The group discussed the purpose, structure and approach to the delivery model workshop.

### Workshop purpose

- The group reflected on the low formality and low bureaucracy approach of the [Electricity Systems Integration Group \(ESIG\)](#) – a USA based non-profit organisation representing a leading source of expertise for energy systems integration and operation – trust and willingness to make things work are key
- The group agreed the workshop will cover:
  - Identify a minimum viable delivery model. That is, the minimum level of structure, documentation and formality required for broad participation and to get things done
  - Involve people in the Flexibility Plan 1.0 process, and to identify collaboration options.

### Attendance

- The group agreed to invite registrations outlining the purpose and approach, noting that extra room would be found if numbers exceeded available space.
- FlexForum members noted their intention to attend.

### Agenda and approach

- The group endorsed the overall approach.
- The group requested changes to the agenda:
  - to reflect the altered purpose
  - a shortened discussion of the proposed future FlexForum framework by putting forward the FlexForum proposal and requesting feedback on that

- Topics and questions to cover include:
  - What do you need the governance and documentation for? How does the governance structure support engagement with the FlexForum (how would you engage)?
  - What are the risks and opportunities associated with an accepted structure?
  - How should steering group be selected?
  - What are the perks of participation?
  - Engage people in how they would like to be involved in the e.g. “challenge group” what would you expect and how would you engage with them
  - Clear message about what happens after the workshop to finalise things
  - Legal Standing of the organization and how funding will be managed.
- Include discussion on the Flexibility Plan steps, dependencies and gaps, and about ideas and opportunities to collaborate on workstreams. The intention is to get people excited about the process and actions needed to unlock the value of flexibility

## Item 6: Administration

The group noted the financial update.

## Item 3: Workplan and resourcing

The group agreed the workplan, noting it would evolve over time.

- people agreed to identify and advice what support they can provide for the workplan tasks.
- The group agreed the indicative deliverables MBIE had developed as a condition of its funding support were reasonable and aligned with the workplan. Some minor revisions to the deliverables were noted.
- The group agreed the resourcing approach, including contracting communications support.
- The group requested a discussion of the Flexibility Plan 1.0 steps, the dependencies, gaps and critical paths.

## Item 4: Demonstration projects

The group discussed demonstration projects.

- The purpose of the list of demonstration projects is to show the group is walking the talk and to support collaboration.
- The group discussed two barriers to documenting projects
  - Time – the secretariat can assist people to document the project
  - Confidentiality and intellectual property concerns – people were urged to share what they could.

## Item 5: Engagement

The group discussed outcomes of engagement during the Flexibility Plan 1.0 roadshow.

- Roadshow sessions with Transpower and Grey Power have been positive.
- CE Forum next week
- Webinar on regulatory sandpits next week.

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