

FlexForum session XIV 04-08-22 notes

When	0900 – 1200, Thursday 4 August 2022
Where	Virtual
Who	<p>Glen Baxter (Ara Ake), Shay Brazier (ReVolve Energy), John Campbell (Our Energy), Jason Christini-Crawford (Ecotricity), Glenn Coates (Aurora) [apology], Craig Hackett (Influx), Jenny Van der Merwe (Kāinga Ora), Terry Paddy (Cortexo), Eric Pyle (solarZero), Buddhika Rajapakse (Mercury), Scott Scrimgeour (Wellington Electricity), James Tipping (Vector), Evie Trolove, (Orion), Fiona Wiseman (Manawa)</p> <p>Guests: Nicole Kirkham, MBIE, Nathan Spence, Electricity Authority, Tim Hewitt, Commerce Commission, Clare Penno, EECA</p> <p>Facilitator: Geoff Sharples</p> <p>Secretariat: Craig Evans, Matt Smith</p>

Session notes

Agenda overview

The group agreed the revised agenda, adding a discussion of the MBIE response to the FlexForum proposal.

Item 1: MBIE response to FlexForum proposal

The MBIE response to the FlexForum proposal was outlined:

- MBIE endorses the FlexForum and its process to develop and deliver a Flexibility Plan, particularly due to the diverse representation and collaborative approach. Consistent with the industry-led approach, MBIE is not endorsing the specific actions or outcomes of the process.
- MBIE is committing funding to support delivery of the Flexibility Plan by 31 August 2022. MBIE is prepared to commit funding up to 50% of costs to support delivery of the Flexibility Plan for an initial period September 2022 to May 2023 while an enduring delivery model is scoped, agreed and adopted. Industry is expected to

cover the other 50% of costs. MBIE will commit the funding once it has a breakdown of resourcing requirements and expected costs.

- MBIE is willing to support a gathering of stakeholders as part of scoping and agreeing a delivery model, including hosting the gathering and providing introductory context, eg, interaction with the emission reduction plans.
- A written response to the proposal will be provided shortly.

The group discussed the opportunity presented by the MBIE response, recognising it reflects confidence in the collaborative process and investment to date of the members to produce practical action. It is early days for the FlexForum; it needs to prove its work by publicly delivering actions and achieving milestones.

Potential next steps to ensure a quick transition to practical action were outlined.

- engagement with key stakeholders once the Flexibility Plan is finalised with briefings to industry groups, including the CE forum, ERANZ etc to build wider buy in to the process
- A gathering of key stakeholders to scope and agree a robust delivery model which provides an enduring process.
- Members and others to begin testing ideas which align with the actions in the Flexibility Plan to demonstrate the commitment to delivery.

The group agreed projects do not need to be 'large', noting useful insights could be gained from desktop exercises.

The FlexForum and members will not be responsible for delivering all actions. The expectation is stakeholders including industry groups and regulators will develop sub-roadmaps which describe how they are delivering specific actions. For example, the ENA Smart Technology Working Group might coordinate distributor contributions.

Several members mentioned projects they could initiate which could test actions.

Item 2: Webinar presentation trial run

The group ran through the webinar presentation providing feedback on the key points and approach.

Item 3: Flexibility Plan [draft] – fast feedback

The group provided feedback on the draft Flexibility Plan.

The group agreed to provide comments on a version hosted in a collaborative working space.

The group briefly discussed requirements for finalising the document, including noting sign-off by member organisations would not necessarily mean they would be bound to a particular position.

Item 5: Workplan, engagement and communications planning

The group discussed workplan progress, engagement and communication activities. The group agreed to provide feedback to enable an update to the interaction map.

6: Administration – governance, budget, and funding

The group heard an update on the FlexForum budget.

Decisions are required regarding funding arrangements for phase 2 after finalising the Flexibility Plan. These decisions require clarity about activities and resourcing.

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