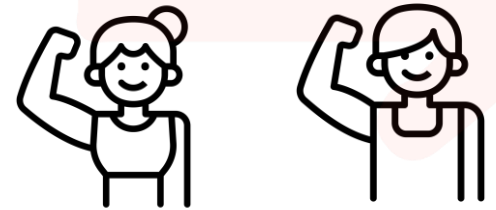


# Workplan Workshop

Agenda, context and discussion-starters

24 August 2023

Shared 21 August 2023



# Today

- Welcome and context
- Purpose of this session
- FlexForum objective and purpose
- Four potential workstreams
- What will they deliver
- What is currently being done
- What we will do next

You should all be familiar with the requirements of the Commerce Act 1986, prohibiting anti-competitive conduct. You should not discuss commercially sensitive areas of competitive activity, including (but not limited to) relating to agreements to fix, control or maintain prices, restrict output or capacity, or allocate markets or customers

A written record of the discussions today will be available on the FlexForum webpage.

# Welcome and context

Welcome

MBIE perspective of the role of the FlexForum in the energy transition

# Purpose of this session is to work out a workplan

This session is to **work out what the FlexForum needs to do** in the next 10 months or so to achieve its objective and purpose

By the end of the session, it would be good to have

- broad agreement on what workstreams should be established
- broad agreement on the purpose of a workstream
- a better understanding of who has what activities underway
- volunteers to lead and participate in each workstream

This presentation will not be 'presented' in full at the session. It attempts to provide sufficient context to discuss:

- potential workstreams ([page 9](#))
- what the workstreams will do and deliver ([page 11](#))
- what is currently happening ([page 12](#))

# FlexForum objective and purpose

The FlexForum objective is to make it easier for households, businesses and communities to maximise the value of consumer and distributed energy resources and flexibility to:

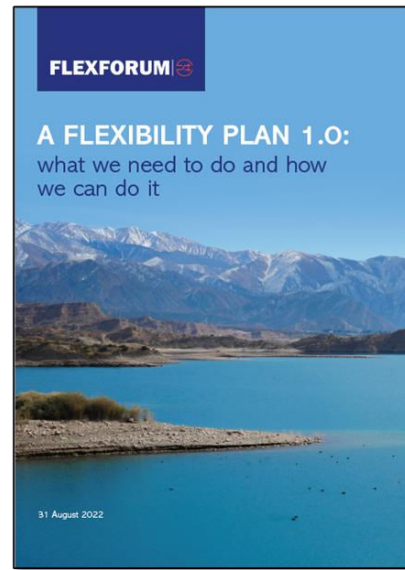
- support affordable and reliable operation of the electricity market and power system
- enable accelerated electrification by households and businesses as part of the transition in Aotearoa New Zealand to zero emissions economy

The FlexForum purpose:

- **maintain the Flexibility Plan**. It's a whole-of-system checklist of tasks to be updated, added to, and ticked off
- **support collaboration** across industry siloes and help to avoid unnecessary duplication
- **collate and share practical experience and provide evidence-based advice** on changes to regulatory settings that reflects a whole-of-system view of how to realise good outcomes for consumers

## 3. Objective, purpose and powers

- 3.1 The objective of the FlexForum is to make it easier for households, businesses and communities to maximise the value of consumer and distributed energy resources (CDER) and flexibility to:
- (a) support affordable and reliable operation of the electricity market and power system;
  - (b) enable accelerated electrification by households and businesses as part of the transition in Aotearoa New Zealand to zero emissions economy;
  - (c) do everything incidental to achieving the foregoing objectives.
- 3.2 The purpose of the FlexForum is to support coordinated and collaborative action to achieve the objective by doing things including:
- (a) maintain the Flexibility Plan, monitoring progress, making updates and amendments
  - (b) identify the practical, scalable and least-regret steps needed for households, businesses and communities to make choices which maximise the value of CDER and flexibility;
  - (c) support and encourage the coordination of activity by the electricity industry, government agencies, regulatory agencies, interested organisations and people;
  - (d) support and encourage collaboration by the electricity industry, government agencies, regulatory agencies, interested organisations and people;
  - (e) support and encourage learning-by-doing;
  - (f) support and encourage sharing of insights, information and advice
  - (g) any activity or initiative the FlexForum considers helpful for achieving its objective.



# A starting point – roles and activities

FlexForum exists to support 3 things

## Coordination

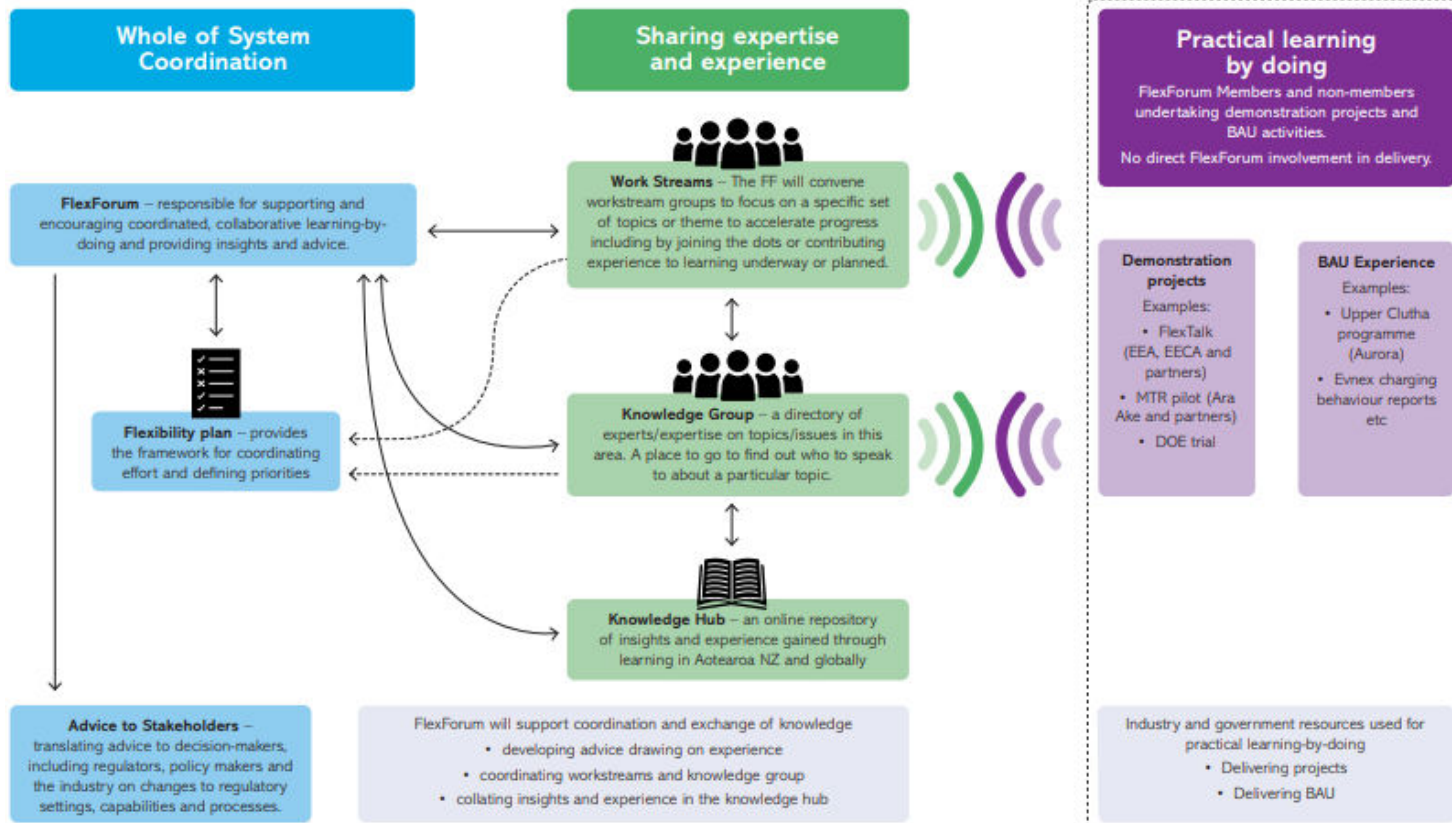
- Flexibility Plan

## Sharing

- Workstreams
- Knowledge Group
- Knowledge Hub

## Evidence and advice

- Insights from experience and trials
- Advice on regulatory and policy changes



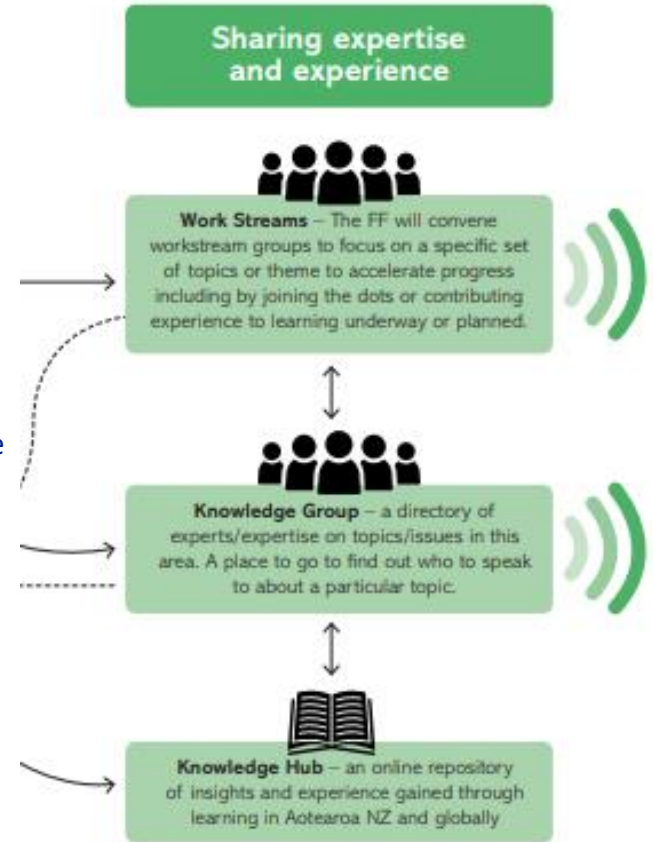
# Workstreams, Knowledge Group and Knowledge Hub will be the engine room of the FlexForum

These provide 3 ways to extract and share your expertise and experience

Starting positions:

- a Workstream is to bring together expertise and experience on a specific set of topics or theme from the Flexibility Plan. Each workstream has autonomy to identify and pursue priorities
- the Knowledge Group is to provide a directory of experts/expertise related to flexibility. A place to go to test ideas and assumptions and discover prior experience
- the Knowledge Hub is to provide an online repository of insights and experience gained through learning in Aotearoa New Zealand and globally

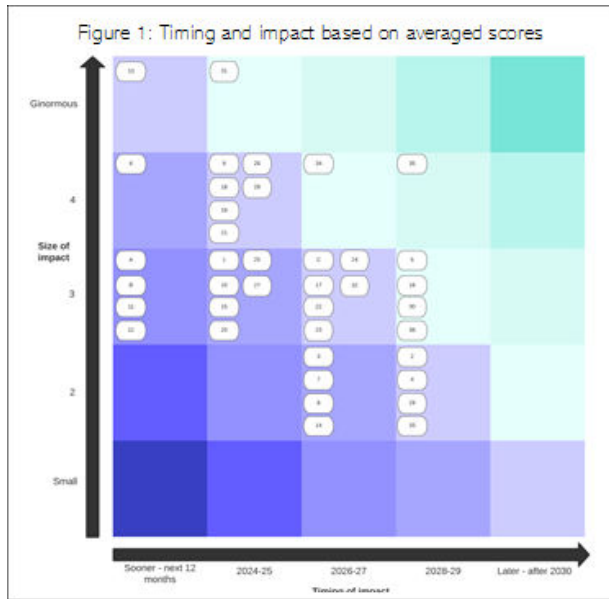
Focus today is to work out what a Workstream will do



# What things should the FlexForum work on: conclusions from assessing the critical path

March 2023 – 10 of you in 3 groups talked through the timeframe and impact of each task in the Flexibility Plan 1.0 (ie, the urgency of the task)

- the results provide the starting point for considering the scope and initial list of priorities for the FlexForum work programme [refer document ‘Delivering the Flexibility Plan...’]



## Conclusions...

- all tasks require at least some effort before 2030. There is no gradual ramp up. Most tasks need effort between now and 2026-27
- consensus on the urgency of tasks with whole-of-system implications, eg, LV management capability
- diverging perspectives on the urgency of tasks to enable consumer decision-making and participation
- setting priorities based on an ‘average’ view will underplay the urgency of tasks relevant to testing ideas and enabling consumer participation
- interconnectedness means tasks can be grouped into families. Doing this helps provide a whole-of-system view (and avoid perverse outcomes of conceptual/jurisdictional siloes)



## 4 potential workstreams

1. **Consumer information** – focused on tasks which would provide consumers and their agents with streamlined (automated) access to the information useful to consumers for decisions about CDER, flexibility and electrification generally, and developing a whole-of-system perspective (ie, advice) on the outputs.
2. **Flexible resource integration and visibility** – focused on tasks required for network operators to develop capability, processes and practices for enhanced LV visibility and to coordinate activity on their networks
3. **Market frameworks** – focused on tasks relating to the transaction lifecycle for flexibility, including product definition, procurement, pricing and dispatch
4. **Digitalisation** – focused on providing whole-of-system advice about activities relating to communications and connectivity capability. Focusing specifically on progress with digitalisation would assist to join the dots across the different functional siloes

### Discussion:

1. Do these workstreams provide a useful framework for eating the Flexibility Plan elephant?
2. Are there any key themes missing?

The Flexibility Plan steps/tasks in each potential workstream are shown on page 10.

Consumer information	LV management capability	Market frameworks	Digitalisation
1 Identify what information and education can be provided to consumers	13 Ensure distributors have the ability and incentive to invest in LV management capability	6 Develop a common definition for network services	2 Ensure consumers and their agents have streamlined (automated) access to historical consumption information
2 Ensure consumers and their agents have streamlined (automated) access to historical consumption information	9 Review whether connection requirements enable rapid uptake of DER	17 Provide clarity around the intent and criteria for using flexibility by network operators	3 Provide consumers with information on reliability and resilience performance relevant to their point of connection
3 Provide consumers with information on reliability and resilience performance relevant to their point of connection	10 Review ADMD assumptions	20 Understand the interaction between price-based flexibility and contracted flexibility	7 & 8 Assess whether consumers making choices about DER have streamlined access to sufficient retail price / wholesale price information
7 & 8 Assess whether consumers making choices about DER have streamlined access to sufficient retail price / wholesale price information	11 Explore use of DOEs	21 Develop a common method for valuing flexibility used for network services	12 Improve the availability to consumers of information about current and forecast network capacity and constraints
12 Improve the availability to consumers of information about current and forecast network capacity and constraints	15 review voltage limits	28 Explore how to deliver a flexibility resource register	14 Provide consumers with reference information and education about historical voltage performance
14 Provide consumers with reference information and education about historical voltage performance	27 Review connection application processes	30 Establish fit-for-purpose participation requirements for flexibility suppliers	13 Ensure distributors have the ability and incentive to invest in LV management capability
16 Make sure information about current and forecast network capacity and constraints is presented in an easy-to-access and understand way	35 Identify network and system coordination capability	24 Develop a method for providing technical qualification of DER (at scale) to provide ancillary services	11 Explore use of DOEs
		32 Identify an easy-to-use method and process for providing visibility of and access to opportunities to supply flexibility	35 Identify network and system coordination capability
		33 Develop a scalable and accessible process for procuring flexibility for network reasons	6 Develop a common definition for network services
		29 & 34 Identify a common approach to options for risk management in contracts	28 Explore how to deliver a flexibility resource register
		31 Identify the measurement, communication and connectivity requirements for devices supplying flexibility	31 Identify the measurement, communication and connectivity requirements for devices supplying flexibility
		36 Identify a common process for validation and settlement of services	36 Identify a common process for validation and settlement of services
		18 & 22 Ensure regulatory settings provide appropriate incentives to use flexibility options	

# Workstreams – what will they do and deliver?

A workstream is to....bring together expertise and experience on a specific set of topics or theme in the Flexibility Plan

What are the activities and outputs of a workstream?

- eg, perspective on progress with in-scope activities given the FlexForum objective and the programme set out in the Flexibility Plan
- eg, advice about a specific issue/task and updates to the Flexibility Plan
- eg, advice about gaps and duplication
- eg, contribute expertise/experience to a project

How does a workstream identify and pursue priorities?

- eg, is a prioritisation framework needed

## Discussion:

1. What are the activities and outputs of a workstream?
2. How does a workstream identify and pursue priorities?
3. What specific outputs could be delivered for each task in the proposed workstreams, how and when?
4. What useful outputs could be delivered within 4 months for each proposed workstream?

# What is currently being done?

Discuss: how do we discover who is doing something or plans to do something in the next six months that is relevant to the Flexibility Plan 1.0

- known knowns, eg, FlexTalk, ResiFlex, various MTR pilots
- known unknowns, eg, ENA Future Networks Forum workplan
- unknown unknowns...

Knowing who to talk to about who is doing what will assist workstreams make choices about what they do

## Discussion:

1. How does the FlexForum discover and disseminate information about activities undertaken by others?
2. How does the FlexForum contribute to activities being undertaken by others?

# Actions from today

What happens next?

What will you do to get it done?