



Notes: FlexForum session 24

When	0900 – 1030, Thursday 1 June 2023
Where	Virtual
Who	Shay Brazier (Revolve Energy), John Campbell (Our Energy), Jason Christini-Crawford (ecotricity), Margaret Cooney (Octopus), Sam Elder (Orion), Ryan Kuggeleijn (Meridian), Mark Herring (Transpower/SO), Peter Kimber (Influx), Jeremy Levy (Mercury), Cristiano Marantes (Ara Ake), MaryAnn Mitchell (IEGA), Terry Paddy (cortexo), Eric Pyle (solarzero), Tom Rose (evnex), Scott Scrimgeour (Wellington Electricity), James Tipping (Vector), Evie Trolove, (Orion), Nicolas Vessiot (Transpower), Fiona Wiseman (Manawa)
	Secretariat: Craig Evans, Matt Smith
Materials	1. Draft agenda 2. Pre-reading

Session notes

0 Agenda overview

The group agreed the agenda.

1 Decide the initial Steering Group

The group reviewed the list of confirmed requests to join FlexForum Incorporated and the list of nominees for membership of the Steering Group.

The group noted that eligibility for membership of the Steering Group (other than the chair) included the member being a formal Member of the FlexForum (or a representative of a Member).

The group noted that all the nominees for membership of the Steering Group were associated with a confirmed prospective FlexForum Member except for Eric Pyle and Margaret Cooney.

- Eric verbally confirmed solarzero intended joining FlexForum Incorporated.
- Margaret Cooney indicated Octopus required more information about the basis for calculating the annual subscriptions before committing to joining. The group agreed Margaret could participate in the selection process and be considered as a candidate on the basis Octopus in principle intended joining the FlexForum.

Scott Scrimgeour verbally confirmed Wellington Electricity intended to join the FlexForum.

MaryAnn Mitchell advised the IEGA had not yet confirmed its intention to join the FlexForum and would not participate in the selection/voting process.

Selection process

The group noted the proposed selection processes to decide the chair and the other steering group members.

- decision by show of hands or by voting
- the criteria to be a member of the Steering Group, including that the membership as a whole
 - reflects the diverse and whole-of-supply chain interests and participation in the FlexForum
 - gives Members confidence that the Steering Group will act in the best interests of the FlexForum, its objectives and purpose, rather than specific sectoral or organisational interests.
- the thresholds for election in the draft constitution
 - for the chair - 'The first candidate to receive 50% of all votes of Members present will be elected as Chair.'
 - for other members – '... so that all of the candidates named in the list are elected by 60% of Members present.'
- one vote per prospective Member. The group noted there were 17 Members eligible to vote, with 16 present and 1 proxy.
 - The group noted that Brendan Winitana/SEANZ had given a proxy vote to Shay Brazier/revolve.

Deciding the independent chair

The group decided by show of hands to defer selecting the independent chair to provide time to find more candidates.

The group agreed the process for identifying and selecting the independent chair:

- the Steering Group will develop a position description and expectations
- the Steering Group will confirm the budget available to compensate the independent chair
- the Steering Group will request Members to submit candidates
- the Steering Group will review the candidates and prepare a shortlist to be voted on by Members
- Members vote to select the chair from the candidates on the shortlist.

The group agreed to attempt to finalise this process before incorporation, but requested a change to the draft constitution to ensure FlexForum Incorporated could incorporate without having an independent chair.

Deciding the other Steering Group members

The group agreed the other Steering Group members are:

- Shay Brazier (revolve)
- John Campbell (Our Energy)
- Margaret Cooney (Octopus)
- Mark Herring (Transpower/SO)
- Terry Paddy (cortexo)
- Matt Smith (Vector)

- Evie Trollove (Orion)
- Fiona Wiseman (Manawa)

The group decided the other Steering Group members by each Member ranking their 8 preferred candidates in order from 1 to 8 taking account of the criteria and achieving a balanced membership.

The group discussed the results of the initial vote and agreed the eight top ranked candidates individually and collectively met the requirements for the Steering Group including:

- reflecting the diverse and whole-of-supply chain interests and participation in the FlexForum
- giving Members confidence that the Steering Group will act in the best interests of the FlexForum, its objectives and purpose, rather than specific sectoral or organisational interests.

2 Update on co-funding discussion with MBIE

The group noted progress of discussions with MBIE on co-funding, including the indicative deliverables developed with input from Matt, James, Fiona and John being discussed with MBIE.

1. Support a knowledge hub by collating and curating findings from projects and trials within Aotearoa New Zealand and by producing insights relating to connections with and barriers to implementing the Flexibility Plan.
2. Regular assessments of progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan, including assessments of progress with the critical steps which require specific learning-by-doing or investigation.
3. Produce regular insights or advice papers synthesising the experience from the workstreams and collective experience of the membership. Some of the insights papers could respond to policy questions from MBIE if there is agreement with the Flex Forum steering group and the policy questions align with objectives of the Flex Forum.
4. Respond to regulatory consultation processes by providing advice, eg, to the Commerce Commission, Electricity Authority, MBIE etc
5. External engagements (content creation and active outreach), with regular webinars and delivering content through communications channels (eg, website / LinkedIn / newsletters).

The group noted MBIE intends confirming the proposed deliverables and next steps for co-funding by around 6 June and will also follow up with EECA.

3 Workplan update

The group noted progress with the workplan:

- six of 10 workplan tasks had been delivered
- tasks #4 (critical paths) and #5 (barriers) are 80-90% complete
- task #10 was 90% complete pending a final review before publication
- task #7 (pricing/valuing flexibility) has taken a backseat to other tasks.

4 Administration

The group noted the budget position.

Finish 1015.

