

# FLEXFORUM |

## AGM meeting: 22 August 2024

<b>When</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2024
<b>Where</b>	Online
<b>Who</b>	Steve Batstone (independent chair), Anthony Srzich (Mercury), Bradley Smith (Gridsight), Brendan McAnnalley (intellihub), Bridget Abernethy (ERANZ), Carmen Blackler (Blackyard), Chris Olson (evisi), Connie Dunbar (EEA), Corrie Stobie (intellihub), Craig Hackett (The Lines Company), Evie Trolove (Orion), Grace Burton (Manawa), Graeme Weston, Jason Christini-Crawford (ecotricity), John Campbell (Our Energy), Kannan Munisamy (Alpine), Laura Jones (ANU), Luz Rose (Bluecurrent), Murray Henderson (Transpower), Owen Woodhouse (Basis), Peter Berry (EEA), Stuart Johnston (EEA), Sara Carter (Electra), Shay Brazier (Revolve), Terry Paddy (Cortexo), Tom Rose (evnex), Michael Johnston (overlay), Briony Bennett (Ara Ake), James Tipping (Vector)  Secretariat: Craig Evans, Lyndal Blatch  Observers: Brian Fitzgerald (EECA), Gary White (Electricity Authority)
<b>Apologies</b>	Fiona Wiseman, Matt Smith, Ryan Kuggeleijn (proxy held by Evie Trolove)

## Session notes

### 1: Welcome

The Independent Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Members

- noted apologies
- noted proxies
- noted their obligations under the Commerce Act 1986 prohibiting anti-competitive conduct.

### The year that was

#### 2: A report on FlexForum affairs for 2023-24

The Chair gave a report on FlexForum affairs for 2023-24:

- We have built lots of relationships and connections over the past year.
- We have built and released two deep dives. Market frameworks and a smart EV workplan. We delivered both these projects to a high quality. Two great deliverables.
- We have had our messages heard across a broad spectrum of areas e.g. newsletters, FlexForum website and linkedIn.
- 50% growth in memberships over the past year.

Members accepted the report on FlexForum affairs.

### 3: Annual statement of accounts for 2023-24

The Chair gave a report on financial statements for the period to 31 March 2024.

- subscriptions underpinned the core functions of FlexForum. Additional grant and partner funding supported further activity
- Expenses were mostly for dedicated resources.

Members accepted the financial statements for 2023-24.

### The year ahead

#### 4: Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan 1.0

The Chair gave an overview of the first assessment of progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan.

- The assessment was completed with input from Members and by thirteen experts from across the membership.
- Headline result is that progress has been made, but more needs to be done and faster
- The ecosystem needs to do more to share what is being done and what is being learnt
- Need to do more learning-by-doing. We cannot rely on one trial or pilot being completed to solve a problem. We need to do it multiple times.
- The messages and themes coming through the progress report align with the insights in the deep dives. People are saying the same thing and expressing the same concerns.

Members accepted the Progress report.

#### 5: Flexforum workplan and budget for 2024-25

The Chair described the two budget options for 2024-25 and the implications for operating, doing and communication really well.

- Option 1. Core Delivery. Covered by subscriptions assuming current membership. This gets operating, some communicating and core doing, eg, targeted advice to regulators, updating/monitoring the Flexibility Plan and 1 extra activity, eg, a deep dive.
- Option 2. Resourced Delivery. Subscriptions plus \$100,000. This gets the core delivery plus being more consistent with communications and another extra activity.

Members voted on the question 'Do you agree to the recommendation to plan and budget based on the resourced delivery option, but keep spending at core delivery levels until additional funding is secured?'

- 25/25 votes agreed to the recommendation.

Members considered the proposed approach to the 2025 workplan which was developed based on doing the things that FlexForum can uniquely do well and would have the greatest impact.

- **Deep dives.** These give FlexForum a clear and coherent voice and platform on difficult topics and are the basis for responses and advice we give to regulators. We can do 1 or 2 of these in the year (3-4 months each). The specific topics will be identified by Members.
- **Maintain the Flexibility Plan and measure progress.** We need to keep the Plan current and enable a robust check on progress. The Plan and progress assessment give an authoritative and structured critique of the priorities of sectors and regulators and support effective collaboration and coordination.
  - The recent progress assessment and deep dives highlighted a range of updates to the Plan.
- **More learning by doing.** Leading up to the AGM, several Members requested a greater focus on doing things. This resulted in a proposal that FlexForum dedicate effort to scoping 'projects' and learning by doing which will make a tangible difference.
  - Members agreed with dedicating effort to this and gave suggestions on the initial activity; a FlexForum day to workshop several minimum viable propositions. Suggestions covered providing enough time to plan, prepare and advertise to get the right people in the room, focus on the right issues and to come up with feasible outcomes.
  - Members agreed to a shift in language from pilots and trials to minimal viable propositions to reflect the intent that the learning is scalable and will be implemented (if it works).
  - The projects will be informed by what else is happening, which relies on connecting dots and sharing of information.
  - You could model a workshop on the ARENA model - which is done annually and includes an overview, knowledge sharing sessions on current projects and breakouts to explore stakeholder experiences and generate ideas on broader themes and develop new projects
  - As well as approaching agencies like Ara Ake, you could approach distributors (bilaterally or via FlexForum or ENA FNF) to create joint INSTA applications (From April 2025).

Members endorsed the 2025 workplan approach.

## 6: Updating the Flexibility Plan

Members discussed the proposed approach to updating the Flexibility Plan. Suggestions included:

- endeavour to identify priorities and 3, 5 and 10 year goals/outputs
- endeavour to identify who can make the change given progress relies on an end to end whole of industry approach. The Flexibility Plan can more explicitly help to hold organisations accountable to deliver the actions.

Members endorsed the approach to updating the Flexibility Plan.

## Filling Steering Group vacancies

### 7: Independent Chair and Steering Group members

Members endorsed the appointment of Toby Stevenson as Independent Chair and Rebecca Osborne (Transpower) and Ryan Kuggeleijn (Meridian) as steering group members.

### 8: Final Words

Members thanked with great thanks

- Steve Batstone, for the hard graft and enthusiasm as initial independent chair
- All Steering Group members for the hard graft they do, and particularly Evie Trolove (Orion) who is stepping down as a steering group member at the close of the AGM
- The four workstream conveners for giving their time to make a reality of coordination and collaboration
- All FlexForum Members who by taking time out from their day jobs are the reason FlexForum can successfully deliver its objective.

End 1100.