

FlexForum

Annual General Meeting

22 August 2024



Agenda: 22 August 2024

1. Welcome

The year that was

2. A report on FlexForum affairs for 2023-24
3. Annual statement of accounts for 2023-24

The year ahead

2. Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan 1.0
3. FlexForum Workplan and Budget for 2024-25
4. Updating the Flexibility Plan

Filling Steering Group vacancies

2. Independent Chair and Steering Group members

Final words

2. Final words

1 Welcome

Purpose of this item:

- Welcome
- Apologies and proxies

The purpose of the FlexForum is to **support coordinated and collaborative action** 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

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.

As steering group members you are acting in an individual capacity not as a representative of your organisation.

FlexForum Members



2 A report on FlexForum affairs for 2023-24

Actions:

- Accept the report on FlexForum affairs for 2023-24....thumbs up or down

The report on FlexForum affairs for 2023-24 from the independent Chair on behalf of the Steering Group is [here](#). The report highlights...

We built the base have a real impact in 2025

- Built the connections needed for effective coordination and collaboration... between Members and with partners like MBIE, regulators and ENA
- Delivered deep dives into difficult topics using the expertise of our diverse membership to establish common facts and work out where differences lie
- Undertook the first rigorous assessment of the pace and direction of progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan. Things that are measured are more effectively managed. The exercise has highlighted things to prioritise
- Commissioned a Knowledge Hub to collate the collective experience with flexibility and share what is being done. The Knowledge Hub should be live September 2024
- Had our message heard. The website has been visited by 1600 people. 11 newsletters have gone out since August 2023. The July newsletter went to 350 people. It is routinely read by 50% of the people it goes to (this is very good apparently). 41 linkedin posts with 14,458 impressions. Followers have increased by 50% to 348 over the year.

We had our value recognised

- A 50% growth in membership from 23 in July 2023 to 35 today.
- EECA partnered with us to develop an EV charging workplan and help it identify and set its priorities for the coming year. The [Sustainable Business Council](#) supported our work. Policy bodies and regulators want our advice...

We know how we can make the biggest impact

- **Deep dives** harnessing the expertise of our diverse membership give the ability to specify priorities with a coherent and expert voice
- **Maintaining the plan and measuring progress**. The Flexibility Plan is a powerful ruler to run over learning-by-doing (pilots, trials) and regulatory proposals to make sure they are heading in the right direction and involve the people who should be involved
- **More learning-by-doing** is needed (on the right things). We can scope the practical actions and activities that are most needed to maintain pace and direction and involve the people who should be involved

3 Annual statement of accounts for 2023-24

Actions:

- Accept the 2023-24 accounts....thumbs up or down

The statement of accounts for 2023-24 is [here](#)

- the 2023-24 accounts were prepared by Evolution Business Services (a suitably qualified accountant) and set out the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities for 2023-24
- the accounts must be filed with the Companies Office any time after being received by Members at a general meeting and no later than 31 August 2024

The summary

- The accounts cover the first 9 months of FlexForum's operation (to March 31st)
- subscriptions invoiced for the year to 31 March 2024 = \$182,000 (plus \$40,000 additional subscriptions received prior to incorporation); **this underpinned the core functions of FlexForum**
- Additional grant and partner income enabled us to deliver a more ambitious workplan, which underpins FF 2025
 - Ara Ake offered a one-off grant of up to \$250,000, on a 1-1 basis with subscriptions. Subscriptions matched and exceeded this.
 - EECA funded the EV charging workplan
- expenses were mostly for dedicated resources to get stuff done - Chief Doer, Chair and workstream technical doers

4 Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan

The report on Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan is [here](#)

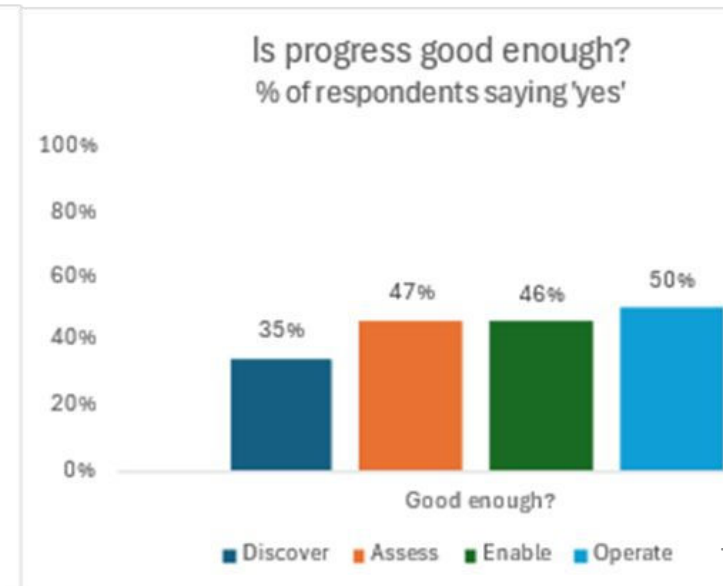
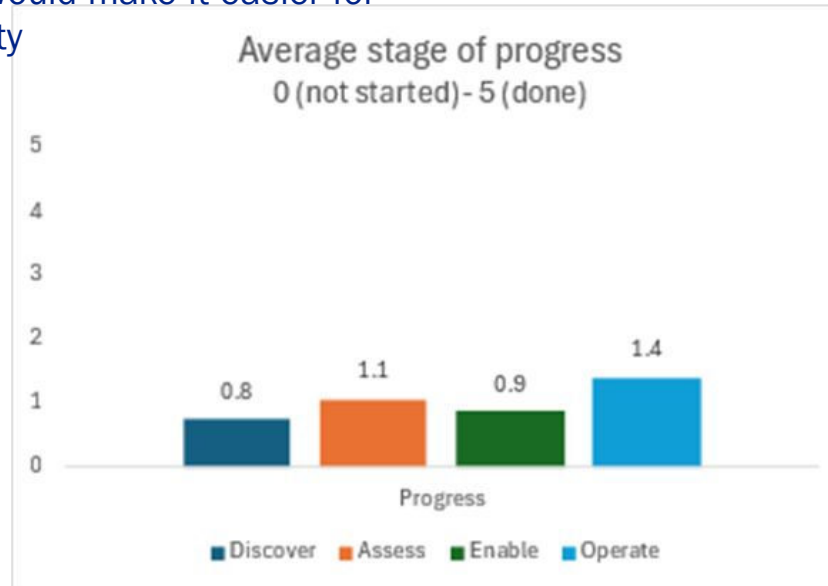
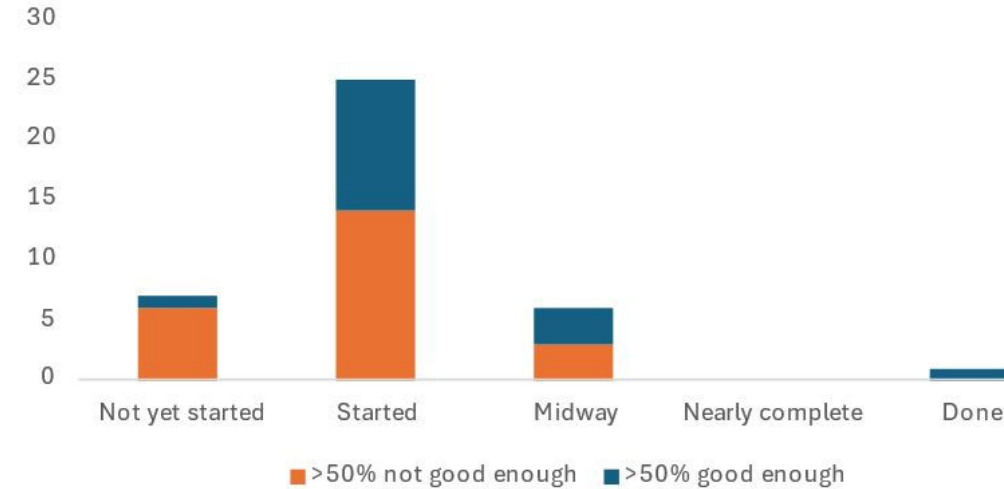
- We assessed the pace and direction of progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan. This is the first assessment
- Monitoring progress with the Flexibility Plan is a necessary condition for effective coordination and collaboration

The headline results are...

- Progress is being made but more needs to be done and faster
- More learning-by-doing is needed.
- And we need to do better with sharing and transparency of both thinking and learning-by-doing - it took a day to collate the list of projects in the progress report
- A greater focus is needed on the steps which would make it easier for people to make their business case for flexibility

Actions:

- Accept the report on progress with the Flexibility Plan....thumbs up or down



5 FlexForum Workplan and Budget for 2024-25

What FF does and the FF budget go hand in hand.

- the 2025 budget is based on FF doing 3 things: **operating, doing and communicating really well**
- there are 2 budget options forecast based on what we learned in 2023-24
 - Option 1: Core delivery. Covered by Member subscriptions assuming everyone stays involved
 - Option 2: Resourced delivery. Member subscriptions + ~\$100,000

Option 1 Core delivery gets operating, some communicating and core doing, ie, targeted advice to regulators, updating/monitoring the Flexibility Plan and 1 deep dive

Option 2 Resourced delivery gets operating, much more communicating, the core doing, plus 1 more deep dive or scoping several pilots/trials to deliver practical action

More detail on the 2 budget options is provided on the next page

There are 2 budget options for 2024-25

Two budget options for 2024-25

- **Core delivery:** core FF functions involving
 - Chair (new scope)
 - Chief Doer
 - communication and engagement with members, observers, industry, including targeted advice to regulators etc
 - Flexibility plan update & progress and a deep dive, eg, completing the blueprint.
- **Resourced delivery (+\$100,000pa):** core functions plus
 - delivery of one major piece of work (eg, a deep dive or scoping 2-4 pilots/trials)
 - enhanced communications and engagement.

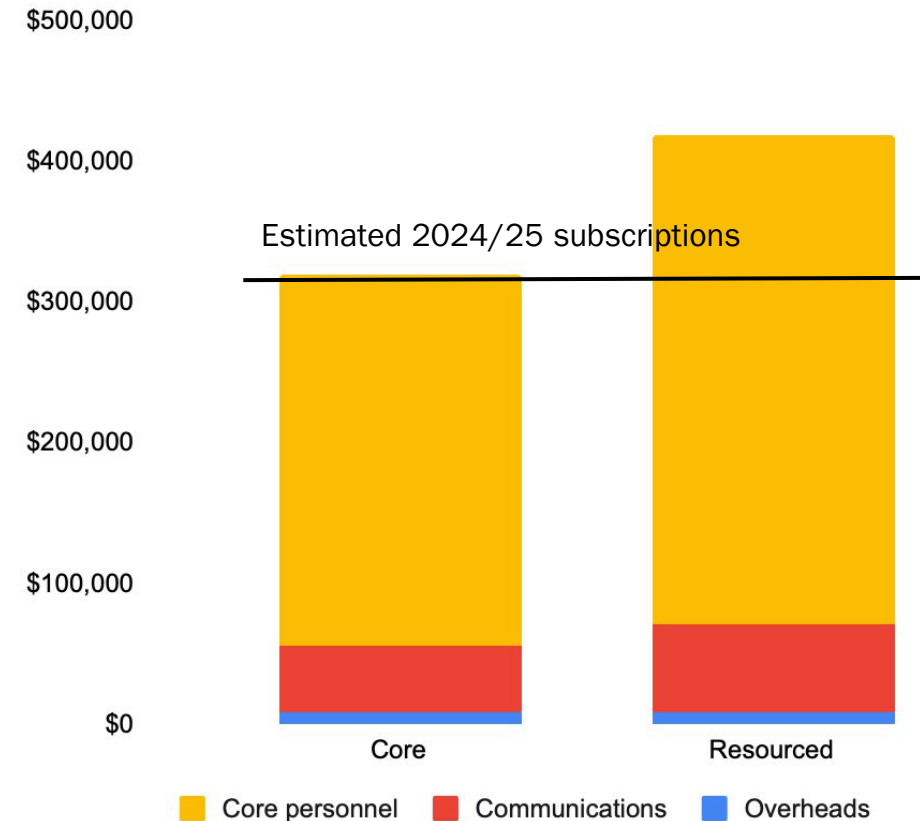
More funding for dedicated resources will allow for more delivery. The recommendation is to plan (budget) the year for Resourced, but keep resourcing at “Core” levels until additional funding is secured.

The budget must be approved by 50% of Members present today.

Actions:

- Approve a FlexForum Budget for 2024-25 [poll]

Core vs Resourced



The recommended approach means between now and February (6 months), FlexForum can deliver...

1. An updated Flexibility Plan
2. A deep dive OR scoping pilots/trials
3. More outreach and communicating our views

2025 workplan proposal - doing these things will have the greatest impact

Actions:

- Approve the 2025 workplan proposal...thumbs up or down

The 2025 workplan proposal reflects the FF value proposition and things it can uniquely do to have the greatest impact

2025 workplan specifics need to be decided by Members. We will do this through a process starting after the AGM. But based on our core business, the Progress report and deep dives this year the activities and areas we are likely to want to play in...

...**Deep dives** into things Members think are suffering from an absence of agreed facts or needs direction about what to do

- We can do 1 or maybe 2 of these within the resourced delivery budget, eg, finalise the blueprint of what good looks like with 3, 5, 10 year goals (ie, complete the work started in May)

...**Update the Flexibility Plan and report on progress** to keep the Flexibility Plan up to date and use it to run a ruler over activity to check effort is being efficiently allocated and hold people accountable for progress

- this is a must do activity and a critical input to defining the priorities of regulators and for learning-by-doing (see next item/page for more detail on the approach)

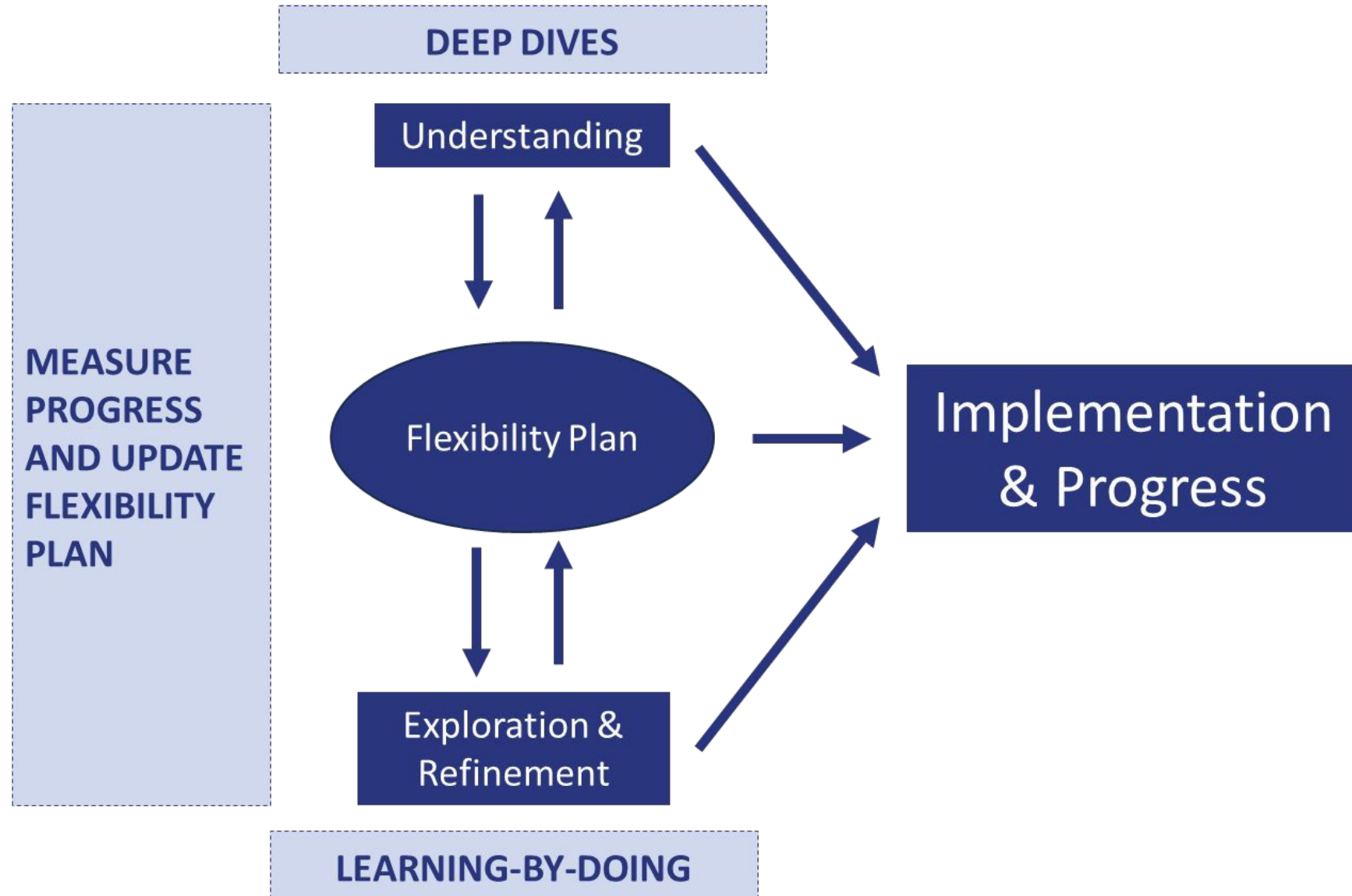
...**Scope the practical actions and activities** that will accelerate learning-by-doing and make a tangible difference to what people know/feel/do

- let's hold an in person Member workshop in October so you can identify and scope at least 4 pilots/trials that...
 - make progress where progress is needed, ie, the actions in the discover and assess phases of the flexibility journey identified through the progress report and workstream work this year
 - has a core group of Members committed to delivering the pilot/trial without mucking about
 - can be taken to regulators and funding agencies like Ara Ake et al to get the partnership and support necessary to make things happen

Note: the workplan activities are in addition to BAU operating and communicating activities such as providing advice to regulators and populating the Knowledge Hub to collate learning.

The role we play and things we do

- **Deep dives** harnessing the expertise of our diverse membership give the ability to specify priorities with a coherent and expert voice
- **Maintaining the plan and measuring progress.** The Flexibility Plan is a powerful ruler to run over learning-by-doing and regulatory proposals to make sure they are heading in the right direction and involve the people who should be involved
- **More learning-by-doing** is needed (on the right things). We can scope the practical actions and activities that are most needed to maintain pace and direction and involve the people who should be involved.



6 Updating the Flexibility Plan

Actions:

- Approve the approach to update the Flexibility Plan....
Thumbs up or down

Maintaining the Flexibility Plan is a core FlexForum purpose and a core part of the value proposition

- the progress report exercise highlighted the value of assessing progress against a coherent whole-of-system checklist, identifying priorities and providing the basis for effective coordination and collaboration
- the plan allows a robust assessment of current and missing priorities across the full scope of activity underway or needed to update the system and market settings. No one else has the ability right now to do this

To continue to provide a robust check on activity, **we need to update the Plan....**

- let's again step through the journey of a household etc to develop version 2.0. We can do this ahead of checking progress again in April and May 2025
- the exercise should involve Members and observers - Commission, EA, EECA, MBIE, Utilities Commission - to achieve better coordination and alignment of activities
- this time around we can try to identify 3, 5, 10 year goals

Note: changes or additions to the Flexibility Plan must be made at the AGM or a extraordinary general meeting and must be approved by 60% of Members present at the meeting

7 Filling Steering Group vacancies

Filling Steering Group vacancies - there are 4 SG vacancies to fill

- 1 x independent Chair
- 3 x steering Group members (2 of these vacancies must be filled to meet the requirements of the constitution)

The nomination process resulted in 3 nominations. All nominees meet the requirements and criteria outlined in the constitution

- 1 x nomination for independent chair. Toby Stevenson, Consulting Director, Sapere Research Group.
- 2 x nominations for the steering group
 - Rebecca Osborne, Head of Market Services, Operations Division, Transpower.
 - Ryan Kuggeleijn, Head of Energy Innovation, Meridian Energy

Members were advised 22 July that as the number of nominations matches the minimum number of vacancies to be filled, no voting process is required and nominations will be confirmed at the AGM.

- the Steering Group has the ability to fill vacancies on a temporary basis (ie, until the next AGM)

The next Steering Group meeting is 12 September 2024

Actions:

- Endorse the appointment of Toby Stevenson as independent chair
- Endorse the appointment of Rebecca Osborne and Ryan Kuggeleijn as steering group members

Actions:

- Approve a vote of thanks

8 Final words

A vote of thanks

- ...to the initial independent chair, Steve Batstone
- ...to the 4 workstream conveners, Terry Paddy, Grace Burtin, Stuart Johnston and Tom Rose
- ...to the Steering Group members, particularly Evie Trolove who is stepping down at the close of the AGM

Anything else?