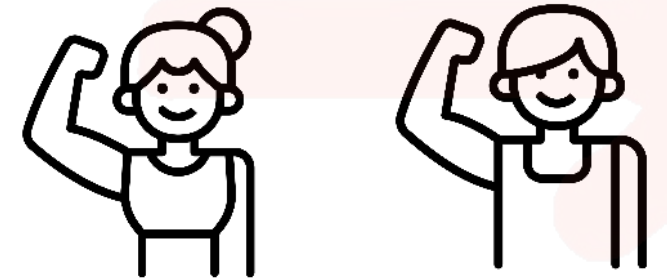


FlexForum Steering Group

Meeting agenda and context

10 October 2024



Agenda: 10 October 2024

1. Welcome

Strategic items

2. FlexForum as the go to place for flexibility

Standing items

2. Engagement - update
4. Workplan - update
5. Finance - update

Procedural items

4. Membership requests
7. Actions
8. Next Steering Group meeting
9. AoB/Close

1 Welcome

Purpose of this item:

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Interests
- Confirm the agenda

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.

2 FlexForum as the go to place for flexibility

Actions:

1. Identify which decisions makers need to know more about FF when developing the who to catch up with plan

Purpose of this item:

- Discuss opportunities to make FlexForum the go to place for flexibility

FlexForum is pretty well known across the ecosystem, but key decision makers don't always know how it can help them get stuff done faster and better

- lots of electricity ecosystem decision makers are aware FF exists. But they are not always sure what it does and how it can help

Our unique selling point is the ability to put expert, consensus-based facts on the table faster than anyone else

- the EV charging workplan developed for EECA tested the concept and approach
- the recent workshops (26/09 and 03/10) happened because 1 person at the Electricity Authority requested FF help to reality test the design of some regulatory options
 - the raw outputs indicate quality insights which will help the EA and FF to develop robust positions on key topics
 - people say they found the workshops interesting and useful (including several via follow up emails)
 - they require effort, particularly to collate and synthesise the discussions

There are several other topics which would benefit from the FF workshop treatment, ie, topics with multiple interests and affects across the ecosystem

- eg, why, when and how Transpower (SO and TO) uses flexibility. A recent exchange involving Transpower and others said 'there is value in further discussion [about flexibility] and suggest that FlexForum would be an appropriate place to continue these conversations – given that potential opportunities in both the Upper South Island and Waikato relate to flex management (supply and demand)...'

Doing more workshop processes requires extra delivery capacity

- the workshop process for the EA was possible because it aligned with FF priorities and resource deployment choices - we could not commit to exploring these issues in more detail or workshoping another topic without obtaining more delivery capacity
- the FF workshop treatment is the most effective method currently available to quickly get to the heart of a flexibility-related topic
- doing more workshops requires decision-makers knowing the FF workshop treatment will make their jobs easier AND them being prepared to provide financial support for the extra delivery capacity needed to do the work

3 Engagement (1)

Actions: No action requested

Purpose of this item:

- Update on people we have or will speak with

Key interactions since the previous SG meeting

- EEA workshop. 10 September. Secretariat spoke at the workshop and met with a bunch of FF members and potential members
- 2 x FF workshops about flexibility-related interventions on 26 September (39 people from FF and the EA) and 3 October (29 people from FF and the EA)

Note: these interactions were responsive with people coming to us or chance meetings. We have not actively scheduled anything for a while due to availability and lack of a 'who to catch up with' plan.

- no progress has been made with the who to catch up with plan

3 Engagement (2)

Actions: No action requested

Website interaction

- total users in September = 212 with 349 sessions. Down compared to August, but we put less on the website
- page view peaks correlate with linkedIn posts and and newsletter publication

Marketing Website Summary					Data From Google Analytics
Total users	New users	Sessions	Engaged sessions	Views	
213	172	349	209	712.0	
↓ -62	↓ -27.7%	↓ -21.4%	↓ -5.9%	↓ -14.4%	

Newsletter

- September newsletter sent 24-09-24 to 345 people (lower number of recipients due to people leaving jobs). Open and click rate is apparently impressive

Mailchimp Summary					Stats From Mailchimp Webinar Email Only
Recipients	Open Rate	Total Opens	Click Rate	Total Clicks	
345 ↓ 8	47.8% ↑ 6.6%	333 ↓ 22	13%	225 ↑ 32	

LinkedIn

- Follower numbers continue to grow - nearly at 400

Social Media Engagement Summary					Data From, LinkedIn
Total Number of posts	Total Engagements	Reactions/Likes	Comments	Shares	
6 ↓ 2	80 ↑ 22	74 ↑ 32	5 ↓ 2	1 ↓ 5	

4 Workplan

Purpose of this item:

- Update on progress with the workplan and other FlexForum tasks.

The current workplan to do list

- Accelerating flexibility through doing. This task kicks off with Flex Day and is to deliver activities or demonstration projects which accelerate delivery of the Flexibility Plan by doing things which build confidence in flexibility and provide tangible benefits to humans.
- Updating the Flexibility Plan. The approach for updating the Plan is documented [here](#). The task will identify and agree a *plausible future state* (at Flex Day) and more clearly link steps to the flexibility outcomes that people want. This will inform including priorities, goals and timelines in the Plan.
- Advice to regulators. We are focusing on regulatory consultations which deal with FlexForum priorities
 - [the Code amendment omnibus #4 consultation](#) has a proposal to improve consumers' access to their electricity data that is directly relevant to delivering Flexibility Plan 1.0. A response has been shared with Members. Advice is due pm Tuesday 15 October
 - the workshops considering the flexibility-related interventions being assessed by the Energy Competition Taskforce gives FF a head start on its advice when these are consulted on in December (or thereabouts)

Flex Day arrangements...

- Agenda sent 30 September
- 43 rsvps (at 08-10) from across the membership
- 4 people (at 08-10) had sent 6 ideas to kick start the design session
 - responses due Friday 11 October

Humans	Distributors	Retail	Data system	Solutions	Observers
Whiteboard Energy	EEA x 2	Mercury	Cortexo	Evnex	EECA x 2
Rewiring	Alpine Energy x 2	The Energy Collective	intellihub	Basis	Ara Ake
Otago	Orion x 2	ERANZ	Gridsight	Solar Zero x 2	EA x 2
Vicki Buck	Powerco	Ecotricity	Bluecurrent	RBP x 2	IEGA
	Vector x 2	Mercury		Grid Share	ENA
	Wellington Electricity	Meridian			Commission
	Transpower				7

5 Finance update

Purpose of this item:

- note cashflow projection
- note status of payment of invoiced subscriptions

Cashflow projection

- Doing and comms expenses overall are tracking within budget
- 23/24 carry over subscription funds are being allocated to targeted advice
 - improving data access consultation and front-running consultation by the taskforce
- no budget has been allocated for Flex Day follow up, eg, assisting with the detailed project scopes. Specific 'top up' funding will be needed to keep momentum

Status of subscriptions

- 2 invoices just sent to new Members, plus 16 membership renewal invoices due 20 October (with 1 not renewing and 2 already paid)

Action:

1. Discuss options to ensure momentum following Flex Day

6 Membership

Purpose of this item:

- note Membership enquiries, requests and decisions since previous meeting

Reconfirming waivers of subscriptions

- 3 Members were approved waivers of the membership subscription in October and November 2023. These need to be reconfirmed:

Actions:

1. Reconfirm the approval of waivers of the membership subscription

7 Actions

Purpose of this item:

- Note actions

Actions from FlexForum and Steering Group meetings from 1 July 2023 to 13 September 2024 are documented here: [FF collated actions - FF and SG meetings](#)

- all time-bound and time-critical actions are complete or underway

No action requested

8 Next meeting

Purpose of this item:

- Confirm the date for the next Steering Group meeting

Next Steering Group meeting

- the next SG meeting is scheduled (diarised) for 14 November

ACTION: confirm the 14 November SG meeting

9 Other business

Purpose of this item:

- Any other business