

# FLEXFORUM |

## Steering Group meeting

<b>When</b>	Thursday 12 December 2024, 0930-12
<b>Where</b>	Virtual
<b>Who</b>	Steve Batstone, Shay Brazier, John Campbell, Terry Paddy, Matt Smith, Secretariat: Craig Evans, Lyndal Blatch Observers: Brian FitzGerald (EECA), Sean McCready (CC), Briony Bennett (Ara Ake),
<b>Apologies</b>	Ryan Kuggeleijn, Toby Stevenson, Rebecca Osborne, Fiona Wiseman, Mark Herring (EA), Peter Bartlett (MBIE)

## Session notes

### 1: Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the session.

The SG:

- confirmed there was a quorum
- noted their individual obligations relating to the Commerce Act 1986 prohibiting anti-competitive conduct
- noted apologies
- confirmed the agenda.

The SG noted Steve was appointed by the SG as temporary chair while the chair is absent, but would not vote on decisions relating to finances to manage any conflicts of interest.

## Strategic items

### 2: Bottom lines for partnering with EECA

The SG agreed FF should support EECA to develop its scaled demonstration pilot project, subject to not losing sight of the Flex Day ideas.

TContext: The SG agreed in-principle on 28 November to partner with EECA to deliver a scale demonstration pilot project, and agreed to commit resources to work with EECA and others to develop the project scope and approach.

- following the 28 November in-principle agreement for FF to partner with EECA to develop the scaled demonstration pilot project, the Chair and Secretariat met with EECA to get more information about the project objective and EECA expectations.
- the next step is to hear from FF distributor Members to find out ‘what evidence do you need for flexibility to become a BAU tool’ to test the project hypothesis and inform the project methodology and approach.
- the proposed MOU between FF and EECA would outline how everyone will work together and include a description of the methodology. Details of the project methodology and approach will be needed by project participants to decide they want to participate.
- the SG discussed the bottom lines for FF participation, noting the key terms are: transparency, inclusivity and being able to join the dots across activities. These terms recognise the FF purpose is to support coordination and collaboration.
- the SG noted the scaled demonstration pilot project is separate to the Empower project.
- the SG noted the timelines are challenging and require an iterative approach. The initial stage gate is a draft MOU by mid February.
- the SG discussed whether the flex day ideas can be delivered as well as the project and noted the potential for alignment.

## 4: Workplan

The SG discussed the key interactions that have occurred since the previous Steering Group meeting. An update was provided about the engagement numbers on the website, newsletter and LinkedIn.

- noted a Christmas edition newsletter coming out next week.
- noted the Chair and Secretariat participated in early engagement with MBIE and EECA about the EV charging regulations.
- noted the Secretariat spoke with the Electricity Authority about its upcoming data and digitalisation work and that a FF perspective on these issues needs to be developed.

## 4: Workplan

The SG noted updates to the workplan progress and the three main streams of focus:

- Supporting learning by doing
- Updating the flexibility plan: Members have been asked to provide information independently or via mini workshops about flexibility business case questions, how these questions are answered now, and what actions could make answering easier/routine. Group sessions are next Thursday and late January. A FF workshop will be held in late February.
- Advice to regulators:
  - o advice has been provided to MBIE on voltage limit proposals
  - o advice has been provided to the EA on its 2025-26 EV proposal and indicative work plan
  - o Under development is advice to taskforce (EA) on filling holes on value stack. A workshop was held in November. An Insights paper will be developed from the workshop.

The SG noted that we need to communicate with our members that we are focusing on working with EECA to scope and approach to its scaled demonstration pilot.

## 5: Finance

The SG noted the financial update of the FlexForum.

# Procedural items

## 6. Membership requests

The SG noted the recent membership enquiries, requests and decisions since the previous meeting.

## 7. Actions

The SG noted the status of actions from previous sessions. All actions are underway.

## 8. Next Steering Group meeting

The SG agreed to cancel the 9<sup>th</sup> January meeting and hold the next SG meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

The SG agreed to put in a meeting for an EECA project update – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 10am-11am.

## 9. AoB/Close

Meeting finished 10.38am

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