

# FLEXFORUM



## Steering Group meeting

<b>When</b>	Thursday 14 November 2024, 0930-1200
<b>Where</b>	Virtual
<b>Who</b>	Toby Stevenson, Matt Smith, Fiona Wiseman, Rebecca Osborne, Shay Brazier, John Campbell Secretariat: Craig Evans, Lyndal Blatch Observers: Brian FitzGerald (EECA), Mark Herring (EA), Sean McCready (CC)
<b>Apologies</b>	Ryan Kuggeleijn, Terry Paddy, Briony Bennett (Ara Ake), 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.

## Strategic items

### 2: Being even more active and forward thinking

The SG discussed how FlexForum can be more active and forward-thinking in its activities.

The Chair gave their perspective that FlexForum must focus on activities which produce tangible learning and insights to keep making progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan. Particularly given the unique FlexForum attributes which means it can do things others cannot and the expectations and promise of Flex Day.

SG members agreed, sharing the following perspectives:

- the focus is activities which result in actual use of flexibility
- the opportunity includes leapfrogging of regulatory process by discovering a different pathway or new option. FF can help to prove the system value (from flexibility) is there and waiting, and use this evidence to push rather than wait for regulation.
- Learning is needed. Although flexibility is proved elsewhere in the world, learning is needed to confirm how to use it in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The Electricity Authority Power Innovation Pathway provides a pathway to change rules (and avoid people having to break the rules) and to address frictions. The pathway will work best when people provide information and insights that create a specific question/ask for the EA.

The SG endorsed FF focusing efforts to make progress delivering initiatives emerging from Flex Day.

## Standing items

### 3: Engagement

The SG noted updates on engagement activity.

- the Chair had spoken with all SG members and all observers apart from the Commerce Commission. The overarching theme of these conversations is that SG members want to see output results, clarity and trials/ information about flexing that can be used within organisations/the ecosystem.
- the Chair was invited to participate in the Energy Sector Framework which is working on a principles based energy strategy.
- the Knowledge Hub development is underway. Testing is expected during November.

### 4: Workplan

The SG noted updates on workplan progress and other FlexForum tasks. Effort is going into 3 tasks:

- **updating the Flexibility Plan.** Progress is delayed due to the focus on Flex Day and accelerating learning-by-doing. The plan is to get input from Members in late November or early December to create an updated list of steps.
- **advice to regulators.** The SG noted advice had been provided to the EA about access to consumption data, and further advice was being developed about options to fill holes in the value stack.
- The SG requested that, if time permits, FF provide a brief response - just do it - to the MBIE proposal to adjust the voltage settings.
- **Learning-by-doing.** A mix of views was received from Members on proceeding with the Flex Day ideas, with no clear favourite. A project idea was developed following conversations with EECA and Ara Ake and input is being sought from Members.

The SG agreed additional resources are required to deliver the workplan tasks.

### 5: Finance

The SG noted the finance update, cash flow projections and status of subscription payments.

The SG agreed in principle to contracting an extra Doer to support delivering the workplan, noting this was possible based on the cashflow and budget projections. The SG requested a scope of work be prepared and shared before finalising any arrangements.

## Procedural items

### 6: Membership requests

The SG noted Membership requests approved since the previous SG meeting, and interest from further parties.

## 7: Actions

The SG noted the status of actions from previous sessions.

## 8: Next Steering Group meeting

The SG agreed the next SG meeting would be 12 December 2024.

## 9: Any other business

No other business.

Meeting finished 11.05am

DRAFT