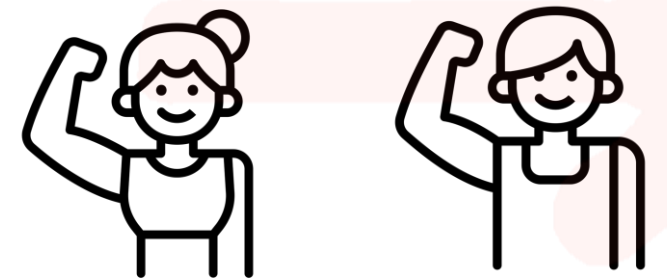


FlexForum Steering Group

Meeting agenda and context

10 April 2025



Agenda: 10 April 2025

1. Welcome

Strategic items

2. Flexibility Plan 2.0 - implications and options for FlexForum

Standing items

2. Engagement

4. Workplan

5. Finance

Procedural items

4. Actions

5. Next meeting

6. AoB/Close

1 Welcome

Purpose of this item:

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Interests and reminders
- 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 Flexibility Plan 2.0... context

Purpose of this item:

- to consider implications, opportunities and options for FlexForum of Flexibility Plan 2.0

Context: progress with Flexibility Plan 2.0

- the Members at the 14 March Workshop endorsed the flexibility journey and said 'press on' with the proposed steps, noting the content is detailed and extensive
- a further iteration of the proposed steps, including suggestions for task leaders were shared with Members and key partners on 3 April. Comments are due by Friday 18 April
- the agenda for the 30 April FF Member meeting includes an item to approve changes to the Flexibility Plan, ie, approve version 2.0

Context: key points about the upgrade

- steps are organised using the existing Discover, Assess, Enable and Operate flexibility journey structure. A graphic is being developed to show the journey and the steps
- each step connects to an action a sophisticated homo economicus (or agent) would take to advance through the flexibility journey, and includes a brief description how the action is not easy or routine and the reasons. The proposed steps are based on extensive working notes. This detail is not included (it's a 19 page landscape table versus an 8 page portrait table)
- steps have been reworded due to a more explicit focus on the actions of the human through the flexibility journey and improved descriptions of the action expected to deliver the step. References are given to the equivalent step in Flexibility Plan 1.0
- several new steps were added because we know more now, eg, about holes in the value stack
- a task leader has been suggested for each step because Members requested at the 2024 AGM that each step have a leader/party overseeing progress to enhance accountability

2 Flexibility Plan 2.0... implications (2)

Here are 2 implications of the approach to updating the flexibility plan

1. some Members get nervous about approving Flexibility Plan 2.0, particularly if they have not engaged in the development process.
2. suggested task leaders don't want to accept responsibility for the task

The Flexibility Plan development process should mitigate the small risk that some Members get nervous about approving Flexibility Plan 2.0

- the constitution requires changes to the Flexibility Plan be approved by 60% of Members present at the FF meeting on 30 April
- the plan steps through a complex process involving difficult issues. Descriptions of the problem are paraphrased to keep things simple and accessible.
- there is a risk that people not directly involved in the development process do not have the underlying context and reasoning for the proposed steps etc and want more time/changes etc
- the risk has been managed
 - the development process gave all Members an opportunity to attend workshops/discussions in late December 2024 and January 2025 to give views on the approach and things to consider in the updated
 - the proposed steps were shared 11 March ahead of a workshop on 14 March. The potential for the detail to be overwhelming was discussed at the workshop. Attendees noted the extensive detail, but concluded that progress is preferred over perfection and steps can be updated if necessary
 - a further iteration of the proposed steps were shared 3 April with input requested by 18 April.
- Does the SG think this risk has been effectively mitigated?

2 Flexibility Plan 2.0... implications (3)

Tasks ideally will be led by the party best placed to take the action, but they may not consider it a priority

- Task leaders are the party FF would approach when assessing progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan, but could have outsourced the actual work
- The task leader suggestions were developed based on:
 - a party is already working on the task, and/or
 - a party would be delivering the output of the task, and/or
 - a party is interested in the task and output.
- 9 parties have been identified as task leaders/co-leaders (see table). A leader has not been identified for 10 tasks requiring whole-of-system coordination (see following discussion of opportunities and options for FF)
- Members and suggested task leaders have been asked to provide input/thoughts by 18 April. Big questions are:
 - Are the suggested leaders the ones most able to achieve progress? Could retailers, ERANZ, SEANZ etc be listed as a task leader? What practical options exist for tasks without a natural leader? (ie, the tasks not yet assigned). This is considered next in the discussion of opportunities and options for FF
 - What does FF do if a suggested leader is most able to drive progress, but does not consider that task a priority or want to be listed as a task lead?
- Does the SG think the Flexibility Plan can identify task leaders even if they do not agree? Having to get agreement and permission from a party to be listed as a task leader creates a range of challenges, particularly if the party does not see the task as important given its priorities. However, if a party is the natural leader for a task, then listing them is just stating a reality.

| Suggested leader | # tasks |
|--------------------|---------|
| ENA | 10 |
| EA | 10 |
| EECA | 8 |
| EEA | 1 |
| Rewiring | 1 |
| System operator | 1 |
| Transpower | 1 |
| Utilities Disputes | 1 |
| MBIE | 1 |
| Unassigned | 10 |

2 Flexibility Plan 2.0... opportunities and options (4)

There are 10 tasks which involve coordination of effort and input from different parts of the ecosystem, eg, both retailers and distributors etc

- there is no obvious single natural leader for these tasks because they span the supply chain/involve multi-lateral coordination

FlexForum could be the leader for these tasks

- FF would not need to do the work. But driving progress would involve serious cat-herding effort and hassling parties into doing their bit
- FF can either show leadership by assigning itself these coordination tasks or leave the task leadership role unassigned. What does the SG think about these options?
- The workplan and resource implications and budget options have not been assessed. This could be done for Members to consider at the 2025 AGM.

Actions: none requested

3 Engagement

Actions: none requested

Purpose of this item:

- SG reflections on Downstream
- upcoming events
- Energy Excellence Awards
- update on who is listening to FlexForum through its website, newsletter and linkedin channels

SG reflections on Downstream

- did SG Members attending Downstream gain flexibility intelligence, meet prospective Members or hear anything of import for the FF objective and delivering the Flexibility Plan?

Upcoming events

- ERANZ/ENA event 29 April
- speaking MEUG on 30 April

Energy Excellence Awards

- An application is being developed for the Best Energy Project award

3 Engagement (2)

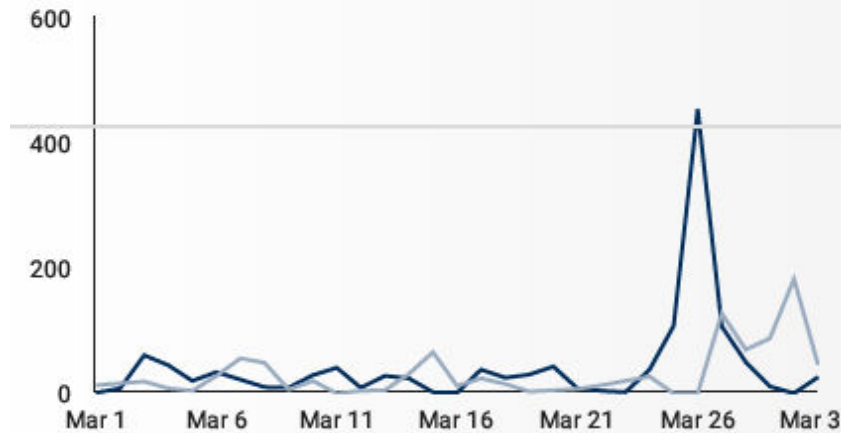
Actions: no actions requested

Update on who is listening to FlexForum through its website, newsletter and linkedin channels

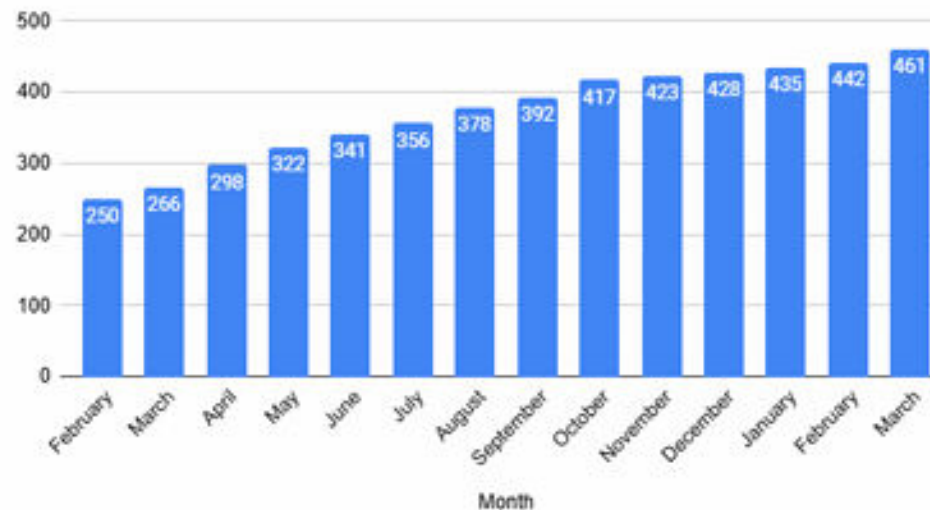
- Website visits spike when the newsletter is published. Most popular pages are the: Home, About FlexForum, and Flexibility Plan pages. Newsletter went to 379 people on 27 February. Open and click rates are down a bit, but remain 'above' average. LinkedIn keeps growing; probably due to more posting (4 in March).



How are page views trending compared to prior month?

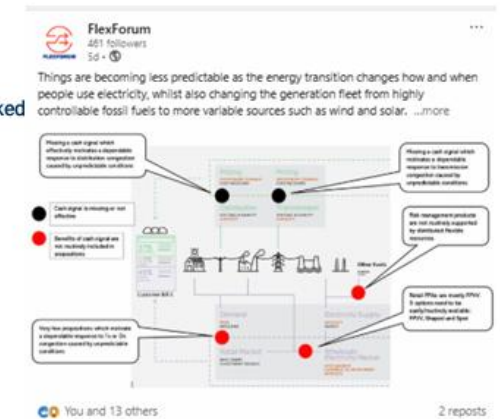


LinkedIn Followers



Post of the month

Channel: Linked
Likes: 14
Comments:
Shares: 2



4 Workplan

Actions: No action requested

Purpose of this item:

- Update on progress with the 4 tasks/activities FlexForum is working on now

Supporting learning-by-doing. Members want FF activity to support learning-by-doing to accelerate delivery of the Flexibility Plan, particularly focusing on activities which build confidence in flexibility and provide tangible benefits to humans.

- There has been back and forth on the scope of the Services agreement to support the Scale DF demonstration project
- 1 pilot has been announced with Counties Energy.
- A verbal update on progress with the Services agreement will be provided

Updating the Flexibility Plan. FF agreed at the 2024 AGM to update the Flexibility Plan and include priorities, goals and timelines.

- the 30 April FF Member meeting includes an item to approve changes to the Flexibility Plan, ie, approve version 2.0
- a further iteration of the proposed steps, including suggestions for task leaders were shared with Members and key partners on 3 April. Comments are due by Friday 18 April. Contextual and explanatory content for the proposed steps is being prepared to be shared with Members asap

Deep dive - the FlexForum Insights on finding and filling the holes in the value stack was published 26 March

- the FF Insights on finding/filling holes in the value stack got picked up by Energy News. The ideas/content are being shared via our communications channels, eg, the Flexibility Sandwich. Ahmad Faruqui is interested in doing a podcast...
- The workplan does not specify another deep dive topic. But topics for a subsequent deep dives will be discussed at the 30 April FF meeting. Based on Member views, a deep dive on digitalisation and data is a priority topic

Advice to regulators.

- A short piece of advice will be prepared for the Commerce Commission on its [draft decision](#) to approve Transpower's western bay of plenty major capex project. Responses are due Tuesday 29 April
- the focus of the advice will be endorsing the decision to approve the proposal

5 Finance update

Purpose of this item:

- note updated cashflow projections to 28 February 2026
- note status of payment of invoiced subscriptions

Cashflow projection is positive to February 2026 under 2 scenarios

- scenario 1. funded for eeca project; subscriptions are renewed
- scenario 2. no eeca project; subscriptions are renewed

Status of subscriptions

- 1 (small) membership invoice outstanding.

Actions: No action requested

6 Actions

Purpose of this item:

- Note actions

Actions from FlexForum and Steering Group meetings from 1 July 2023 to 13 March 2025 are documented here: [FF collated actions - FF and SG meetings](#)

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

Actions: No action requested

7 Next meeting

Purpose of this item:

- note a FF Members meeting is scheduled for 30 April
- confirm the date for the next Steering Group meeting

FlexForum Members meeting on 30 April

- Members were given notice of the meeting agenda on 30 March

Next Steering Group meeting

- a SG meeting is scheduled (diarised) for Thursday 8 May.

ACTION: confirm the date for the next SG meeting

8 Other business

Purpose of this item:

- Other business