

FLEXFORUM |

Steering Group meeting

When	Thursday 12 June 2025, 0930-12
Where	Virtual
Who	Shay Brazier, Terry Paddy, Toby Stevenson, Matt Smith, Tim Calder, Fiona Wiseman Secretariat: Craig Evans, Lyndal Blatch Observers: Brian FitzGerald (EECA)
Apologies	Daniel Gnoth (Ara Ake), John Campbell, Mark Herring (EA), Sean McCreedy (CC), Peter Bartlett (MBIE), Rebecca Osborne

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: The flex big picture. People want to know how much to care about flex

The SG discussed the value of FlexForum developing estimates of flexibility MW and the economic benefits of flexibility.

- Decision-makers do not have a reference point for the MW available by leveraging flexibility. Providing a number will get attention and a reason to invest in delivering the Flexibility Plan to unlock flexible resources.

- BCG estimated in October 2022 that managing additional peak demand required 2GW of demand-side flex in the 2020s, 1.7GW in the 2030s and 2.1GW in the 2040s... we don't have good information about how much flex is in the system now, or the pace of progress to the 2GW target of DF.
- Similarly there is little research or facts about the economic benefits of flexibility.
- We need to focus on the 'amount of MW you will get'. This will show decision makers that flexibility is worth some effort and action needs to be taken. A MW number will support action.
- The MW number is expected to be material enough to make a difference. The SG noted research from the USA about [large load flexibility](#) and [data centre flexibility](#) which finds a small reduction (flexing) of use can produce material network and system benefits.
- The SG noted the potential to use existing research/literature to develop the estimates, but care is required to select robust assumptions, eg, hot water cylinder flex is 0.8kw v 3kw.

The SG agreed the task should be scoped and estimates developed, taking care not to repeat work already done.

Standing items

3: Engagement

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

- Flexibility Plan 2.0. The Chair and Secretariat have talked to various groups about the new plan such as EA, Transpower about Flexibility Plan 2.0. In the coming months more conversations will be had with EECA, Ara Ake, Commerce Commission, ENA, MBIE and Utilities Disputes.
- There is an EEA stakeholder event being held on the 9th September and FF has been asked to collaborate to deliver its pre-conference flexibility workshop. We are in talks with them about incorporating Flex Day within their event.
- FlexForum has been offered a 15 minute time slot to speak at the next Framework meeting.
- The Electricity Authority has requested FF to provide a response to their decentralisation paper. This is due 25 June.

4: Workplan

The SG noted updates to the workplan.

- **Supporting the EECA scaled DF pilot project:** EECA has collaboration agreements with Counties, Orion and Vector. FlexForum's involvement in pilot design and delivery is at the discretion of the distributor. FlexForum is currently in the process of preparing a set of data requirements for reporting purposes.
- **Assessing progress with the Flexibility Plan:** There have been several reminders to fill out the assessment survey. SG members were encouraged to themselves complete the survey and to get others to do so. The SG noted the survey is a key FF activity to underpin its advice on priorities.
- **Deep Dive into Digitalisation and Data:** The draft scope was sent out to all members on 28 May. The Secretariat will begin to start this conversation and reach out to members to get their view/input.
- **Advice to Regulators:**

The SG agreed FF is not in the business of responding to each regulatory consultation, but should attempt to respond to things relevant to the Flexibility Plan.

The Electricity Authority is seeking feedback on several proposals and issues.

- industrial flexibility paper - responses due 3 July. Several of the proposals are relevant to FP2.0 steps, including fill holes in the value stack (step #10), help understand the effectiveness of emerging exchange

mechanisms and terms of trade (steps #24, 25) or are things FF plans to do this year (increase transparency about flex-y activity).

- decentralisation green paper - responses due 25 June. Issues raised are relevant to a range of FP2.0 steps
- evolving multiple trading and switching - responses due 29 July. The multiple retailing proposal is relevant to step #17 (enabling people to contract with separate market interface agents). Not clear that the switching process proposals progress any steps

5: Finance

The SG noted the financial update. No concerns were raised.

Procedural items

6: Membership requested

The SG noted the membership requests and agreed to Climate Navigator.

7. Actions

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

8. Next Steering Group meeting

The SG noted a FlexForum meeting to be rescheduled to Friday 18 July.

9. AoB/Close

Meeting finished at 10.59am