

# FLEXFORUM |

## Steering Group meeting

<b>When</b>	Thursday 9 October 2025
<b>Where</b>	Virtual
<b>Who</b>	Tim Calder, Malcolm Cleland, Nicole Kirkham, Terry Paddy, Matt Smith, Toby Stevenson. Secretariat: Craig Evans Observers: Brian FitzGerald (EECA)
<b>Apologies</b>	Matt Bostwick, Sam Elder, Fiona Wiseman

## Session notes

### 1: Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the session, and specifically welcomed new SG member Malcolm Cleland.

The SG:

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

## Strategic items

### 2: How can FlexForum build an understanding of what flexibility can do?

The SG discussed what FlexForum can do and say to build understanding of the awesome might of a flexible power system.

- Noted the FlexForum goal is to build a common understanding of what flexibility can do and the opportunities, with the context including the recently released review of electricity market performance (Frontier report), the

resulting government response, plus upcoming engagement with parties including the Energy Transition Framework.

- Flexibility gets a cursory mention in the Frontier report and is not part of the government response. No initiative would directly hasten delivery of FP2.0.
- There is an obvious gap in understanding the problems faced and the role of flexibility, with no clear and generally understood statement of the jobs flex can do in the power system. Members noted more clarity is needed on whether flex is about long term, system wide issues (ie, dry year energy) or short term, localised issues (eg, network constraints). Or both?
- Members agreed flexibility will add value regardless of how the problem is defined/issues prioritised. Flex is win/win and is needed in the system under all future scenarios. For example, flex cannot completely solve the dry year problem, but having it on the table would not make anything worse, and would solve other problems.
- Members agreed that following the money is the best way to define the role of flex. Who should be buying what? The weakness of flexibility offers in the market (ie, customer propositions) is directly related to the holes in the value stack and the value pool - it is not possible currently to show/provide people with value for saying yes to flex...it comes back to money and whether the value stack is working. What jobs flex can do? Where does the money come from?

### 3: Engagement

The SG discussed engagement activity since the previous meeting and upcoming.

The SG noted insights coming from the recent [CCIPS-AUS conference](#) included the critical importance of a whole-of-system approach to physical and financial orchestration mechanisms.

- Members noted the Australian response to solar related network challenges has been physical orchestration mechanisms (eg, DOEs and emergency backstop), but these appear to have led to a diminished role for pricing orchestration as the value/reward to consumers is not incurring extra costs on a larger network.
- Members discussed how a whole-of-system approach is challenging because industry participants operate in siloes/have specific jurisdictions, and are incentivised to focus on their patch only despite wider benefits or opportunities. The problem was described as a lack of incentives for each part of the sector to seek wider benefits.

The SG noted FF input to regulatory processes is underpinned by its deep dives, and participating in these processes is time well spent.

- FF input to Electricity Authority activity on data/digitalisation is sought and appreciated. Delivering the data deep dive is needed for FF to have a clear voice on this topic.

### 4: Workplan

The SG noted the update on workplan activity.

- A workshop is scheduled for 15 October as part of the data deep dive. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- The Energy Transition Framework is kicking off 4 tasks to reduce barriers to C&I electrification. The tasks are relevant but do not appear to directly address FF priorities. FF resources are not sufficient to participate. Members will be advised about the tasks/opportunity to participate.
- No written advice has gone to regulators since the previous SG meeting. Verbal advice has been provided through workshops.
- Following on from Flex Day and the discussion at the previous SG meeting on structured knowledge sharing, the things FF can do have been considered.
  - Improvements to the Knowledge Hub are underway

- o A little progress has occurred on scoping thought pieces on pricing and orchestration mechanisms. SG Members were reminded to provide their 1 paragraph view on what topics should be covered.
- o Quarterly project progress updates will be a BAU item. The initial quarterly update is planned for December 2026.
- o We will discuss with the Framework how to add flexibility progress measures to the Framework measures reporting
- The SG noted the more resource intensive (and most sought after) knowledge sharing activities required extra resourcing. Options to support effective sharing of learning-by-doing knowledge are being explored.

Members discussed activity and progress with the scale demand flexibility pilot projects, and particularly the likelihood these projects (or some other project) will explicitly explore price response. The SG noted that many/most of the scale DF projects wanted to include a price response aspect, but a wider/deeper conversation is probably needed given there is no structured approach to setting distribution prices and no specific assumptions used by network planners to factor in price response.

## 5: Finance

The SG noted the finance update.

The SG noted the handover of financial responsibilities is well underway.

## Procedural items

### 6: Membership requests

The SG noted 1 new member (an individual who is a consumer) joined in October.

### 7: Actions

The SG noted the status of actions from previous meetings.

### 8: Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 13 November 2025.

### 19: AoB/Close

The meeting closed at 10.32am