

FLEXFORUM |

Steering Group meeting

When	Thursday 09 July 2026, 0900-1030
Where	Virtual
Who	Toby Stevenson, Terry Paddy, Matt Smith, Fiona Wiseman, Tim Calder, Sam Elder Secretariat: Craig Evans, Lyndal Blatch, Lisa Duff Observers: Brian Fitzgerald (EECA); Sean McCready (Commission)
Apologies	Malcolm Cleland, Matt Bostwick, Nicole Kirkham, Mark Herring (EA)

Session notes

1: Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the session.

The SG:

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

Strategic items

2: 2026 AGM Materials

The SG noted the draft 2026 AGM materials.

Members were notified of the agenda in May 2026. No other business has been proposed. The final papers will be sent to Members on 23 July 2026.

- The chair's report on FF affairs in the past year is a work in progress.

- The 2025-26 statement of accounts have been signed. Members will be asked to accept the financial statements at the AGM.
- The working draft Flex Plan progress report was noted. Members will be asked to accept the progress report and consider the implications. The SG got an overview of the emerging story of the 2026 progress assessment, including:
 - The assessment found Member's are less optimistic about the pace of progress over the coming 12-18 months, primarily due to the reappraisal of effort required with practical experience demonstrated the scale and complexity of the task
 - Learning-by-doing is increasing, but collaboration - including knowledge sharing - remains a work in progress. The assessment found the value of learning will be enhanced with better coordination, visibility of efforts and explicit focus on translating it into new enduring practices and arrangements.
- The SG discussed what the assessment indicated about the 2-3 priorities for the sector, noting that Members had highlighted priorities were unchanged from prior years, ie, pricing signals and communications connectivity/digitalisation.
- The SG noted the 2027 Workplan proposal and Budget proposals are based on delivering outputs in the 4 activity areas Members approved at the 2025 AGM within the budget envelope. Members will be asked to accept the workplan proposal and approve the budget proposal.
 - The SG asked if the 4 activities complemented (and didn't duplicate) the growing flex efforts of the sector and regulators, and noted that Members' input to the Flex plan assessment exercise highlighted ongoing gaps in these areas.
 - The 2027 Budget proposal carries forward 2026 income and expenses estimates, with an uplift to reflect EECA funding for supporting the scaled flexibility pilot programme. The SG requested more detail on existing and proposed resourcing.
- The SG noted that Members would be asked to confirm the 2 appointments to the SG given nominations matched the number of vacancies.

The SG endorsed the AGM materials.

3: Communications framework for FF work on pricing and propositions

The Steering Group noted the draft communications framework for the FF advice to ERGANZ on flexibility options to benefit vulnerable and low-income households.

The framework was developed to provide clear, concise points for discussing the advice with decision-makers.

SG feedback was:

- Emphasis more the importance of communities and community intermediaries to successfully progress the advice, particularly the access to skills sets, eg, running effective community engagement.
- The gap in the community engagement ecosystem with the closure of Ara Ake which filled a funding gap which enabled community programmes.

The framework will be updated to reflect the SG feedback.

Standing items

3: Engagement

The SG noted the engagement update including:

- conversations had and upcoming
- update on who is listening to FlexForum through its website, newsletter and linkedin channels.

The SG discussed the conversation with the ENA CE, including how the ENA is responding to feedback on the newly published load management protocol.

4: Workplan

The SG noted the workplan update.

- Flexibility Plan progress assessment - the 2026 progress report draft will be shared with members for feedback. Members will be asked to accept the report at 2026 AGM.
- The pricing and orchestration deep dive is underway. Further sessions are needed and will be scheduled when resourcing is available. Notes from the June workshop have been shared with Members.
 - The SG noted the topic is of increasing interest to key parties: the EA is assessing flex- motivating network pricing; the EECA scaled flexibility pilots are wrestling with pricing practicalities; and ERGANZ is considering the FF advice on flexible propositions for financially vulnerable customers.
- Knowledge sharing - we are producing flex project updates that focus on what is being done. Pace of publication depends on project lead reviews.

The SG discussed logistics for Flex Day 2026, and agreed it be a standalone event, mid-October over 2 half days pm/am with an organised dinner for flex champions to interact.

- Location to be determined by venue availability (50-60 people).
- Noted the opportunity to hold the event in association with CEN and the affordability and resilience conference.

5: Finance

The SG noted the financial update.

The SG reviewed the amounts for each annual subscription category to ensure the amounts are sufficient to fund the functions and activities described in the FlexForum Workplan and budget. The SG agreed to make no change to the annual subscription amounts.

The SG noted the revised contract with EECA for supporting it with the scaled flexibility pilot programme, and that the contract would be provided imminently for signing. The SG noted an extra doer would be contracted to assist with delivering task 3 of the revised contract.

Procedural items

6: Memberships

The SG noted the three membership enquiries since our last meeting.

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7: Actions

The SG noted the status of actions from previous sessions.

8: Next Steering Group meeting

The SG confirmed the SG meeting is Thursday 13 August 2026.

9: AoB/Close

No other business.

Meeting finished at 10.30am

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