

FLEXFORUM |

Annual general meeting: 30 July 2025

When	Thursday 30 July 2026
Where	Online 9.30am-11.30am
Who	Toby Stevenson (independent chair), Australian National University Centre for Energy Systems, Bluecurrent, Climate Navigator, Lyttelton Energy Transition Society, Meridian, Nexbe, TesAcha, Transpower, individuals. Secretariat Observers: Electricity Authority, EECA
Apologies	Cortexo, Rewiring Aotearoa

Session notes

1: Welcome

The Independent Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- apologies and proxies were noted.
- Members were reminded of their obligations under the Commerce Act 1986 prohibiting anti-competitive conduct.
- the agenda was reviewed.

The year that was

2: A report on FlexForum affairs for 2025-26

The Chair gave a report on FlexForum affairs for 2025-26, acknowledging their efforts and contributions to FlexForum activities.

The Chair observed that the increasing consensus that a smart, flexible power system was important for affordable, reliable power system was reinforced by the insight from the TIMES-NZ 3.0 energy system model being launched on 31 July 2026 that flexibility enabled faster and

cheaper electrification. The economic benefits of between \$5.4B and \$20.8B by 2050 are not possible without flexibility.

In this context, the activities of FlexForum and its Members were a necessary contribution to these benefits being realised by the economy and customers.

The Chair highlighted the value FlexForum brings by connecting shared interests and work programmes, specifically identifying the complementary nature of the advice developed for ERGANZ and the role supporting the EECA scaled flexibility pilots project.

The Chair acknowledged the efforts and contributions of Steering Group members and the wider membership in delivering the FlexForum objectives and purpose across the past year.

Members accepted the report on FlexForum affairs.

3: Annual statement of accounts for 2025-26

The Secretariat gave a report on financial statements for the period to 31 March 2026.

- This was the second full year of operation.
- FlexForum is in a healthy financial position with no profit as we are a non for profit organisation

Members accepted the financial statements for 2025-26 accounts.

The year ahead

4: Progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan

The secretariat gave an overview of the third annual assessment of progress with delivering the Flexibility Plan.

- There is more activity and learning-by-doing, mostly technical and network-focused.
- From a customer perspective the most notable shift in the past year is the emergence of niche, non-pilot commercial propositions. However, flexibility remains largely invisible and overly complex for customers.
- Experience over the past 12 months shows that scaling flexible initiatives requires significantly more coordination and resources than many organisations budgeted for or currently have available. This translated into Members being less optimistic of the rate of progress over next 12-18 months as people have realised how much work is involved to get flex happening.

Members accepted the Progress report.

5: Flexforum workplan and budget for 2027

The secretariat gave an overview of the budget and workplan proposals.

The Workplan has four core activities to focus on over the 12 months -

- Maintaining and reporting progress with the Flex Plan

- Flexibility leadership activity - deep dives on pricing and physical signals. This is the last fundamental aspect that needs to be looked at hard to have a solid basis of how you enable flexibility.
- Keeping the forum in FlexForum - sharing information across each other in experience and activities. Lunch and learn sessions are booked out until December.
- Support learning by doing - work with EECA and other distributors on scale flexibility pilots. Flex Day 2026 will focus on sharing and discussing experiences from learning over the past year.

The Budget and Workplan go hand in hand. The Budget proposal was developed to deliver the workplan using subscriptions and funding from EECA for services supporting the scaled flexibility pilot project. The proposal enables FlexForum to contract 1.5 FTE and maintain a small cash reserve equivalent to 3-4 months outgoings. More funding is being sought to enable faster workplan delivery.

Members accepted the 2027 Workplan.

Members approved the 2027 budget.

6: Confirm Steering Group Vacancies

The Secretariat gave an overview of the nomination and appointment process for filling Steering Group vacancies and the Independent Chair position.

- One nomination for the Independent Chair - Toby Stevenson
- One nomination for Steering Group member - Malcolm Cleland (Transpower)

Members noted that no voting process was required as the number of nominations matches the minimum number of vacancies to be filled.

Members accepted the appointment for both Malcolm Cleland as the Steering Group Member and then Toby Stevenson as the Independent Chair.

7: Final Words

The Chair asked Members to offer any final words.

A Member observed that the FlexForum focus on pricing mechanisms was appropriate as this was the remaining foundational issue requiring a deeper understanding on the path to a smart, flexible power system.

The Chair closed the meeting with two acknowledgements.

- Thanking the FlexForum team for the work they put in to help run the FlexForum.
- Thanking all FlexForum Members who by taking time out from their day jobs are the reason FlexForum can successfully deliver its objective.

End 10.24am