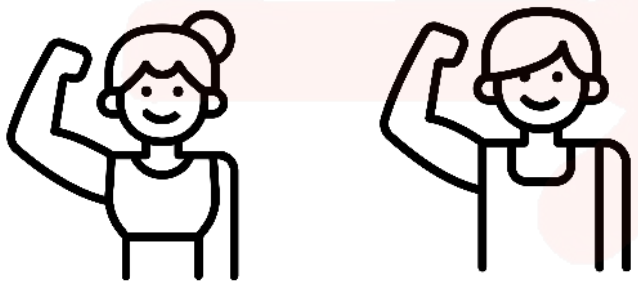
FlexForum Steering Group

Meeting agenda and context

17 September 2026



Agenda: 17 September 2026

1. Welcome

Strategic items

2. The FlexForum value proposition

Standing items

2. Engagement
3. Workplan
4. Finance

Procedural items

2. Membership
3. Actions
4. Next meeting
5. AoB/Close

1 Welcome

Purpose of this item:

- Welcome
- Apologies
  - [name]
- Reminders
- Interests
- 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 The FlexForum value proposition

Actions: None requested.

Purpose of this item: …to review the FF value proposition and FF activities.

The FF value proposition must align with the FF objective and FF purpose.

- the objective is to "*make it easier for households, businesses and communities to maximise the value of consumer and distributed energy resources (CDER) and flexibility to support affordable and reliable operation of the electricity market and power system and enable accelerated electrification by households and businesses as part of the transition in Aotearoa New Zealand to a zero emissions economy*"
- the purpose is to support coordinated and collaborative action to achieve this objective.

Why FF is needed… because the 'infrastructure' required to provide the coordinated, collaborative action for flexibility (from DER etc) to become easy and routine is not yet in place.

- FF provides a neutral, whole-of-system and expert view on what needs to be done to identify and reach the goal of a smart, flexible power system. This role was a feature of the 1996 efforts to establish the wholesale market. And is equivalent to the role of the the Distributed Energy Integration Program in Australia.
- FF brings together a diverse, expert membership, to help the sector move from fragmented learning to coordinated implementation. No other organisation is attempting a whole-of-system approach to collating, reality checking and sharing the many and complex practical details of activating flexibility.
- FF provides a cross-cutting role the sector needs to identify the gaps in knowledge, options, learning and implementation required to activate flexibility. Without a dedicated entity focusing on cross-cutting tasks, the sector should expect coordination failures, slower progress, higher costs, and worse outcomes for customers.

Current actions of the sector - individual participants, industry associations and regulators - are a start. More is needed. Particularly the things FF has identified as flex priorities

1. A comprehensive view of the range of pricing and physical signals which will enable a smart, flexible power system. This means looking hard at how and when wholesale, transmission and distribution pricing signals motivate flexibility to help establish a clear, shared view of the range of mechanisms that will collectively underpin a smart, flexible power system. This fundamental step is a necessary condition for taking a strategic approach to coordinating efforts, setting priorities and allocating resources
2. A coordinated system wide assessment of options for the communications infrastructure required to integrate flexible resources into the market and system. There is no whole-of-system view of the communications infrastructure required to operationalise the integration (and use) of flexible resources. Aotearoa needs something like this Smart Connect Initiative.
3. In parallel with (2), a coordinated assessment of options to upgrade the data system to maximise participation and innovation. Entrepreneurial flex coordinators are not able to easily participate in the 'market' because the data system remains largely closed off to non-traditional participants.
4. To support (3), build flex resources into the registry to introduce them into market processes and enable them to be treated on the same basis as other electricity infrastructure. This exercise will also enable a clearer understanding of the flex resources; what resources exist, with what capability, where, and how they are being used (or not). This priority will enable flex to shift from an off-market activity to a market activity (…enabling greater competitive pressure).

2 The FlexForum value proposition (2)

… the things FF has identified as flex priorities (continued)

5. Greater coordination of learning-by-doing with a strategic approach to what solutions get tested and dedicated effort to collate, test and regularly share experience throughout the learning process (not after it's over).
6. As part of (5), prioritise learning with the customer proposition as the organising objective…. learning is currently weighted towards testing network and technology solutions when retailers and flex coordinators are the key economic interface in the existing market design and the future state depends on these parties translating signals into compelling customer propositions.
7. Take a deliberate adopt and iterate approach to implementing the comms protocols, technical standards, terms of trade etc which enable flex to be integrated into the market and system. Learning is not directly leading to implementation of new practices and processes contributing to duplication and wasted learning effort, and fragmented approaches which hamper development of customer propositions, and people making investments which are not "flexy".

These priorities are not included in full in the published or indicative (ie, not published, but mentioned) work programmes of relevant regulators and industry associations… and where there is activity it is not as coordinated or collaborative as it should be.

- delivery processes are not neutral, and there is narrow involvement, eg, the emergency [load] management protocol is being revised by an ENA/ERGANZ working group although it has wider implications for flex coordinators and flex owners.
- issues exploration is siloed, eg, focusing narrowly on distribution pricing misses the bigger picture, and regulator-led exploration processes remain relatively opaque and time consuming.
- etc

To conclude… the FF value proposition is: flex progress in the right direction and faster pace than otherwise while the coordination and collaborative infrastructure matures…

- a neutral forum to develop agreed facts on issues subject to competing interests and priorities.
- diverse membership enables the agreement of an expert consensus on foundational issues, problems and efficacy of solutions (ie, via the deep dives, progress report).
- an authoritative, whole-of-system voice that can draw on learning-by-doing to confidently say "Here are solutions which can be implemented as initial good practice while these are the unresolved issues that require more consideration and learning." (ie, via knowledge sharing and supporting learning-by-doing).

3 Engagement (1)

Actions: For noting. No actions requested.

Purpose of this item:

- conversations had and upcoming
- Regulatory requests for advice
- update on who is listening to FlexForum through its website, newsletter and linkedin channels

Conversations had and upcoming

- 12 October = ERGANZ (Bridget)
- 29 September FF/ENA quarterly catchup
- 16 September = EECA check in on scaled pilot project activity
- 11 September = Energy Transition Framework CE meeting
- 3 September = Ed Chan, Distributed Energy Integration Program
- 31 August = Electricity Authority (Jono and Siobhan)
- 31 August= ERGANZ (Miranda)

Conversations have been requested with the FNF co-chairs and the EA. No response yet on timing.

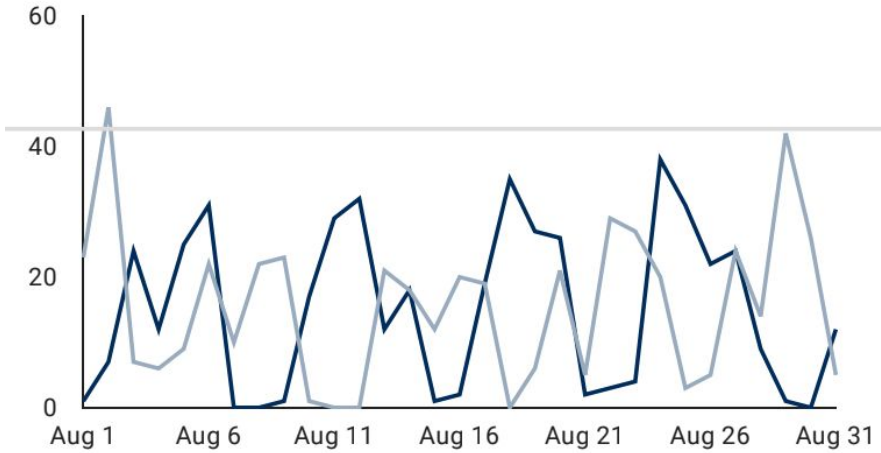
Regulatory requests for advice… FF has not routinely responded to these requests over the past 12 months; we had little time, topics were not material/directly relevant to the Flexibility Plan, and the opportunity to input directly and via workshops.

- The Commerce Commission 10 September Open letter (responses due 22/10) is worth a response given the Commission's stated intention to '*…work with sector stakeholders to establish a clearly articulated view on what 'good' performance for an EDB looks like*'. FF should signal its interest/willingness to participate in this process.
- The FF advice would not need to address all the questions raised, and just focus on the practicalities of operationalising the 'EDBs having strong commercial arrangements in place' aspect of the indicative vision. Following from the points in item 2, there is no consensus on what strong commercial arrangements look like, efforts to develop these arrangements are siloed and ad hoc, and those efforts do not routinely involve the wider ecosystem (a necessary condition for strong arrangements).
- In summary, the Commission's vision for having strong commercial arrangements in place (and the other 2 limbs) rests on a more mature coordination and collaboration infrastructure.

3 Engagement (2)

Website: website traffic saw a slight increase this month especially around when the monthly newsletter went out. Bounce rate = people coming to the website and leaving quickly…ours is good (up to 60% is common) and means people are interested in what's on the website.

Total users	Bounce rate	Sessions	Engaged sessions	Views
96	35.98%	214	137	465.0
-4	3.53%	-14	-17	-21



Newsletter was published 27 August. The mailing list = 455 people. The unique open rate of 35.8% (32.3% in July) remains consistent with prior months and indicates the newsletter is popular.

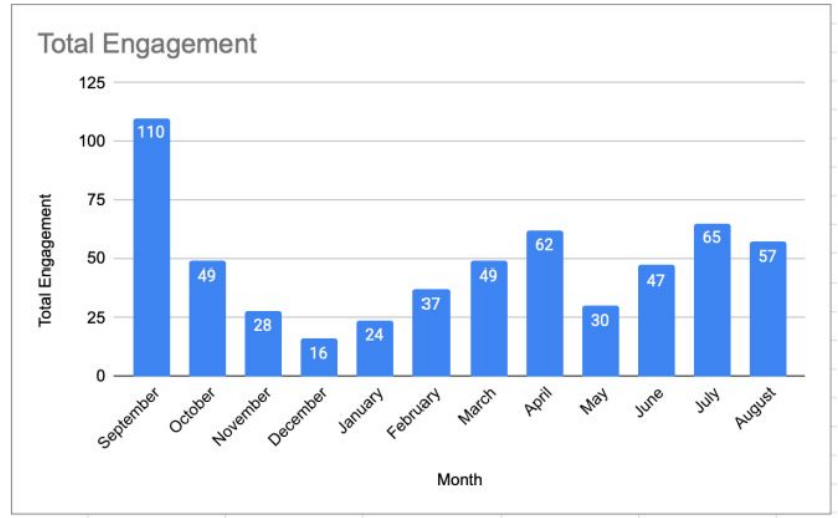
Recipients	Unique Open Rate	Total Opens	Unique Click Rate	Total Clicks
455 ↑ 4	35.8% ↑ 5.5%	314 ↑ 65	6.8% ↓ 3.9%	30 ↓ 29

FF fortnightly flashes to Members went on 14 and 28 August with unique open rates of 36% and 35.1%.

FF posted 8 times on linkedin in August. Post numbers have increased over recent months due to access to dedicated comms resource.

Post of the month with 10 likes and 9 comments was FlexForum Advice to ERGANZ. Follower numbers continue to increase = 696.

Total Number of posts	Total Engagements	Reactions/Likes	Comments	Shares
8 ↑ 1	57 ↓ 8	46 ↓ 11	10 ↓ 6	1 ↓ 7



4 Workplan (1)

Actions: None requested

Purpose of this item: an update on progress with FlexForum tasks/activities across 4 areas.

1. Flexibility Plan progress assessment
2. Deep dive - pricing and physical orchestration mechanisms
3. Knowledge sharing
4. Support for learning-by-doing

Flexibility plan progress assessment. The 2026 Progress report was published 5 August 2026.

- A 1-page summary of the key progress insights and implications for sector priorities, plus an explanatory article was shared with the SG for feedback on 02/09.

Deep dives. A deep dive on pricing and orchestration mechanisms is underway. Scoping of the next session is underway… it will focus on wholesale signals and will be scheduled once expert contributors are locked in.

- This work will provide a whole-of-system view of how value signals, dispatch signals and customer propositions fit together. This is a necessary step towards a clear, shared view of the smart, flexible power system, and a necessary condition for taking a strategic approach to coordinating efforts, setting priorities and allocating resources.
- The deep dive is addressing several issues of the day with the Energy Competition Taskforce to shortly produce a piece on GXP investment signals, the EA starting work on flex- motivating network pricing, and considering advice from its Standardised flexibility products working group on flex-friendly risk management products, and an ENA/ERGANZ group finalising updates to the load management protocol.
- This work is necessary to achieve the recommendation in the Energy Transition Framework report on a system-wide assessment of options to manage the risks related to the natural gas shortfall for… '*Flexibility in every new conversion - Industrial, commercial and residential conversions are all opportunities to incorporate flexibility (including reducing energy use and optimisation). … The plan would need to consider how to ensure there are incentives that reflect the value that flexibility could provide to the system.*"

4 Workplan (2)

Knowledge sharing.

- monthly lunchtime sessions are underway… next up: the September session is Gridsight.
- a webinar has been scheduled for 1230-1330 Wednesday 21 October to hear from the chief cat-herders for the Distributed energy integration program… an Australian equivalent to FF
- Flex Day 2026 + pre-Flex Day workshop… these events are designed to share and collate knowledge, with a particular focus on comms and integration, flex mechanics and signals and incentives.

Support for learning-by-doing. Activities currently underway:

- Flex Day 2026 + pre-Flex Day workshop… these events are designed to share and collate knowledge, with a particular focus on 3 topics (comms and integration, flex mechanics and signals and incentives) directly relevant to learning-by-doing currently underway via Localflex and the eeca scaled flexibility pilot project.
- FF is supporting the EECA scaled flexible pilot project via a datasets and data flow mapping exercise. The task is to document: datasets operate and evaluate each pilot, what datasets move between parties, by what mechanism and how often, who holds each dataset and who looks after it, and gaps.
  - An information request is being completed by Powerco, Orion and Vector. Initial insights include a possible disconnect between the retailer proposition and the flexible resources installed/available at each household, eg, not all retailers may be able to integrate with all devices, and possible installation complexities, eg, customers participating in the Orion pilot may need to disable their ripple relay to avoid responding to that signal instead of/in addition to the pilot signals
- fyi, here is the first bimonthly update to EECA on FlexForum activities supporting the scaled flexibility pilot project.

5 Finance update

Purpose of this item:

- note the financial situation
- note the status of membership renewals

Status of membership renewals invoiced and outstanding…

- 2 invoices outstanding -
- 4 anniversaries in September -
- The membership renewal request letter is being updated to reflect the activity and expected outputs for the year ahead that FF membership supports.

6 Membership requests

Purpose of this item:

- note Membership enquiries, requests and decisions since previous meeting

Actions: none requested

7 Actions

Purpose of this item:

- Note actions

Actions from FlexForum and Steering Group meetings from 1 July 2023 to 31 August 2026 are documented here: FF collated actions - FF and SG meetings

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

Actions: No action requested

8 Next meeting

Purpose of this item:

- confirm the date for the next Steering Group meeting

Next Steering Group meeting. The next SG meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8 October 2026 (3 weeks away).

ACTION: confirm the date for the next SG meeting.

9 Other business

Purpose of this item:

- Other business