

# Flexforum: session II 17-02-22 notes

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<b>When</b>	900 – 1200, Thursday 17 February 2022
<b>Where</b>	Virtual
<b>Who</b>	Shay Brazier (ReVolve Energy), John Campbell (Our Energy), Jason Christini-Crawford (Ecotricity), Glenn Coates (Aurora), Jenny Van der Merwe (Kāinga Ora), Terry Paddy (Cortexo), Eric Pyle (solarZero), Buddhika Rajapakse (Mercury), Tom Rose, (EVNex), James Tipping (Vector), Fiona Wiseman (Trustpower/Manawa) Scott Scrimgeour, Wellington Electricity, Evie Trollove, Orion, Pam Walklin, Jonathan Young – Ara Ake Geoff Sharples, Aparna Narang - facilitators Craig Evans, Matt Smith - secretariat

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## Session notes

Three topics were discussed:

1. Discussion roadmap and starting topic
2. Stakeholder mapping, engagement approach and plan
3. Administration – governance, budget, and funding

## Agenda overview

The group agreed the agenda.

The group endorsed continuing with surveys and providing input before sessions to frame and focus discussions at each session.

## Topic 1: discussion roadmap

**The group approved DER potential as the initial topic in the discussion roadmap and focus of the next session.**

**The group agreed the scope of DER potential** is both the DER capability and the services (ie, use cases) available from the asset/device for the owner and across the electricity supply chain.

The discussion of DER potential is intended to build understanding of DER characteristics to support a detailed discussion of the need cases for the DER owner, network operators and electricity market.

The group noted DER owners include households, commercial and industrial businesses, and electricity sector participants.

The group discussed the three broad types of DER capability and sources of flexibility:

- generation, both dispatchable and non-dispatchable
- load, both dispatchable and non-dispatchable
- storage, one-directional or bi-directional (ie, hot water cylinders provide one-directional storage while battery storage provides bi-directional storage).

Other sources of flexibility available to DER owners and the electricity supply chain include operational responses (network operator), energy efficiency, and fuel conversion (eg, electricity to hydrogen to electricity).

The group agreed the focus of the next session would be discussion of primers on DER potential from:

- Tom Rose, EVNex, on the potential of electric vehicles/chargers
- Shay Brazier, ReVolve, on the potential of thermal and battery storage and PV
- a Trustpower/Manawa expert on the potential of larger scale DER.

**The group discussed the efforts and experience in Western Australia and United Kingdom with integrating DER and using flexibility services.**

Key points on the WA DER Roadmap:

- The WA roadmap sets direction, it isn't an implementation plan
- The roadmap themes on technology integration and DER participation align with the FlexForum scope and objectives
- Project Symphony is the main vehicle for working out need cases, specifications, comms protocols, dispatch etc
- there is value in aligning with or adapting the thinking and experience elsewhere.

Key points on the UK flexibility services product specification and flexibility services market development process:

- regulators adapted rulesets in response to industry-led thinking/experience gained through trials to support fast-following
- the UK ENA coordinated development of common network-related flexibility product specifications to ensure consistent processes and terminology across all network operating areas

- the ability to use the flexibility services depends on capability of the network operators, particularly low voltage visibility. The limited procurement of the 'sustain' service is due to a lack of low voltage visibility, not a lack of need. Network visibility is particularly critical to using flexibility services to forecast and identify when and where the service is needed
- standard specifications of distribution-related flexibility products would fill a gap in the current product list. The specification of distribution-related flexibility products needs to recognise and integrate with products/markets across the supply chain.

The group drew the following insights from the WA and UK experiences:

- the breadth of activities and tasks required for integrating DER and developing flexibility markets, and the interconnectedness and dependencies between the tasks, makes an overarching plan to coordinate things quite important
- the UK-style product specifications provide a useful reference point for the outputs of the FlexForum
- Aotearoa New Zealand can fast-track integration of DER and development of a flexibility market by drawing on the 5-6 years of UK experience – the process is less about innovation and more about adaption

## Topic 2: stakeholder mapping, engagement approach and plan

**The group approved an engagement approach which is transparent and has a goal of maximising industry acceptance of the outputs.** The group agreed consensus may not be achievable.

The group requested a detailed engagement plan and specific activities based on stakeholder mapping. A key part of the engagement plan will be for members of the group to support engagement and outreach.

## Administration – governance, budget and funding

The group approved the terms of reference.

The group requested an updated budget to reflect the variations to the engagement plan and scenarios with more in-kind support.

End 1200