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Electricity Authority

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FlexForum advice on the multiple trading relationships proposal

[FlexForum](#) exists to support coordinated and collaborative action across the electricity ecosystem and speed up progress to make it easy and routine for households, businesses, communities to maximise the value of their distributed and flexible resources.

Flexibility¹ is our focus because it is central to an affordable, sustainable, reliable and consumer-centric electricity market and system.

We are an incorporated society with 43 Members from across the electricity ecosystem.² Our touchstone is the [Flexibility Plan](#) which is a whole-of-system list of the practical steps and actions required for people to routinely and easily maximise the value of their flexible resources and support the affordable and reliable operation of the electricity market and system.

Flexibility Plan 2.0 step #17 is 'Introduce rules to allow people to easily contract with separate market interface agents (ie, retailers, flexibility coordinators).'

FlexForum Members have a range of perspectives and positions about the costs and benefits of the multiple trading relationships concept.

From a FlexForum perspective, step #17 exists because a household, business or community on their flexibility journey will want to identify which retailers and/or flexibility coordinators are supplying flexibility products/services that would maximise the value of their flexible resources.

However, because regulatory settings require people to contract with a single party for all market interactions, people cannot currently access a full range of options and are not able to pick and choose products/services to maximise the value of their flexibility and their preferences.

The multiple trading relationship proposal would partly deliver step #17 by enabling people '... to buy electricity from two providers (one for their consumption and one for their generation) and make it easier to switch between providers to get the best deal.'

The result should be to give people more reasons to say yes to flex by providing a greater range of flexibility products and services to pick and choose from.

¹ Flexibility is the modification of generation injection and consumption patterns, on an individual or aggregated level, often in reaction to an external signal, to provide a service to the owner or within the power system.

² The list of FlexForum Members is available [here](#). Members include: gentailers, retailers, metering services suppliers, electric vehicle charger manufacturers, energy management software firms, Transpower, distributors, solutions providers, universities, and some real people.

This is FlexForum advice. Individual FlexForum Members may have their own perspectives and positions.

You can contact FlexForum at info@flexforum.nz with any questions and to arrange further discussion.

