

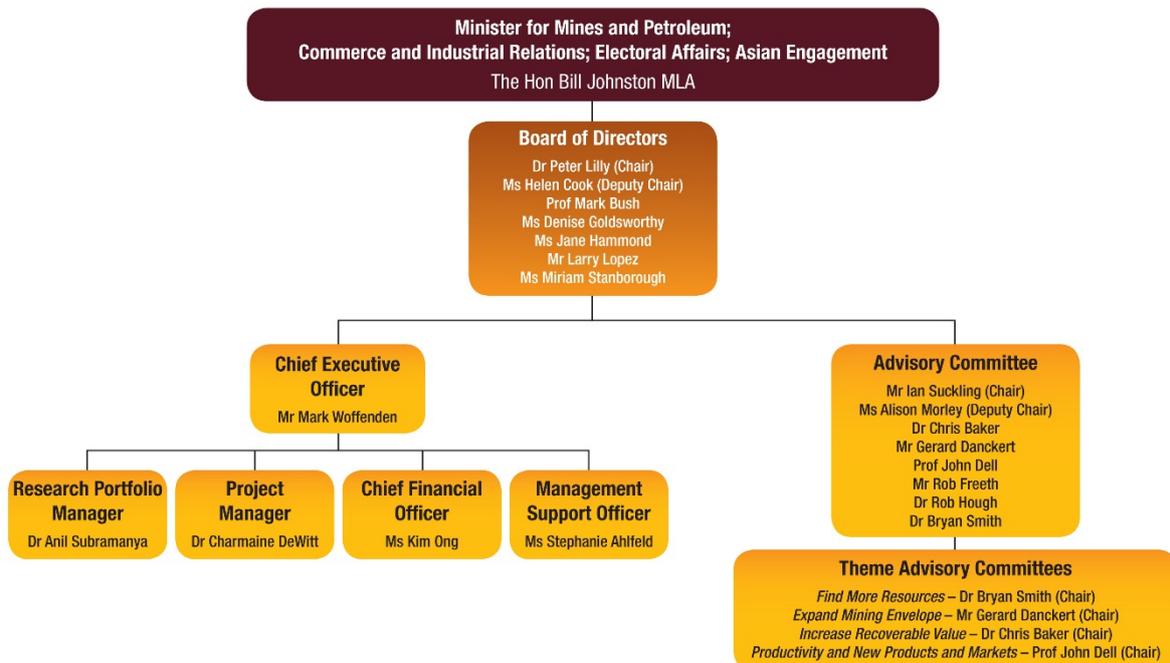
## INTRODUCTION TO MRIWA RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS PROCESS

### Who we are

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) is a statutory body formed by the Government of Western Australia under the *Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia Act 2013* ([the Act](#)).

Our objective is to foster and promote minerals research for the benefit of Western Australia by:

- Identifying, co-ordinating and jointly financing minerals research projects which contribute to developing the minerals industries in Western Australia; such work being undertaken at appropriate research facilities within the State, interstate or overseas to expand the technology base necessary for the development of these industries.
- Encouraging the active participation of industry in this research, particularly through its financial sponsorship.
- Providing administrative support for all MRIWA research projects, and the publication and dissemination of the research results.





## Guideline

### What we fund

MRIWA funds Research Projects that are focused on minerals research for the benefit of WA. Projects that we have co-funded vary in length from 6 months to several years. The MRIWA co-investment is usually within the range of \$50,000 to several million dollars.

MRIWA's Research Priority Plan ([RPP](#)) is the reference for our Board's decisions on research grant investments. The Board is obliged to ensure that the intended outcomes from research projects that it funds are aligned with the priorities in this RPP.

The RPP identifies key challenges and opportunities in the Western Australian minerals industry and has been rigorously prepared and reviewed through a highly consultative process to ensure that MRIWA research grant investments are directed at areas that will make an optimal contribution towards MRIWA achieving its objective. MRIWA will consider financial support for research activity, in collaboration with the local, national and global minerals industry and research sector, to develop solutions for those challenges and opportunities.

We are particularly interested to work with suppliers of services and technologies to the industry, in addition to producers. We highly value participation by PhD students in proposed research projects.

### Application Process

The application process is most effective as a collaborative effort between the Applicant and MRIWA Project Managers. Prospective applicants are invited to start discussions with MRIWA Project Managers as early as possible. Submission of a 2-page summary of a proposed project is highly recommended prior to submitting a full Application.

In addition to assisting with the development of the application, we are also able to assist with developing networks and collaboration that may expand the scope of, or increase the capabilities available to a research project.

All applications for MRIWA Research Grants must be made on the Research Grant Application form available in Word or PDF format from our website ([mriwa.wa.gov.au](http://mriwa.wa.gov.au)) or by contacting us.

### Assessment Process

Once a complete application is submitted to the Project Manager, it then progresses through our assessment process.

The assessment process takes about 2 months, the schedule for which is linked to MRIWA Board meetings. Closing dates of applications and dates of Advisory Committee and Board meetings are published on our website and subject to change.

Event	Action	Timing
Applicant submits conforming Application to Project Manager	Project Manager secures reports from Assessors and Referees	2 months prior to Board meeting at latest
Theme Advisory Committee	Technical review and recommendation to Advisory Committee	Week prior to Advisory Committee Meeting
Advisory Committee	Recommendation to Board	2 weeks prior to Board meeting
Board	Decision on Project Funding	Bi-monthly

MRIWA has 4 Theme Advisory Committees based on the themes of our RPP: Exploration, Mining, Processing and Productivity/New Products. These committees are responsible for a technical review of Applications and this is normally the first stage of the official assessment process. Applicants usually present to this committee. The Theme Committee makes its recommendation to the Advisory Committee on an Application's technical merit.

The next stage of assessment is the Advisory Committee; this consists of the Chairs of the 4 Theme Advisory Committees and 4 other experts. The Advisory Committee gives a more holistic recommendation to the Board.

The fund granting decision is the responsibility of the MRIWA Board. Should the Board decide to not fund an Application, it is available to the Applicant to resubmit.

The Board uses the following criteria in its assessment of Research Grant Applications:

Criteria	Description
Field of research	Must propose research that conforms with the definition of 'minerals research' in the Act. <b>minerals research</b> means — (a) investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge relating to; or (b) systematic work drawing on existing knowledge that is directed to the development of, any process, technique, method, design or apparatus to locate, extract, transport or market minerals. (Please note that MRIWA does not fund research for the oil and gas industries).
Benefit to WA minerals endowment	Must identify the mineral deposit(s), or class of mineral deposit(s), or minerals industry sector, within WA, to which the research outputs will beneficially apply.
Scope of Research	Must propose research that is within the remit outlined in the MRIWA Research Priority Plan (RPP) <a href="http://mriwa.wa.gov.au/research-grants/research-priority-plan/">mriwa.wa.gov.au/research-grants/research-priority-plan/</a>
Alignment with MRIWA Objective	Must propose research outputs and describe anticipated outcomes that will meaningfully benefit Western Australia and optimise future mineral royalties' payments to the State.
Commercialisation of research outputs	Must: • Describe the 'path to adoption' for, and the anticipated time to achieve commercial application of, the outputs of the proposed research.

**Guideline**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline any stages in the proposed research, the targets for progressing to a subsequent stage and how later stages will be funded.</li> <li>• Note any information explicitly withheld from inclusion in the Application.</li> </ul>
Quality of the science	Must provide evidence of the high standing of the researchers, commensurate with the intent of the Application and MRIWA's objectives.
Financial leverage	<p>Must be cognisant of the requirement for co-investment in MRIWA research projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board determines the average financial leverage target annually for Applications to be approved during that year. For 2016/17 the target is 3X: MRIWA calculates the financial leverage as the sum of Sponsor's monies and MRIWA monies divided by MRIWA monies.</li> <li>• The Board may seek higher, or accept a lower, financial leverage depending on the particulars of an Application.</li> <li>• Generally, the Board will require a higher financial leverage for Applications with relatively low research risk and higher technology readiness level.</li> </ul>

Further to this, the Board also considers matters such as the following:

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Consideration</b>
The proportion of the MRIWA funds invested in each Theme in the RPP	The distribution of MRIWA's and other parties' invested funds in each Theme across the portfolio of MRIWA projects.
Collaboration in the research effort	Research outcomes will be enhanced through a true synthesis of relevant disciplines.
The contribution that students (PhD or other) will make	Generally, a worthwhile inclusion of post-graduate students is preferred.