

Net Zero Emission Mining Research Grant Guidelines

Version 1
As at 26 May 2021



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1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This document provides general information to assist with the preparation and submission of an application to the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) Net Zero Emission Mining Research Grants Program.

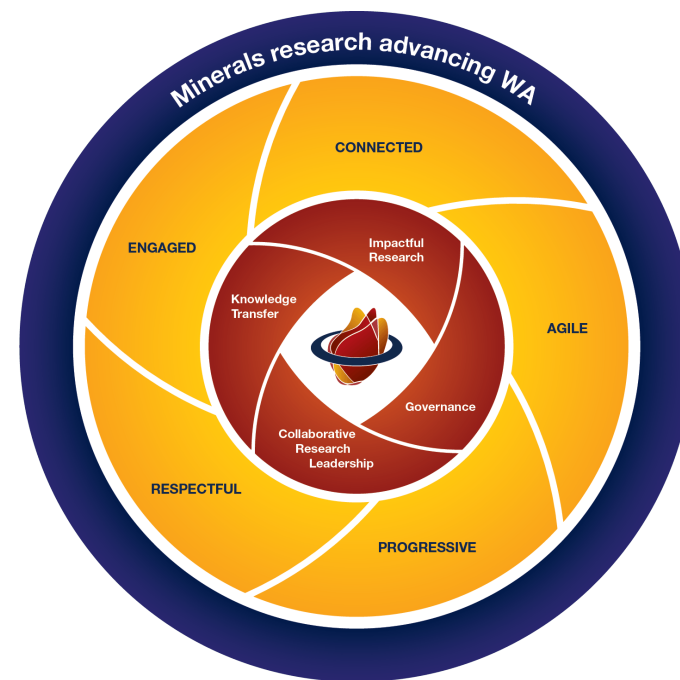
1.1 MRIWA and its objectives

MRIWA's vision is for minerals research to advance Western Australia.

To achieve this, MRIWA will:

- have an **IMPACTFUL RESEARCH** program where applied research creates capability and delivers economic and social benefit for Western Australia;
- provide **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH LEADERSHIP** so industry, academic and government relationships can activate innovation and research networks attract investment in high value activities; and
- enable **KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER** so minerals research outcomes are implemented to deliver value for the State.
- ensure robust **GOVERNANCE** and contemporary fit-for-purpose corporate practices.

MRIWA is a statutory body established by the Western Australian Government under the [Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia Act 2013 \(WA\)](#).



1.2 MRIWA research priorities

The MRIWA [Research Priority Plan](#) identifies the medium to long-term knowledge and technology needs of Western Australia's minerals industry. The priorities included in the Research Priority Plan have been identified by industry, researchers and the MRIWA Board as presenting real and significant challenges inhibiting Western Australia from benefiting from the minerals sector to its fullest extent and where resolution of these challenges will create opportunities and deliver value to the State.

These priorities direct the MRIWA Board's decisions on grant funding and MRIWA may limit the call for Applications in a designated round to targeted priority areas.

All prospective Project Participants should familiarise themselves with the current Research Priority Plan prior to commencing an Application and should consult the [MRIWA website](#) for the latest information on targeted priority areas.

See [3.2](#) for information on the Research Priority Plan and eligibility.

1.2.1 MRIWA Challenge Area

These Net Zero Emission Mining Research Grant Guidelines relate exclusively to the targeted call for applications under the [MRIWA Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge](#) (MRIWA Challenge).

This MRIWA Challenge aims to reduce the carbon footprint, lower overall energy costs and improve energy efficiency of the Western Australian mining sector through harnessing collective efforts, enabling decarbonisation to become an opportunity for the sector, not a cost.

Applications should address a challenge or issue in the Western Australian mining sector that, if overcome, can facilitate a move towards net zero emissions.

MRIWA has identified three priority Themes which represent cross cutting issues in the mining sector which would benefit from a collaborative approach to addressing the Challenge.

Proposals addressing the following priority Themes will be highly regarded:

Theme	Intended Outcome
Data Driven Decisions	Mapping emissions across the mine to metal value chain (from Scope 1+2+3) to evaluate effectiveness of initiatives
	Digital models to assess options and build business cases
	Exemplar mine sites to create capacity in industry and amongst stakeholders
	Industry framework and common language for transparency, benchmarking and best practice
Mining and Processing Technology	Redesigning processes to optimise use of renewables and mitigate impact of intermittent power supply
	Increased efficiency of material movement
Energy utilisation	Integration of new technology including electrification, hydrogen, heat recovery, biomass and biodiesel
	Increased efficiency and effectiveness of energy storage and use



1.3 Industry participation and co-investment

MRIWA strongly encourages industry-initiated research projects, and all projects must have demonstrated industry engagement.

The necessary technical interchange between the research team and industry representatives will ensure the results of the research are more likely to be applied in practice and lead to commercial application.

Industry participation and financial contribution is an important factor in the MRIWA Board's assessment of an Application. All prospective Lead Investigators and Sponsors should refer to the [MRIWA Financial Leverage of Research Policy](#) for information on the current financial leverage target.

Lead Investigators must secure an appropriate level of co-investment prior to submitting an application to MRIWA.

See item [3.4](#) for information on financial leverage and eligibility.

1.4 Research Portfolio Managers

MRIWA, through the involvement of the Research Portfolio Managers, may work with Project Participants and potential Project Participants to initiate or develop proposals, with the consent of the respective Parties.

Such facilitation does not represent any guarantee MRIWA will fund the Application.

MRIWA may commission research in areas of high need, identify research opportunities and potential collaboration partners including research institutions, industry, or funding bodies, to develop consortia to finance and carry out Projects.

Any such facilitation of collaboration, including the release of Confidential Information, will be subject to the relevant Party or Parties' prior consent.

1.5 Updates to grant guidelines

These guidelines are intended for investigators applying for funding under the Net Zero Emission Mining Research Grants Program.

The grant guidelines may be reviewed by MRIWA and updated grant guidelines will be published on the [MRIWA website](#).

When preparing an Application, all prospective Project Participants should ensure they are viewing the latest version of the grant guidelines.

Applicants to MRIWA's open call for applications should refer to the relevant guidelines published on the MRIWA website.



2 APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

2.1 Expression of interest

All Lead Investigators are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the Research Portfolio Manager(s) prior to commencing the development of an Application.

Such a discussion will canvass eligibility for MRIWA funding and can help enhance the quality of the Application. The Research Portfolio Manager will provide general advice only and will not provide feedback on the full Application prior to the closing date and time for applications.

The Research Portfolio Manager may provide the Lead Investigator with a copy of the standard Conditions of Grant and any other relevant documents at this time. This information should be circulated to all Participating Organisations for discussion during the proposal development.

2.2 Submitting an Application

Applications for funding must be made on the Net Zero Emission Mining Research Grant Application Form and emailed to rpm@mriwa.wa.gov.au with all relevant attachments. These forms are accessible via the [MRIWA website](#) or by contacting MRIWA via [phone or email](#).

Eligible applications must be received by the closing date and time. This funding round will close at **0700 (AWST) Wednesday 7 July 2021**.

Applications should allow sufficient time for submission, particularly if large attachments are to be received by email. Applications received after 0700 (AWST) will not be accepted.

2.3 Assessment process

Applications which are assessed as satisfying the Eligibility Criteria will be assessed by a Grant Assessment Panel against the Merit Criteria before submission to the MRIWA Board.

A Grant Assessment Panel is an advisory committee, convened by MRIWA. Panel members are selected from the MRIWA College, a broad cross-section of research and industry subject-matter experts, primarily from the minerals sector and minerals research fields.

The composition of a Grant Assessment Panel will vary from round to round, to ensure it includes an appropriate level of skills and expertise to effectively assess the Applications received. Information on the MRIWA College is available from the [MRIWA Website](#).

The Grant Assessment Panel assesses all eligible Applications against Merit Criteria and makes a recommendation to the MRIWA Board on whether the proposal is suitable for support, or if conditions or actions are required by the Lead Investigator prior to a recommendation being provided to the MRIWA Board.

In a competitive funding round, in the event the value of requested funding from Applications considered to be suitable for support exceeds the amount of funding available for allocation, Applications will be ranked by the Grant Assessment Panel based on value for money and the degree to which they will deliver impact and benefit to Western Australia, with a recommendation being provided to the MRIWA Board.



MRIWA may, at any time during the assessment process, vary the activities it undertakes when assessing an Application. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- inviting the Lead Investigator and Project Participants to present the Application to a Grant Assessment Panel meeting;
- seeking further information or clarification from the Lead Investigator on matters pertaining to the Application at the request of the Grant Assessment Panel or the MRIWA Board; and
- contacting any relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory and international government agencies, Project Participants, Participating Organisations or other relevant parties about the Application.

2.4 Confidentiality of information

All members of the MRIWA Board, MRIWA College and Grant Assessment Panels and MRIWA staff must comply with the confidentiality provisions of section 70 of the MRIWA Act. This includes confidentiality of any data or information contained in the Application, or otherwise provided by the Project Participants and Participating Organisations.

To avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest in the assessment of Applications, members of the MRIWA Board and Grant Assessment Panel must adhere to the [MRIWA Code of Conduct](#) and [Managing Material Personal Interest Guidelines](#).

At the time the Application is submitted, the Lead Investigator may submit a request to restrict circulation of the Application from certain individuals or organisations, where there is a demonstrated concern around the protection of Intellectual Property and commercially sensitive information. All such requests will be reviewed by MRIWA staff, in consultation with the Lead Investigator.

2.5 Board decisions

When assessing the Application, the MRIWA Board will consider the recommendations of the Grant Assessment Panel but is not required to act on its advice. The MRIWA Board may:

- request further information;
- approve an Application as presented;
- conditionally approve an Application, subject to specified conditions, for example but not limited to: timeframe within which the Conditions of Grant must be executed; increased industry co-investment, changes to the scope of the research, or pending the decisions of another co-funding body;
- decline an Application and invite the applicant to resubmit with amendments as suggested; or
- decline an Application.

As part of the deliberations, the MRIWA Board may consider the level of risk associated with the Project, value for money, current and previously funded MRIWA research projects and the distribution of funding across the Programs of the Research Priority Plan.

The Board may allocate funding to one or more meritorious Applications until all available funding for this competitive funding round has been allocated.

The Board reserves the right to not allocate all available grant funding in the instance there are insufficient applications deemed suitable.

The MRIWA Board may elect to not fund an otherwise meritorious Application if:

- the aims or outcomes are similar to existing or previous research;
- all funds allocated to this competitive funding round have been exhausted; or
- the Project does not align to the targeted priority themes applicable to this funding round.



A list of MRIWA-funded projects is available from the [MRIWA website](#) along with information on any current focus areas, including the Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge.

The decision on whether funding will be offered to a Lead Organisation will be made by the MRIWA Board and this decision will be final.

2.6 Research grant funding

A total of \$1 million in MRIWA co-funding is available for allocation through this competitive funding round.

There is no minimum grant amount. The maximum MRIWA contribution is \$1 million over the life of the project, which may be allocated to a single research proposal, or divided between several research proposals.

MRIWA provides funding for research projects through two main streams:

- MRIWA as the primary grant funding body and grant administering organisation; and
- MRIWA as a funding partner on an application submitted to another research funding body e.g. the Australian Research Council's Linkage Program or Co-operative Research Centres.

All requests for funding must meet the minimum requirements for assessment prior to consideration by the MRIWA Board.

While research funded by MRIWA does not have to be completed in Western Australia, Applications must demonstrate how the research will address the medium to long-term knowledge and technology needs of Western Australia's minerals industry and in particular for this funding round, how it can address challenge(s) to achieving net zero emissions in Western Australia's mining industry.

The MRIWA Board may fund an Application:

- to the amount requested; or
- require a reduced contribution by MRIWA; and/or
- require an increased contribution by the Sponsor(s).

2.7 Notification of outcomes

The Lead Investigator and Lead Organisation will be notified in writing of the outcome of the assessment of their Application, including the amount and nature of the funding support by MRIWA and any conditions attached.

An Application will only become an Approved Project once all conditions have been met. The MRIWA Board reserves the right to withdraw support for an Application where conditions are not met within the specified timeframe. See [section 5](#) for information on Approved Projects.

All Lead Investigators may request feedback from MRIWA on the merit of their full Application at the conclusion of the assessment process if unsuccessful.

2.8 Public announcement of outcomes

Non-confidential Project Information on Approved Projects, may be made available on the MRIWA website and published as part of the MRIWA annual report.

MRIWA reserves the right to distribute Non-confidential Project Information on Approved Projects to the Minister's Office, media outlets and via its social media channels.

The public announcement of outcomes may be delayed where MRIWA is a partner on an Application submitted to another funding body e.g. the Australian Research Council. In this case, the publication of Non-confidential Project Information will occur if and when the project is successful, and the other funding body has made the outcomes public.



3 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications must meet all Eligibility Criteria to be considered by the MRIWA Board.

The level of detail provided in an Application should be relative to the scale of the Project and the level of funding requested.

Where an Application will be submitted to another funding body and the request is for MRIWA to be a funding partner on the project, the external funding application form may be submitted to MRIWA with supplementary information provided to ensure assessment can occur against all eligibility assessment criteria.

3.1 Research activity

The activity outlined in the Application must be minerals research

Minerals research, is defined in the MRIWA Act as the:

- (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.*

3.2 MRIWA Research Priority Plan

The activity outlined in the Application must align to the current MRIWA Research Priority Plan and the Challenge Area

All Applications must align to the Challenge Area and at least one Program and Theme from the current Research Priority Plan, or one of the priority Themes for this Challenge Area outlined in section 1.2.1 of these guidelines.

The priority Themes for the Challenge Area are considered to be cross-cutting issues across all Programs in the Research Priority Plan. Applications relating to the priority Themes for the Challenge Area should select the Program to which the proposal most closely relates.

Applications must clearly demonstrate how the proposed research activity will deliver the intended outcome for the relevant Theme as detailed in the Research Priority Plan, or as detailed in section 1.2.1 of these guidelines.

Where the proposed research activity will contribute to more than one Program and/or Theme, additional Program and Themes may be nominated, provided this is substantiated in the Application itself.

These guidelines relate to a specific call for Applications under the Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge. Only Applications addressing the Challenge Area will be considered for funding in this round.



3.3 Participating Organisations

All organisations named on the Application must be eligible organisations

Each Application must include, and maintain for the duration of the Project:

- a Lead Organisation; and
- a Sponsor, or Sponsors

Inclusion of organisations from the mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector on an Application will be highly regarded.

The Application may include additional Participating Organisations, including:

- Research Organisations; and
- Other Organisations.

These organisations are not required to provide a cash contribution, where they contribute expertise or in-kind contributions to the Project, including provision or analysis of samples, access to data, equipment, exploration and/or mine sites.

To be an eligible organisation, a Participating Organisation must comply with the following mandatory requirements and confirm:

- the cash contributions to be made;
- the organisation is financially sustainable and will contribute (subject to the Application being successful) the staff, funds and other resource indicated in the Application;
- no current directors of the organisation have been convicted of fraud or declared bankrupt;
- they are an organisation which complies with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* (Cth); and
- a commitment to enter into agreement with MRIWA and other Participating Organisations, including the requirement to enter

into arrangements regarding Intellectual Property which do not unreasonably prevent or delay the publication of academic outputs, including the final report.

All Participating Organisations must disclose any current, pending or threatened arbitration proceedings (whether as claimant or defendant) or any prosecution or enquiry pending by a government or official body involving the organisation, where such proceedings have the potential to affect either:

- the organisation's capacity to undertake the proposed Project, or
- the organisation's reputation.



3.4 Financial leverage

The Application must include cash contributions from Sponsors in accordance with the MRIWA Financial Leverage of Research Policy

All applications to MRIWA must include a minimum level of co-investment from Sponsors for the proposed research.

The MRIWA Board calculates the financial leverage as the sum of the combined cash contribution by the Participating Organisations and the MRIWA cash contribution, divided by the MRIWA cash contribution.

Where an Application is to be submitted to another funding body, the amount requested from the funding body will be considered as part of the combined cash contribution, for the purpose of calculating the financial leverage.

This co-investment must meet the minimum requirements, as detailed in the [MRIWA Financial Leverage of Research Policy](#). For any application, the MRIWA Board may seek higher, or accept lower, financial leverage than the target depending on the particulars of the Application.

3.5 Freedom to operate

The research activity will not infringe on the Intellectual Property rights of a third-party

The Lead Organisation must certify it has ownership of, access to, or the beneficial use of, any Intellectual Property (IP) rights, including moral rights, necessary to carry out the Project.

The Application must identify any Background IP required for the Project, including but not limited to patents, confidential knowhow (i.e. information not already in the public domain) and documents (i.e. copyright protected material) and provide details on ownership and any restrictions on use.

Where permission to utilise the Background IP has not been confirmed at the time the Application is submitted, the MRIWA Board may require confirmation from the Lead Organisation prior to approving the Application, including the requirement to provide evidence they have the necessary rights to any IP required to undertake the Project.

3.6 Compliance with requirements

The Application must be complete and demonstrate compliance with relevant policies

Applications must include a response to all questions with sufficient information to allow an assessment against the Eligibility Criteria and Merit Criteria and provide assurance to the MRIWA Board of the ability of Participating Organisations to comply with MRIWA's policies, as amended from time to time, including but not limited to:

- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Risk Appetite Statement](#)
- [Intellectual Property Policy](#)

All required attachments must be provided at the time the Application is submitted.



4 MERIT CRITERIA

All Applications meeting the Eligibility Criteria will be assessed for overall value and risk against the Merit Criteria.

In this competitive funding round, in the event the value of requested funding exceeds the amount of funding available for allocation, Applications considered to be suitable for funding will be ranked by the Grant Assessment Panel based on value for money and the degree to which they will deliver impact and benefit to Western Australia.

Value for money considerations will take into account each of the Merit Criteria and Applications should include sufficient information for this assessment to be made.

Where an Application will be submitted to another funding body and the request is for MRIWA to be a funding partner on the project, the external funding application form may be submitted to MRIWA with supplementary information provided to ensure assessment can occur against all merit assessment criteria.

4.1 Challenge Area

The extent to which the research activity responds to the Challenge Area and the priority Themes

Applications must clearly demonstrate their alignment to the [MRIWA Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge](#) and how the research will advance the achievement of net zero emissions in the Western Australian mining sector.

While Applications may relate to any of the Programs or Themes within the Research Priority Plan, high regard will be given to Applications aligned to the priority Themes and related outcomes identified for this Challenge Area (see section 1.2.1).

Application questions addressing this criterion

- What challenge or issue facing the minerals sector in Western Australia will the project address?
- What is the proposed solution to the challenge or issue?
- What anticipated outcomes will occur as a result of the proposed solution?
- What impact and benefit for Western Australia will the anticipated outcomes deliver?

4.2 Advancing Western Australia

The extent to which anticipated outcomes of the research activity will deliver tangible economic, environmental and social benefit for Western Australia

While the research does not have to be undertaken in Western Australia, Applications must clearly demonstrate the significance of the identified knowledge or technology need and the impact and benefit the proposed research will deliver to Western Australia.

The extent to which the proposed research will deliver benefits for Western Australia will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the:

- contribution the anticipated research results will make to the intended outcomes for the relevant Research Priority Plan Theme(s) or the priority Themes outlined in section 1.2.1 of these guidelines;
- magnitude of the challenge or issue and the consequences of not addressing it;
- value gained by successfully resolving the challenge or issue;
- mainstream or peripheral applicability to industry; and
- anticipated timeframe for expected benefits.



In the context of advancing the achievement of net zero emissions in the Western Australian mining sector, examples of the types of benefits MRIWA is seeking are outlined below.

The economic benefit minerals research can deliver to Western Australia including, but not limited to:

Productivity and efficiency	Increased industry productivity and global competitiveness through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - efficient use of inputs (i.e. energy); and/or - alternative energy sources (i.e. renewables); and/or - utilisation of broader ore grades
Employment	Increased sustained employment in addition to that generated by conducting the actual research activity
Investment	Increased investment (both domestic and international) in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - innovation, research and development; and/or - exploration and mining projects; and/or - infrastructure (i.e. roads, rail, power) which enables mining with cascading benefits to other industries/communities;
Economic performance	Enables the state to capitalise on its comparative advantage (mineral endowment and skills) to increase revenue from companies and government (royalties and other sources of state revenue) without detracting from other sectors of the economy
Diversification	Increased mineral production via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a broader range of commodities mined; and/or - value adding of existing ores leading to downstream processing; and/or <p>Increased growth in mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector</p>

The social benefit minerals research can deliver to Western Australia including, but not limited to:

Innovation and human capital	Attracting, building and retaining skilled workers Developing entrepreneurial mindset sustaining an industry focus on innovation Critical mass of innovation start-ups resulting in clusters of METS companies supporting the sector Understanding potential disrupters and appropriate response strategies
Reputation and brand	Increased profile for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State's mining and METS sector providing access to global conversations on trade and broader industry matters; - Industry demonstrating positive models of mining and contribution to wider community
Wellbeing	Increased wellbeing of the Western Australian community and regional development

The environmental benefit minerals research can deliver to Western Australia including, but not limited to:

Emissions reduction	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) resulting from mining operations in Western Australia.
Energy generation and consumption	Improved energy efficiency and lower energy costs through improved operating practices and/or adoption of alternative technologies.
Land quality	Improved land use and management with reduced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effects on environment during and post mining; - legacy issues and liabilities on the State
Waste	Increased re-use and recycling of by-products and waste generated by mining and mineral processing



Application questions addressing this criterion

- What challenge or issue facing the minerals sector in Western Australia will the project address?
- What is the proposed solution to the challenge or issue?
- What anticipated outcomes will occur as a result of the proposed solution?
- What impact and benefit for Western Australia will the anticipated outcomes deliver?

4.3 Project design and methodology

The technical and scientific strength and clarity of the Application, and the likelihood the research activity will lead to the anticipated outcomes

Applications must describe the proposed activities in sufficient detail to demonstrate the quality and feasibility of the design and mitigation of risks, in order to successfully deliver the Project.

The strength and clarity of the proposed Project purpose, description and design will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to the:

- rationale for the Project and need for further research in the area;
- evidence the proposed activity is novel or innovative;
- appropriateness and robustness of the technical design or methodology including identification of key tasks/proposed activities and timeline;
- inclusion of objectively verifiable milestones which reflect achievement of significant stages in the research;
- clarity in the intended deliverables to be produced as a result of the research activity; and
- identification and management of potential risks identified in accordance with the [MRIWA Risk Appetite Statement](#).

Milestones are used by MRIWA to monitor the progress of a Project and will be included in the Conditions of Grant.

Milestones must be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Bound).

Application questions addressing this criterion:

- In what ways is the proposed activity novel or innovative?
- Describe the technical design or methodology to be used, making it clear how the activities will lead to the anticipated research outcomes.
- Provide a Gantt chart indicating the proposed milestones, tasks, deliverables and stage gates (if applicable), and an indicative timeline for the proposed activities.
- Identify all major risks to the project and strategies or controls to be implemented to mitigate their impact.



4.4 Research team and Sponsors

The ability of the named personnel and organisations to undertake the proposed activities and achieve the Application's anticipated outcomes

Applications must clearly demonstrate the capacity and capabilities of the Participating Organisations and Project Participants to undertake the proposed Project.

The strength and appropriateness of the proposed research team will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the:

- skills and experience, relative to opportunity, of the named personnel to undertake the proposed activity;
- incorporation of multidisciplinary skills to encourage diversity of thought, collaboration and synthesis of information;
- appropriate inclusion of early-career researchers and women as Key Personnel and appropriate involvement of research students in the Application.

The capacity and commitment of the Sponsors to the project will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to the:

- relative financial contribution;
- level of engagement in the proposed activities; and
- demonstrated desire to address the challenge or issues.

Application questions addressing this criterion:

- List all members of the research team and provide details of project support staff to be funded by the Project.
- Provide a Statement of Expertise for the Lead Investigator and each Key Personnel.
- Provide details for all Participating Organisations, including a Letter of Support confirming their commitment to the Project.

4.5 Knowledge transfer

The proposed plan for the dissemination and utilisation of the anticipated research deliverables by industry and/or relevant stakeholders

Applications must demonstrate a clear plan for communicating research results to relevant stakeholders, including both the research community and industry. This plan must identify opportunities to encourage the utilisation and commercial application of the research results.

The extent to which the proposed plan will lead to the dissemination and potential adoption of the research outcomes will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the:

- identification of relevant stakeholders and end-users;
- plan to disseminate results, including beyond the Participating Organisations (to the extent commercial sensitivities allow);
- proposed application of the research results in an operating environment and documented 'path to adoption';
- likelihood the research will be adopted and the potential magnitude of commercial benefit; and
- potential to commercialise the research outcomes and potential return on the investment.



Application questions addressing this criterion:

- What are the key outputs the project will produce?
- What steps will you take to ensure commercial application of the research results?
- Will any of the project outputs be licensed, sold or otherwise commercially exploited? If yes, outline the expected pathway to and an indicative timeframe for commercialisation of the research results.
- What barriers or issues may limit or prevent the adoption of research results and how will these be addressed?
- Briefly outline any current or planned projects or commercialisation activities relevant to, but not part of, this project and the proposed research deliverables.
- What data will be generated or created from the proposed activities and how will this be managed during and following the project's completion?
- How will the research progress and results be communicated to relevant stakeholders?

4.6 Budget

The appropriateness of the budget to undertake the proposed research activity and provide value for Western Australia

Applications must demonstrate the Project is financially viable and represents value for money.

The MRIWA Board requires a minimum cash contribution from the Participating Organisations relative to the MRIWA contribution and may give preference to Applications with a higher financial leverage. See the [MRIWA Financial Leverage of Research Policy](#) and item [3.4](#) for further information.

The appropriateness of the budget will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the:

- total project value and the amount requested from MRIWA;
- inclusion of reasonable costs, commensurate with the proposed research activity. Refer to item [6.1](#) Eligible Expenditure for details on allowable expenses; and
- economic and/or social value of the anticipated outcomes relative to the total cost of the Project.

Application questions addressing this criterion:

- Provide details of cash contributions by each of the Sponsors.
- For each payable milestone, provide an indicative costing for all associated project activity relating to the successful delivery of the milestone.
- Briefly describe the in-kind contribution of the Project Participants and Participating Organisations.



5 APPROVED PROJECTS

5.1 Funding agreement

Following approval of an Application by the MRIWA Board a multi-party funding agreement must be executed between the respective Parties before any payment of funds.

Where MRIWA is the primary grant funding body, the MRIWA Conditions of Grant will be negotiated and executed between MRIWA and all Participating Organisations.

A pro forma of the Conditions of Grant is available from MRIWA. Lead Investigators are encouraged to provide a copy of the Conditions of Grant to all Participating Organisations during the development of the Application. Advance familiarisation with the form of the contract can expedite the negotiation if the Application is approved by the MRIWA Board.

The Conditions of Grant must be executed by all Participating Organisations and MRIWA within four (4) months from the date of the MRIWA Board's approval of the Application. Where the Conditions of Grant has not been executed within the required period, MRIWA reserves the right to withdraw funding for the Project.

Where MRIWA is a funding partner on an application awarded by another grant funding body, MRIWA will enter into an agreement with the relevant parties, as required by the grant funding body, subject to review of the terms and conditions of that agreement.

5.2 Intellectual Property

Details of the arrangements for managing Intellectual Property (IP) associated with a Project should be negotiated between all Participating Organisations and discussed with MRIWA as part of the Application development process. These arrangements will be specified in the Conditions of Grant (or equivalent funding agreement).

For Projects where MRIWA is the primary grant funding body, the pro-forma Conditions of Grant provides three draft options for arrangements regarding Intellectual Property:

- Version A, Ownership of IP by the Lead Organisation;
- Version B, Ownership of IP by a Sponsor; or
- Version C, Ownership of IP in partnership.

Information on MRIWA's position in regard to commercialising Intellectual Property developed, improved, or modified during the Project is available in the [Intellectual Property Policy](#).



5.3 Grant funds

The Conditions of Grant (or equivalent funding agreement) will provide details of the:

- a) MRIWA cash contribution to the Project;
- b) schedule of required cash contributions payable by the Participating Organisations;
- c) total grant funds to be administered by MRIWA;
- d) maximum amount of funding to be paid by MRIWA to the Grantee(s); and
- e) grant funds not administered by MRIWA, to be paid directly by a Sponsor to the Lead Organisation for the purposes of the Project.

MRIWA will only release grant funding after the Conditions of Grant (or equivalent funding agreement) has been signed by all Participating Organisations and MRIWA.

Funding will only be provided for work carried out after the MRIWA Board's approval of the Application subject to execution of the Conditions of Grant.

Where MRIWA is to receive Project funds from Participating Organisations, MRIWA will invoice as per the schedule set out in the Conditions of Grant. These funds will then be disbursed to the relevant Grantee according to the schedule in the Conditions of Grant.

During the course of an Approved Project, payment against research claims requests will only be made when:

1. MRIWA holds sufficient funds against the project; and
2. demonstration of milestone delivery has been confirmed. Refer to item [5.4](#) for further detail.

All grant funds, including any funds paid by the Sponsor directly to the Lead Organisation must be appropriately acquitted.

5.4 Payment of funds

MRIWA will pay on a milestone-based schedule, as negotiated with Participating Organisations and specified in the Conditions of Grant (or equivalent funding agreement). Lead Investigators are to provide details of how they will demonstrate and verify achievement of milestones.

Payments are made on demonstration of the satisfactory achievement of milestones and following receipt by MRIWA of a financial statement detailing incurred expenditure.

Following milestone verification and approval of the reporting period's financial statement by MRIWA, a claims requests/purchase order will be sent by MRIWA to the relevant contact at the Participating Organisation specified in the Conditions of Grant.

The Grantee can then invoice MRIWA as per the financial statement approved. Payments are made in arrears, based on actual expenditure and will not exceed the agreed value in the research payment schedule outlined in the Conditions of Grant.

The final payment will not be made until the final report has been approved by MRIWA. The amount withheld will be specified in the Conditions of Grant, but usually represents a percentage of the total funding amount.

5.5 Addition of new participating organisations

MRIWA supports in-principle inclusion of new parties to previously approved Projects subject to the terms and conditions in the Conditions of Grant.

Any such change will be included in a variation to the original Conditions of Grant.



5.6 Project commencement activities

All Approved Projects are required to undertake reporting activities at the commencement of the Project and be provided to MRIWA.

Project summary

All Projects are required to prepare a summary of the proposed project, identifying the challenge, the proposed solution and intended benefits.

The summary should be written for a non-scientific audience.

This information will be made available on the MRIWA website and may be used in the MRIWA Annual Report.

Environmental scan

Unless otherwise advised by MRIWA, projects are required to undertake a comprehensive environmental scan on the proposed Project area, identifying relevant peer-reviewed literature and current industry practice.

The environmental scan is to be released publicly as part of the project to assist with the Knowledge Transfer of the challenge or issue being addressed.

5.7 Routine reporting

All Approved Projects are required to undertake reporting activities related to the technical progress and administration of the Project. Routine reporting requirements will be scheduled in the Conditions of Grant.

These requirements are outlined in [MRIWA's Project Reporting Guidelines](#) and should be considered when preparing an Application and developing a timeline for the proposed activities. These reporting activities include:

Progress reports

A summary report demonstrating the Project's progress against the scope, schedule, budget and achievement of milestones must be provided by the Lead Investigator to MRIWA for transmission to all Project Participants.

Financial statements

A statement detailing the incurred expenditure against the completed milestones, funds paid by Sponsors directly to the Grantee and the amount to be claimed from MRIWA.

Financial statements should be submitted using the appropriate MRIWA template.

Sponsor's review meetings

Regular meetings, commencing with a kick-off meeting at the beginning of the Project, will be held with representatives from the Sponsors, MRIWA, and Project Participants.



5.8 End of project reporting

At the conclusion of a Project funded in part or entirety by MRIWA, the Lead Investigator must meet all reporting requirements, as specified in the Conditions of Grant (or equivalent funding agreement).

These requirements are outlined in [MRIWA's Project Reporting Guidelines](#) and may include:

Final technical report

A detailed report, written for public release, providing key background information, the Project's hypotheses, methods, data, results, analyses and interpretation, conclusions and applications of the research findings. The report should be a stand-alone publication.

Where a final technical report is required, the report must be approved by all Participating Organisations and MRIWA prior to being finalised. Confidential Information may be excluded following approval by MRIWA.

The publication of the final technical report may be deferred, at the request of a Sponsor or the Lead Organisation, for up to one year following the project completion date, provided there are justifiable reasons for such a request. The final decision as to timing of publication rests with MRIWA.

Other final reporting options will be considered if it is able to be demonstrated they will result in greater utilisation of the research outcomes.

Report release plan

A plan describing the information which will be communicated in relation to the publication of the research findings and the channels through which the information will be distributed.

Unless otherwise agreed, this information will be made available on the MRIWA website and may be used in the MRIWA annual report or other communication forums.

Final financial statement

A statement detailing the actual expenditure of Grant Funds during the entire Project and receipt of any direct amounts, if relevant.

The final financial statement should be submitted using the appropriate MRIWA template.

Project evaluation form

At the conclusion of the research activity, a brief evaluation report is provided to MRIWA summarising the Project's achievements, outputs and outcomes.

The form may be used by MRIWA to evaluate the research grant funding program. See item [5.10](#) for further information.

The Project evaluation report should be submitted using the appropriate MRIWA template.



5.9 Publicity and promotion

Non-confidential Project Information from the periodic progress reports may be made available on the MRIWA website and published as part of the MRIWA annual report and other communication forums to provide a statement on the progress of the Project or the Challenge Area.

MRIWA reserves the right to distribute Non-confidential Project Information on in-progress and completed Projects to the Minister's Office, media outlets and via its social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn), as well as part of its events and communications related to the Challenge Area.

5.10 Evaluation

MRIWA is required to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the research grant funding program to determine the extent to which the program activities deliver on the objectives of MRIWA and the Government.

MRIWA may use information from the Application, progress reports, and final technical and project evaluation reports for this purpose. In addition, MRIWA may contact Project Participants and Participating Organisations during the Project, and following completion of the Project, to assist with this evaluation.

A follow-up evaluation report is sought from the Lead Investigator 12 months, or as otherwise agreed with MRIWA, following the submission of the final technical report.

This report will be an opportunity for the Lead Investigator to update MRIWA on the impact of the research, dissemination activities and any commercial application of the research outcomes occurring following the Project's completion.



6 FURTHER INFORMATION

6.1 Eligible expenditure

Salary and wage costs only for the time personnel spend working on activities directly related to the Project and at the appropriate level for the employing organisation. Salary on-costs are capped at 30%.

Salary/wage costs for the following *may* be requested:

- Research team personnel who will be making a significant contribution (> 0.3 FTE).
- Teaching relief for tenured research team personnel.
- Project support staff (e.g. postdoctoral research associates, research assistants, technicians, plant operators).
- Stipends for higher degree research students, where the student project is integral to the proposed research and they are appointed specifically for the Project.
- Third-party services, where integral to the proposed activity.

To maximise the value of funding, MRIWA does not generally cover the salary costs of tenured university staff, company executive staff, research institution staff or similar, whose salaries are already paid from other sources. MRIWA reserves the right to request evidence of employment arrangements, should the Application be successful.

Consumables and analytical work as reasonably required for project delivery. All costs should be itemised including where tax credits are claimed if relevant.

Travel essential to the Project's activities. Reasonable travel expenses for field work and site visits associated with the Project are accepted, but overseas or interstate travel to conferences etc. will generally not be funded by MRIWA.

Equipment may be purchased where the need is satisfactorily demonstrated in the Application. The MRIWA Board has discretion over the amount of any funds contributed by MRIWA towards the cost of research equipment associated with an Application. All equipment requests over \$10,000 (ex. GST) must include an official quotation as part of the Application.

Any equipment purchased becomes an asset of the Lead Organisation who is responsible for the proper care, utilisation and maintenance of the research equipment and for its security and insurance cover, throughout the duration of the Project.

MRIWA encourages the use of such equipment for further research and requires acknowledgement of MRIWA's contribution in relation to the purchase on an ongoing basis.

Maintenance costs essential to the Project's activities. MRIWA encourage the re-use of existing equipment and may contribute to costs associated with the refurbishing of essential equipment which is to be re-utilised for the proposed Project, or the maintenance of pre-existing plant, or maintenance necessary during the course of the Project. All maintenance requests over \$10,000 (ex. GST) must include an official quotation as part of the Application.

Other costs should be included for any items that do not fall within any of the above categories. This includes administrative overheads and charges for the use of facilities (including rent) and equipment, library services etc., which are directly attributable to the Project, are accepted as an infrastructure charge. The amount included in this category must not exceed 10% of the total cash cost of the Project.

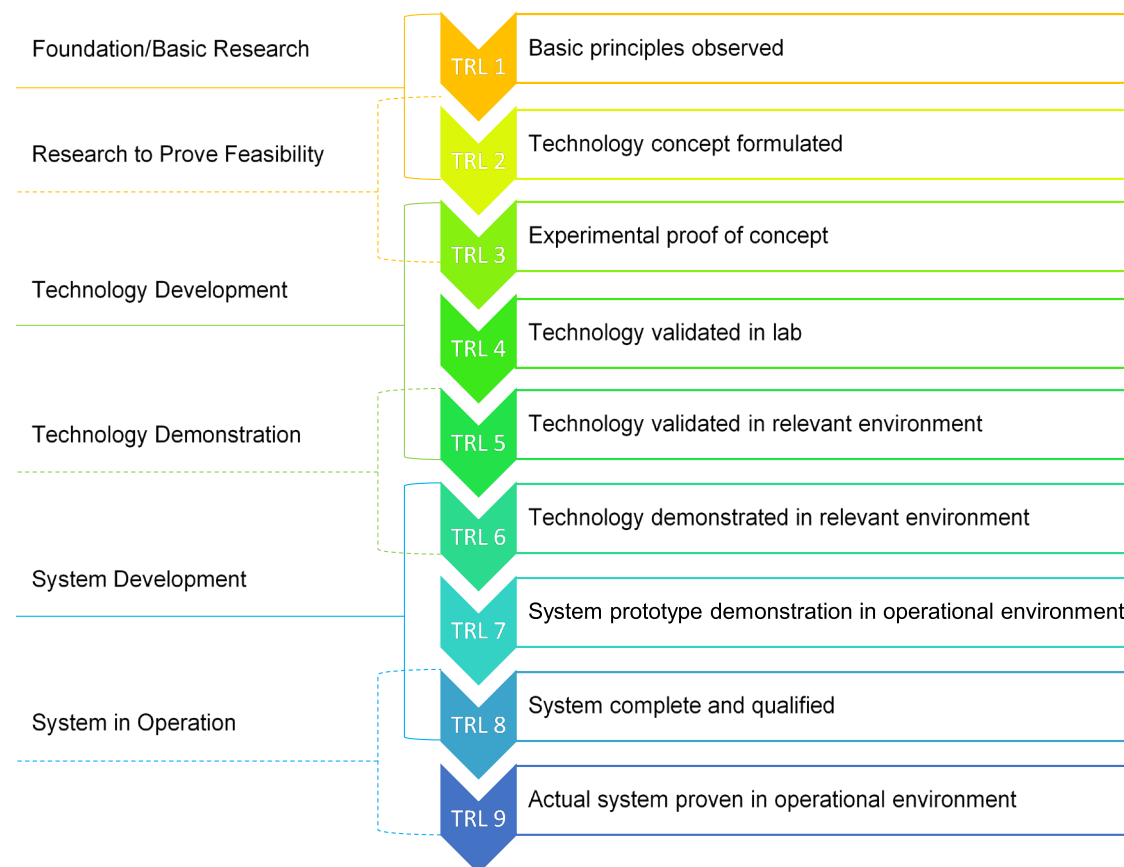


6.2 Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

The Technology Readiness Level (TRL) describes the maturity of a given technology. This scale is used to identify where on the innovation value chain a project lies, and what the level of investment risk is for MRIWA.

As the nature of research is unpredictable, there is no requirement to reach a specific TRL by the end of the Project. However, all applications should demonstrate a plan to progress beyond the starting TRL over the course of the Project.

MRIWA principally supports projects which are assessed as having a TRL between 1-5 (inclusive) at the time the Application is submitted.



6.3 In-kind contributions

While MRIWA appreciates the value of in-kind contributions to the Project, the financial value of in-kind contributions is not considered when assessing an Application or determining the financial leverage rate for the Application.

6.4 Letter of Support

The Sponsor's Letter of Support must be provided on the Sponsor's formal letterhead, be signed by the person with authority to commit the funds to the Project and include the information as outlined below.

The Letter of Support template is available for download from the [MRIWA website](#).



7 GLOSSARY

Application means the application submitted to MRIWA to obtain financial assistance in order to conduct the Project.

Approved Project means a Project which has been approved by the MRIWA Board for funding.

Associate Investigator means a person who provides an important contribution to the project and would warrant inclusion in research publications etc, but does not meet the definition of Key Personnel.

Background Intellectual Property or **Background IP** means all Intellectual Property owned by a Party, or which a Party is licensed to use, prior to the commencement of the Project made available for the conduct of the Project, including the Intellectual Property described in the Application.

Challenge Area means the Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge.

Conditions of Grant means the agreement entered into by MRIWA and the Participating Organisations when an Application is approved for funding.

Confidential Information means all information disclosed by a Party (Discloser) to another Party (Recipient) for the purposes of or in connection with a Project that:

- a) if provided in writing is marked or identified in writing at the time of disclosure as being confidential;
- b) if provided orally is identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and which is subsequently confirmed by the Discloser in writing to the Recipient to be confidential; or
- c) however provided, by its nature should have been understood by the Recipient to be confidential,

but excludes any information that:

- d) the Recipient can prove was known to the Recipient prior to receipt from the Discloser, and which is not subject to an existing obligation of confidence;

- e) is in or enters the public domain otherwise than as the result of a breach by the Recipient of this Agreement or other obligation of confidence; or
- f) is lawfully obtained by the Recipient from a person who is not under an obligation of confidence to the Discloser in respect of that information.

Eligibility Criteria means the criteria an Application must meet in order to be considered for funding by the MRIWA Board.

Grant Assessment Panel means the members of the MRIWA College selected to participate in the assessment of an Application.

Grant Funds means the combined MRIWA Commitment and Sponsor Organisation Commitments, including Direct Amounts to be paid in part or entirety over the Project to the Grantee(s).

Grantee means a Participating Organisation who will receive Grant Funds.

Intellectual Property or **IP** includes all copyright and neighbouring rights, registered and unregistered trademarks, registered designs, all rights in relation to inventions (including patents), plant varieties, Confidential Information (including trade secrets and know-how), circuit layouts, moral rights and all other rights resulting from intellectual activity.

Key Personnel means a person integrally involved in carrying out the Project and providing a significant contribution throughout the Project. Key Personnel are named in the Conditions of Grant and are not able to be replaced without the prior written approval of MRIWA.

Lead Investigator means the Project supervisor and officer representing a Lead Organisation and directly responsible for the conduct of the Project.



Lead Organisation means the organisation responsible for submitting the Application and who will take responsibility for the research component of the Project.

Letter of Support means a formal document provided by the Sponsor as part of the Application with a written confirmation of the Sponsor's cash investment to the Project.

Merit Criteria means the qualitative criteria against which an Application will be assessed.

Minister means the member of the Government of Western Australia responsible for MRIWA.

MRIWA means the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia established under the MRIWA Act.

MRIWA Act means the *Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia Act 2013 (WA)*.

MRIWA Board means the board provided for in section 26(1) of the Act.

MRIWA College means the persons appointed by the MRIWA Board to provide a pool of expertise on which MRIWA may call to assist with the assessment of Applications.

Non-confidential Project Information means the Project title, Participating Organisations, and total grant amount. It may also include summary information provided by the Project Participant in the Application or periodic progress report which has been clearly identified as information to be made available to the public.

Other Organisation means an organisation named on the Application which is not the Lead Organisation, Research Organisation or a Sponsor.

Participating Organisation means an organisation named on the Application and may include the Lead Organisation, Sponsor or Other Organisation.

Parties means all Participating Organisations to the Conditions of Grant and **Party** means any one of them.

Program means the broad research areas identified in the Research Priority Plan.

Project means the research project named and outlined in an Application.

Project Intellectual Property or **Project IP** means all Intellectual Property created during the course of and as a result of carrying out the Project. For the avoidance of doubt, Project Intellectual Property does not include Background Intellectual Property.

Project Participant means a person named in the Application who will provide an important intellectual or practical contribution to the Project.

Research Organisation means an organisation named on the Application, which is not the Lead Organisation, who will be conducting research.

Research Priority Plan means the research priority plan as prescribed under the MRIWA Act.

Sponsor means a Participating Organisation who will provide a cash contribution to the Project.

Technology Readiness Level or **TRL** means the level of maturity of a given technology and is used to identify where on the innovation value chain a project lies.

Theme means the narrow research areas identified in the Research Priority Plan, or in section 1.2.1 of these guidelines, which include an associated intended outcome.

