

# Innovate to Grow Program and Funding Guidelines

## Innovate to Grow

MRIWA has partnered with CSIRO and Praxera to deliver the [Innovate to Grow: Net Zero Emission Mining program](#).

This engaging virtual learning program is tailored to small and medium businesses in the METS sector responding to the [MRIWA Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge](#).

Participants in the program will be exposed to R&D and industry knowledge, innovation experts and mentors to help develop an actionable funding proposal.

## On completion of the program

Program participants will have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$50,000 in matched funding to develop their solutions towards implementation.

The grants will be subject to a separate application and assessment process with MRIWA.

Applications to participate in the Innovate to Grow program should be submitted via the [CSIRO website](#).

To be eligible to participate, the business must have an ABN, ACN, be registered for GST and meet the criteria specified in the [Innovate to Grow application form](#).

## Innovate to Grow Grant Funding

Program participants will have the opportunity to apply for grants between \$20,000 to \$50,000, to co-fund the research needed to develop their solutions. A total of \$500,000 is available for allocation.

The terms of MRIWA's standard [Research Grant Guidelines](#) apply and are available on our website. To apply under this grants program:

### Grant Eligibility Criteria

- **Lead organisations** must have completed the Innovate to Grow: Net Zero Emission Mining program, and involve a research organisation to ensure a robust methodology
- The **research activity** must meet the definition of 'minerals research' in the Guidelines
- The research activity must align to **at least one program and theme** within [MRIWA's Research Priority Plan](#)
- **Financial leverage** must be demonstrated, with matched funding (1:1) required for this grants round
- Applications must meet MRIWA's **freedom to operate** and **compliance** criteria

### Grant Merit Criteria

Eligible applications will then be assessed against the following merit criteria:

- Advancing Western Australia
- Project design and methodology
- Research team and sponsors
- Knowledge transfer
- Budget

*Guidance on the applicable criteria will be provided to participants during the Innovate to Grow: Net Zero Emission Mining program*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Innovate to Grow?

Innovate to Grow is an engaging virtual learning program helping small to medium sized businesses (SMEs) develop actionable business insights and strategies for leveraging research and development (R&D) to meet specific business needs.

With the help of experienced researchers and innovation experts, participants identify real technical and/or business challenges, explore what R&D and innovation opportunities exist to overcome those challenges, and develop actionable business and funding plans to activate those opportunities.

### When does the program start?

The program will run for 10 weeks starting with a half day online workshop at 9am AWST on Thursday 29 July. Participants will receive some preparation tasks to complete in the week prior.

### What is involved?

In addition to the mandatory virtual workshop, participants will be required to undertake 1-2 hours per week of self-paced learning over the 10-week period.

By the end of the program, participants will develop an actionable research funding proposal related to the MRIWA Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge.

### Will I automatically be eligible for funding if I participate in the Innovate to Grow program?

No. Applicants must still meet MRIWA's funding requirements and be assessed against the criteria on the previous page.

### Do in-kind contributions count towards the 'matched funding'?

While in-kind contributions may demonstrate support for the application, all 'matched funding' must be provided as cash.

### Do I have to involve a research institution?

To ensure robust methodology for the research, applicants are required to partner with a research organisation.

### What if I don't know any researchers?

As part of the Innovate to Grow program, you will be connected with mentors from CSIRO and Western Australian Universities. Your mentors will help connect you with relevant researchers.

### Does the research have to be undertaken in WA?

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.

### When is the deadline for grant applications?

Applications for grant funding will close in late September/early October 2021, shortly after completion of the Innovate to Grow program. MRIWA will work with participants to develop their applications during the program.

### Will I need to sign a funding agreement?

Yes. Following approval of an application by the MRIWA Board a funding agreement must be executed between the parties within four months of Board approval.

Find out more about the [MRIWA Net Zero Emission Mining Challenge](#)

Learn more and submit your application to the [Innovate to Grow: Net Zero Emission Mining program](#)

For further information, contact us at: [rpm@mriwa.wa.gov.au](mailto:rpm@mriwa.wa.gov.au)