



APPLICANT GUIDELINES

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide general information and guidance to assist with the preparation and submission of an application to the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) Science Communication Awards.

Applicants should read these Guidelines before completing their application.

1.1 Overview of the Science Communication Award Program

The aim of the MRIWA Science Communication Award is to encourage and recognise the value of high-quality, high-impact communication of minerals research, technology and services shaping the future of Western Australia's mining and minerals industry and supporting a culture of science accessibility.

Entries to the MRIWA Science Communication Award competition will be in the form of a 3-minute explainer video presented by applicants. This is an evidence-based Science Communication Award and scientific accuracy will be assessed as part of the judging process.

Objectives

In accordance with MRIWA's Vision and Pillars, the objectives of the Science Communication Awards are to:

- Showcase and reward exceptional science communicators in Western Australia involved in minerals research, technology or services aligned to MRIWA's Research Priorities and Focus Areas.
- Promote minerals research advancing Western Australia.
- Raise the profile of researchers and professionals involved in minerals research and technology advancing Western Australia.
- Produce and distribute exemplar communication of scientific knowledge in the mineral resources sector.
- Activate research collaborations benefitting the state's mining and minerals industry.
- Showcase Western Australia as a leading source of research, technology, and innovation in the minerals sector globally.
- Inspire the next generation of scientists and mining professionals shaping the future of Western Australia's mineral sector.

1.2 Prize Program & Benefits

The prize includes a trophy and prize money.

First Place: **\$5,000** (GST exempt).

Second Place: **\$2,000** (GST exempt).

Third place: **\$1,000** (GST exempt).

The award will be judged over two stages: An initial competition for shortlisting of finalists; and a subsequent final competition.

Shortlisted finalists will be invited to attend science communication training including a masterclass on communication, video production and confidence on camera and written feedback from judging panel to support further development of their presentation and science communication skills. This training also aims to support applicants in preparing an exceptional form of high-level presentation for the final competition.

Award recipients will be invited to attend MRIWA's Research Showcase on 21st August. First, second and third place prize winners will be announced at the event. The Showcase is designed to showcase research and innovation in the minerals and mining industry and typically attracts delegates from industry, government, research institutions and the Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) sector.

1.3 Key Dates

1 April	Entries open
10 May	Entries close
31 May	Science Communication Training - please put in your diary as a placeholder and keep free should you progress to the next round
31 May	2nd round entries open for video resubmission should you choose
21 June	2nd round entries close
26 July	Finalists selected
21 August	Science Communication Awards - please put in your diary as a placeholder and keep free should you be selected as a finalist

1.4 Award Process Overview

Submissions Open

Award guidelines are published and applications open.



Internal Review

Applications are internally assessed against eligibility criteria (see Section 4).



Judging Panel Review Round 1

Eligible video presentations are assessed for scientific accuracy and against the Evaluation Criteria by Judging Panel 1 (see Section 5).



Science Communication Training

Applicants are notified and shortlisted applicants are invited to attend Science Communication Training.



Judging Panel Review Round 2

Applicants may refilm and resubmit their video entries if they choose. Finalists' videos are assessed against Evaluation Criteria (see Section 5) and the top 3 Award finalists are selected.



Award Winners Announced

The top 3 finalists will be notified of their status and invited to attend the MRIWA Research Showcase on Wednesday 21st August 2024 where the winners will be announced.



Award Program Evaluation

Applicants are asked to provide program feedback following the Award's completion.

2. Background Information

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

2.1 MRIWA Objectives



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

To achieve this, MRIWA will:

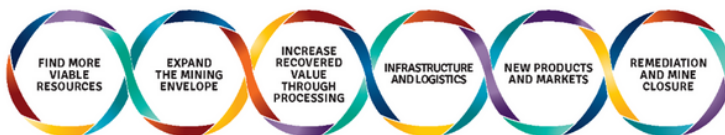
- support an **IMPACTFUL RESEARCH** program where applied research creates capability and delivers economic, environmental and social benefit for Western Australia;
- provide **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH LEADERSHIP** so industry, academic and government relationships can activate innovation and research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

2.2 MRIWA Research Priorities

The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA) supports the research and development needs of the Western Australian minerals industry to ensure it remains an engine of responsible economic growth for Western Australia.

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 the MRIWA Board as presenting real and significant challenges inhibiting Western Australian from fully benefiting from the minerals sector and where resolution of these challenges will create opportunities and deliver value to the State.

The priorities defined fall across six broad areas of research, outlined in the image below. These program areas incorporate priorities specific to parts of the mining value chain, and together with broader themes applicable across the value chain define an integrated framework supporting the research objectives outlined in the Plan. All prospective applicants should familiarise themselves with the current Research Priority Plan prior to commencing an application.



2.3 MRIWA Focus Areas

MRIWA has expanded its approach to advancing Western Australia through minerals research by pursuing specific research and thought leadership focus areas, in addition to our conventional program areas. These include:

- Net Zero Emission Mining
- Green Steel
- Critical Minerals
- METS Innovation
- Exploration Amplification
- Precision and Low Impact Mining
- Alternative Use of Tailings and Waste
- Mineral Carbonation

All submissions to MRIWA Science Communication Award need to demonstrate alignment with MRIWA's research priorities and/or Focus Areas, and establish how their research delivers economic, social, or environmental benefit for Western Australia.

3. Application Process

The selection of award recipients is a competitive process. Comparability of the applications is therefore critical to the selection of winners. The applicant's submission must meet the eligibility criteria and format requirements for their application to be considered by the judging panel. An application not complying with the requirements will be considered ineligible.

3.1 Submitting an Application

Applications must be submitted online by visiting the following link:

<https://forms.gle/C169fjpcoubfpqgB9>

The applicant must ensure the video recording is submitted in the required format and to the required length.

The items required for submission include a link to an original (unpublished) **3-minute video** of the applicant, explaining their research, technology, or service on a subject aligned to MRIWAs research priorities or focus areas. Applicants must ensure an unembargoed link to the video submission is provided via a platform of choice, e.g. YouTube, Google Drive, One Drive.

Video specifications:

- video length: 3 minutes maximum.
- number of slides permitted: 3.
- clear audio and visuals.

Any materials other than those requested will not be provided to the judging panel and will therefore not be considered in the evaluation process.

**Applications are required to be submitted by
12:00PM (AWST) Friday 26th April 2024.**

3.2 Assessment Process

Internal Review

Applications will be assessed against the Eligibility Criteria outlined in Section 4 of this document before being assessed by the Judging Panel. The Internal Review is conducted by a MRIWA representative.

Judging Panel Review

Eligible Applications will be assessed by Judging Panel 1 for scientific accuracy and against the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Section 5. The award will be judged over two stages: an initial competition for shortlisting of finalists; and a subsequent final competition.

The Judging Panels are advisory committees convened for this purpose by MRIWA. Panel members may include science communication experts and subject-matter experts from the minerals and mining sector and minerals research fields.

The judges' recommendations are final. The deliberations of the judging panel and all related information and material will be kept strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

3.3 Confidentiality of Information

All members of the Judging 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 applicants.

To avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest in the assessment of applications, members of the Judging Panel must adhere to the MRIWA Code of Conduct and Managing Material Personal Interest Guidelines.

3.4 Use of Application Materials

All materials provided are accepted on the understanding MRIWA may use or disclose such material under the following circumstances:

- in the process of determining finalists and the recommended winners.
- for the purposes of informing the public about the award outcomes.
- in any publicity concerning the Awards.
- for inclusion in MRIWA's annual report.
- in any publicity concerning the promotion of science.
- in other instances where information collected may be disclosed without consent, where authorised or required by law.

All award-related information, material provided, and material created by MRIWA through the Science Communication Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photographs remains the property of MRIWA.

3.5 Public Announcement of Outcomes

Announcement of competition winners and presentation of awards will take place at MRIWA's Research Showcase on 21st August. Finalists' videos will be shown during the awards ceremony.

MRIWA reserves the right to distribute videos and non-confidential information from Award winners to the Minister's Office, media outlets and on all MRIWA communication channels (e.g. website, YouTube, social media, internal newsletters).

Applicants will be asked in each application round to approve the use of their video for public viewing.

3.6 Expectations of Award recipients

Award recipients are expected to participate in public and media engagements promoting minerals science to the wider community and students.

MRIWA will coordinate participation of the award recipients by facilitating links with existing science engagement opportunities and STEM activities in the state. MRIWA may also invite finalists to participate in science engagement opportunities, events, and online promotional activities.

MRIWA encourages award winners to promote their success through any communication channels to which they have access, such as, websites, media, corporate newsletters, and social media.

Award recipients are required to acknowledge MRIWA and sponsors when mentioning the award. MRIWA will provide media and branding information to support finalists and award winners in such promotions.

In the event award recipients are contacted by the media, advice should be sought from MRIWA prior to interviews. Information provided to the media must appropriately acknowledge MRIWA and any other sponsors, and the date the award was granted.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet all Eligibility Criteria in the initial Internal Review to be considered by the Judging Panel in round 1.

The applicant must complete the online application process and the applicant declaration confirming their eligibility to apply with supporting documents as requested.

4.1 Applicant

To be eligible for MRIWA science communication award the applicant must:

- hold an eligible visa to live, work or study in Australia.
- reside and are/have undertaken the research in Western Australia.

The award is open to:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate research students (MSc and PhD candidates).
- Researchers and academics at all career levels.
- Industry professionals at all career levels.

4.2 Subject Matter

a) The subject to be communicated must be research, technology or services for the mining and minerals industry.

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.

b) The work communicated must align to MRIWA's Research Priority Plan and/or Focus Areas.

All Applications must align to at least one Focus Area or Program from MRIWA's Research Priority Plan as outlined in Section 2.2 and 2.3.

4.3 Relevance to Western Australia

Presentations must clearly highlight the significance and benefit delivered by the research to Western Australia. The extent to which the research will deliver benefits for Western Australia will be assessed in terms of, but not limited to, the:

- contribution to the state’s minerals sector;
- magnitude of the motivating 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;
- anticipated timeframe for expected benefits; and
- how the research outcomes can be applied or implemented in Western Australia.

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	<p>Increased industry productivity and global competitiveness through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficient use of inputs (i.e., labour, supplies); and/or • alternative processes (i.e., automation); and/or • utilisation of broader ore grades
Employment	<p>Increased sustained employment in addition to that generated by conducting the actual research activity</p>
Investment	<p>Increased investment (both domestic and international) in:</p> <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	<p>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</p>
Diversification	<p>Increased mineral production via:</p> <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	<p>Attracting, building and retaining skilled workers</p> <p>Developing entrepreneurial mindset sustaining an industry focus on innovation</p> <p>Critical mass of innovation start-ups resulting in clusters of METS companies supporting the sector</p> <p>Understanding potential disrupters and appropriate response strategies</p>
Reputation and brand	<p>Increased profile for the:</p> <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	<p>Increased wellbeing of the Western Australian community and regional development</p>

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

Energy generation and consumption	<p>Improved energy efficiency and lower energy costs through improved operating practices and/or adoption of alternative technologies.</p>
Land quality	<p>Improved land use and management with reduced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effects on environment during and post mining; legacy issues and liabilities on the State
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste. Increased re-use and recycling of by-products and waste generated by mining and mineral processing

4.4 Intellectual Property

Applicants must certify ownership of, access to, or the right to mention or disclose, any Intellectual Property (IP) in the research presented, 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.

5. Evaluation Criteria

After the eligibility assessment, video submissions will be evaluated and ranked against the equally weighted criteria of:

- Content Clarity and Structure (9 points)
- Relevant and Progressive (9 points)
- Inspiring and Influential (9 points)

5.1 Content Clarity and Structure

Problem, solution, and benefits are clearly described in a clear, structured, and cohesive manner and the language is appropriate for a non-specialist audience.

5.2 Relevant and Progressive

A progressive and innovative idea about how things should be done. A communication that embodies progress, impact and envisions a better future for Western Australia.

5.3 Inspiring and Influential

A presentation that is authentic, told with passion through storytelling; it is convincing and persuasive and inspires action. Applicant brings their personality to the submission authentically while engaging the audience in an entertaining and informing way.

6. Post Awards Evaluation

6.1 Evaluation

MRIWA will evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Science Communication Award program to determine the extent to which the program activities deliver on the objectives of MRIWA and the Government.

MRIWA may contact applicants following completion of the Program to assist with this evaluation.

This evaluation will be an opportunity for applicants to update MRIWA on the impact of the program following the Program's completion.

6.2 Support

For additional support with your application contact MRIWA at scicomm@mriwa.wa.gov.au.



The Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA or the Institute) is a statutory body established by the Western Australian Government in 2013 under the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia Act 2013 (WA) (the MRIWA Act).

We support applied minerals research projects to create capability and deliver economic, environmental and social benefit for Western Australia.

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