

Expression of Interest Funding Round 4 – October 2011

Goal 1: The social, economic and environmental value of water recycling is demonstrated and enhanced.

Note – this is the second call for proposals to help deliver on the Centre's Goal 1

Objective

The social, environmental and economic value of water recycling is likely to be significant and is not yet fully understood or exploited. There is relatively little scientifically defensible information available on the merits of contemporary water recycling when applied to a range of end-uses including industry, agriculture and the environment. Further, the opportunity to develop new or novel thinking or enhance existing approaches and technologies for such end-uses has not been fully developed.

The objective of this funding round is to continue to identify and support applied and strategic research projects that quantitatively demonstrate and/or enhance the social, economic and/or environmental value of water recycling in Australia.

Project Sponsor

This project is sponsored by the Australian Water Recycling Centre of Excellence under Goal 1 of its Strategic Research Plan. This is the second round of funding allocated to assist delivery of Goal 1 in the Strategic Research Plan.

Scope

An important goal for the Centre is to work with industry, government and researchers to demonstrate and promote water recycling as a high value option to secure future water needs, including optimising water recycling for industry, agriculture and the environment.

The Strategic Research Plan outlines research topics that may generally align with these Goal 1 objectives. Projects may propose to better review, characterise and articulate the inherent value in existing initiatives or identify opportunities for improvement or development of new initiatives, technologies or processes. Project proponents will need to demonstrate how their proposals will contribute to achieving Goal 1, and will need to quantify the expected social, environmental and economic benefits of a successful project outcome.

The Centre has a strong interest in supporting projects that will benefit rural and regional Australia and encourages submissions addressing issues in these areas, as well as in metropolitan centres.

While the Centre has a current focus on recycling from wastewater treatment plants, it is recognised that proponents may draw inspiration from innovative water/wastewater approaches currently under consideration in food, mining, refining or other industrial operations. The Centre will therefore entertain proposals that may draw on knowledge and support from these and related industries.

Methodology

The Centre is calling for Expressions of Interest (EoI) and the scope of applied and strategic initiatives that may be considered is quite broad. In this all for EoI, proponents must outline the scope of work they propose to deliver, as well as a provisional budget for doing so.

Applied projects will require the same level of industry participation and support as specified for previous funding rounds.

Strategic research proposals will not require the same level of industry support as applied projects, but strategic initiatives with industry support will be very favourably considered. Highly innovative (and potentially higher risk) projects are encouraged, however, project teams may be requested to stage their projects and demonstrate proof of concept during the first year before further funding is made available by the Centre.

It is the intention of the Centre to shortlist potential project proposals for development to full proposals.

Project Partners

It is envisaged that projects in this funding round may be delivered by research teams that could include representatives from the following organisations:

- Research organisations
- Agricultural / irrigation industry
- Food and chemical processing industries
- Water engineering firms
- Utility sector
- Government departments / public organisations

Budget

The Centre considers that there continues to be significant scope within this Goal for innovative applied and strategic initiatives and is prepared to invest accordingly. As a guide to applicants and subject to confirmation once the projects and budgets have been further developed in full proposals, the Centre has provisionally allocated in the order of \$2 million to this funding round, to be allocated to applied and strategic proposals.

Project proposals are expected to take between one and two years to complete with requests for Centre contributions between \$250 000 and \$1 million. Final project scope and funding approval will be subject to review and revision by the Centre's Research Advisory Committee and subsequent recommendation by Centre Management for approval by the Board.

Applicants must comply with the Centre funding principles, including cash and in-kind leverage for applied projects and justification for expenditures for all project submissions.

Project Advisory Committee

A Project Advisory Committee may be formed to provide guidance, review all reports and generally monitor and advise on project performance on behalf of the Centre and the stakeholders.