



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**

Frequently Asked Questions

The following Frequently Asked Questions include questions taken on notice or asked and responded to during the Industry Information Sessions held on 3 and 9 December 2024. A recording of the [Industry Information Session \(including transcript\)](#) is available at <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/quad-clean-energy-supply-chain-diversification-program>.

All capitalised terms have the same meaning as given in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (grant guidelines), unless otherwise specified.

1. Online application form

1.1 Will the portal alert me if any information is missing?

The portal will alert you to mandatory fields which have not been completed. However, it is essential you carefully check the accuracy of your Application as your Application may not proceed to assessment if it has not been correctly completed.

1.2 Can other parties be invited to assist with the online application?

You may invite other parties to assist with completing the online Application, such as project partners. This is done through the Application portal using the 'Participants' button on the 'Application Summary' page, accessed from the 'My Applications' screen. It is still a requirement of this Grant Opportunity that the Lead Organisation submits the application.

1.3 Can you save the application?

Yes, Applications can be saved by clicking on the button titled 'Save' at the bottom of the Application page. It's important to save your Application regularly during the Application process to prevent loss of information and valuable time. Ensure you save your Application before progressing into a new part of the form and again before continuing to a new screen. Moving your cursor on the page does not save the Application. Saving your Application is not a substitute for submitting your Application; if you do not submit the Application, we will not have access to your Application.



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1.4 How do I know my application has been received?

When your Application is submitted, you'll see a screen confirming the submission which includes the submission time, date and a reference number. The status of your Application in the portal will change from 'draft' to 'submitted'. If you do not see this page, your Application may not have been submitted. We suggest reaching out to the Business Grants Hub by phoning 13 28 46 if you are having any technical issues and they can provide assistance.

1.5 What time does this Grant opportunity close?

Applications close at 5pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT) on 10 February 2025. Late Applications or requests for extensions will not be accepted under any circumstances. You are encouraged to apply early to give yourself time to rectify any upload problems. Please be aware of your time zone in relation to AEDT.

1.6 Can I set up an account in the online application portal using a non-Australian mobile phone number?

No. The portal uses a two-factor authentication process requiring an Australian mobile number (that is, beginning with country code +61).

2. General Program questions

2.1 What is the length of time for the project?

The minimum project period is 6 months. You must complete your project by 31 March 2028 as set out in section 3.2 of the grant guidelines.

2.2 Of the available grant funding, has the funding been pre-allocated per supply chain type (being solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and batteries)?

No. All Applications will be scored against the assessment criteria and compared to other eligible Applications. In recommending projects for funding, the Committee will give consideration to how the suite of funded projects will collectively contribute to achieving the Program's outcomes, but no funding has been pre-allocated to particular supply chain types.



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2.3 Are there specific solar PV, battery or hydrogen electrolyser materials or technologies that this program is looking to support?

The Program is technology agnostic and does not have a preference for specific technologies within the identified supply chains. All types of solar PV, battery and hydrogen electrolyser technologies are eligible. While Appendix B.1 of the grant guidelines provides examples of vulnerable parts of solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and battery supply chains, these examples are not exhaustive and projects need not be limited to targeting these areas.

2.4 How much grant funding has been allocated for R&D projects versus feasibility studies?

There has been no pre-allocated funding per eligible project type. The funding will be allocated to R&D projects and feasibility studies based on the quality of the Applications submitted and the assessment of the Committee to collectively contribute to achieving the Program's outcomes.

2.5 If there is a large number of applications of high merit, would the Government bring forward any funding from Round 2?

Round 1 of the Quad Clean Energy Supply Chain Diversification Program will provide up to \$25 million in grant funding. There is currently no intention to bring forward funding from Round 2. Any decision on changing funding amounts for funding rounds would be a decision for the Government.



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2.6 Given this is a Quad program, are there any anticipated impacts from the outcome of the US election?

The Australian Government has committed A\$50 million in grant funding as part of the Quad Clean Energy Supply Chain Diversification Program. The Program is being delivered by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW), to support the objectives set out in the grant guidelines. The Australian Government is responsible for decisions relating to the program.

2.7 If there is a change in government at the next Australian election, will this have any impact on the Program?

This would be a matter for the government of the day. DCCEEW cannot speculate on the position that a future government would have on the Program.

2.8 How would a project that is competitive with Australian industry be considered in the grant process?

As stated in Section 8.1 of the grant guidelines, during the assessment process, the Committee will consider whether “*funding the application under this grant opportunity is likely to directly conflict with Australian Government policy, Australian national interest, or materially disadvantage the commercial interests of Australian companies*”.

3. Who is eligible

3.1 Will I/my organisation be eligible for funding?

The eligibility criteria are contained in Section 4 of the grant guidelines. We encourage all potential Applicants to review the eligibility criteria and consider whether you would be able to meet these requirements. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will be considered ineligible and will not be assessed further.

3.2 Can the lead organisation be a university from Australia?

Yes. The list of eligible entities under Section 4.1 of the grant guidelines includes a “publicly funded research organisation (*PFRO*)”, which is defined in Section 14 of the grant guidelines as “***all higher education providers listed at Table A and Table B of the Higher***



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Education Support Act 2003 (Cth) and corporate Commonwealth entities, and state and territory business enterprises which undertake publicly funded research”.

3.3 Are organisations from other Quad economies (India, Japan, US) eligible for funding?

Organisations domiciled (registered or incorporated) in India, Japan and the United States of America can be included as part of a project group (consortium). However, the group must also include at least one eligible Australian organisation and at least one organisation from an Indo-Pacific economy listed in Appendix A. If your Application is successful, payments will be made to the lead Australian organisation, who can transfer funding to other project partners for eligible project activities specified in the grant agreement.

3.4 Am I eligible if my project has received funding from a different grant program?

We cannot fund your project if it receives funding from another Commonwealth Government grant. You can apply for a grant for your project under more than one Commonwealth grant program, but if your application is successful, you must choose either the Clean Energy Supply Chain Diversification Program – Round 1 grant or the other grant.

Any other funding that the project is receiving, including grant funding from other sources, must be detailed in the project budget required under Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines. Other funding that the project is receiving will be considered as part of assessing whether the application provides value with relevant money, as outlined in Section 8.1 of the grant guidelines.

3.5 What do you mean by “domiciled”? What counts as “proof” of this?

Domicile is the place or country in which a business is registered or has been incorporated. Proof may include providing the registration number of the business in the country in which it is registered and/or incorporated.

3.6 What do you mean by “partnerships” are not eligible?

Partnerships (in which two or more people operate a business as partners) are not eligible because they are not separate legal entities.



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3.7 Can I apply as a joint venture (incorporated or unincorporated)?

A joint venture is eligible only if the joint venture is incorporated and the parties establish a separate legal entity to conduct activities.

3.8 Are foreign owned entities with an Australian ABN eligible to apply?

Yes. An organisation is eligible to apply if it has an Australian Business Number, an account with an Australian financial institution, and is one of the entity types listed in section 4.1 of the grant guidelines.

3.9 Can the Indo-Pacific organisation be a subsidiary of the Australian lead organisation?

Yes. The grant guidelines do not preclude the Indo-Pacific organisation from being a subsidiary of the Australian lead organisation, as long as the Indo-Pacific organisation is domiciled (registered or incorporated) in an economy listed in Appendix A of the grant guidelines, and the Australian lead organisation meets the eligibility requirements detailed in Section 4.1 of the grant guidelines.

3.10 Can an entity be domiciled in one of the eligible Indo-Pacific economies listed in Appendix A with full-time operations there, but owned by a parent company that is not based in an Appendix A location nor in a Quad economy?

The grant guidelines do not preclude this. As outlined in Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines, the letter of support from each project partner must include an overview of the organisational structure, including locations of any parent companies or other offices. All applications will be assessed against the four criteria in Section 6 of the grant guidelines, including how your project will meet the project objectives and outcomes – developing and diversifying solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and battery supply chains in the Indo-Pacific.



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3.11 Would a company owned jointly by an Australia organisation and an organisation domiciled in an eligible Indo-Pacific economy be eligible to participate as a partner organisation?

Yes, provided that the partner organisation is domiciled (registered or incorporated) in an Indo-Pacific economy listed in Appendix A of the grant guidelines. As outlined in Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines, the letter of support from each project partner must include an overview of the organisational structure, including locations of any parent companies or other offices.

3.12 Is it viewed positively for project partners to have affiliations with Australian organisations or not?

The grant guidelines are agnostic as to whether project partners have affiliations with Australian organisations or not. Eligible applications will be assessed against the Assessment Criteria outlined in Section 6 of the grant guidelines.

3.13 Is it obligatory to include industry partners as part of the application?

No, however Applications must include at least one eligible Australian organisation that meets the eligibility criteria in Section 4.1 of the grant guidelines, and at least one Indo-Pacific organisation from an economy listed in Appendix A.

3.14 If my project is not successful, are there any other sources of government funding that are available to support my project?

The Australian Government is supporting clean energy development in both Australia and the Indo-Pacific through a range of programs, including but not limited to:

- [Solar Sunshot](#)
- [Hydrogen Headstart](#)
- [Battery Breakthrough Initiative](#)
- [Advancing Renewables Program](#)
- [Future Made in Australia Innovation Fund](#)
- [The International Partnerships in Critical Minerals Program](#)
- [Southeast Asia Investment Deal Teams](#)
- [The Southeast Asia Investment Financing Facility](#)



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- [The Australia-Pacific Partnership for Energy Transition](#)

For more information on these programs, including their objectives, scope and eligibility, we encourage you to visit their websites.

3.15 If I have applied for funding from a different grant process but was unsuccessful, can I submit my proposal for this grant?

Yes, you can. Being unsuccessful in a different grant process does not preclude you from applying for this grant opportunity.

3.16 Why is China not included in the list of eligible Indo-Pacific economies?

This Program is about building partnerships across the Indo-Pacific to diversify clean energy supply chains. The list of eligible economies does not include those where clean energy technology supply chains are currently concentrated, as this would run counter to the key objective of the program to diversify supply chains.

3.17 How did you determine which Indo-Pacific economies will be eligible for funding?

This list was developed through consultation with multiple agencies across the Australian Government, and considers desktop research on opportunities and challenges for clean energy supply chain development in the region. We have aimed for broad coverage to encompass economies spanning the area from the island states of the Indian Ocean to those of the Pacific, and including most of maritime and mainland Asia in between.

The list includes, but is not limited to:

- All Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) economies
- All Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) members
- All ASEAN economies, with the exception of Myanmar as this is currently subject to Australia's autonomous sanctions.

The list excludes:

- economies where clean energy technology supply chains are currently concentrated, as this would run counter to the key objective of the program to diversify supply chains
- states subject to Australia's autonomous sanctions.



3.18 Is there a minimum revenue base required for the Australian organisation submitting on behalf of the project?

No. There are no minimum revenue base requirements for the lead Australian organisation. All eligibility criteria are outlined in Section 4 of the grant guidelines. Note that all lead applicants will need to include an accountant declaration and evidence of financial viability in their application. For more information, see Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines. Also note that applications will also be assessed on you and your project partners' capacity, capability and resources to manage and deliver the project, as outlined in Section 6.2 of the grant guidelines.

4. What is eligible

4.1 What is the scope of eligible projects? What are some examples?

To be eligible your project must be aimed at developing, diversifying and/or reducing vulnerabilities in solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and/or battery supply chains in the Indo-Pacific.

Your project must focus on one or more of the following stages of solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and/or battery supply chains:

- raw material processing
- manufacturing of components
- assembly
- recycling.

Eligible projects may be:

- Research and development projects that target innovative technologies, processes or solutions that help improve efficiencies, lower manufacturing costs, and reduce material dependencies.
 - Examples could include R&D to improve the efficiencies of solar PV cell and module production to make them more cost-competitive, or R&D in battery and electrolyser technologies that use different materials that are less concentrated, scarce, or subject to global shocks.
- Feasibility studies that support business case development for prospective clean energy-related processing, manufacturing and recycling facilities in the Indo-Pacific.



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- An example could be a feasibility study for a battery cell component manufacturing facility.

For further information on eligible grant activities, see section 5.1 of the grant guidelines.

4.2 What is considered eligible project expenditure?

A list of expenditure items that are eligible for funding can be found in section 5.3 of the grant guidelines. DCCEEW may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

4.3 Is there anything I cannot use the funding for?

A list of expenditure items that are not eligible for funding can be found in section 5.4 of the grant guidelines. DCCEEW may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

4.4 Are there restrictions on where the project / project activities can be carried out?

Eligible locations are outlined in Section 5.2 of the grant guidelines. Your project can include activities at different locations as long as they are undertaken in Australia and/or in one or more eligible Indo-Pacific economies listed in Appendix A of the grant guidelines. Project expenditure must occur only in Australia and/or an eligible Indo-Pacific economy. Feasibility studies must be for facilities that would be constructed in an eligible Indo-Pacific economy only – not in Australia or in any other economy which is not listed in Appendix A.

4.5 Can a proposal cover two or more listed priorities?

Yes. There are no restrictions on how many priorities, materials or technologies a proposal can cover.

4.6 Can a research and development project focus on identifying and advancing policy measures related to the eligible supply chains or does it have to specifically target technical and/or economic measures?

Research and development projects focused on policy measures are not explicitly excluded in the grant guidelines. However, projects must focus on one or more of the following stages of solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and/or battery supply chains:

- raw process manufacturing



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- manufacturing of components
- assembly
- recycling.

Section 5.1 of the grant guidelines provides further information on eligible grant activities.

4.7 Do recycling projects require recycling facilities to be built in partner countries, or can they be projects that facilitate recycling supply chains in partner countries without ‘hard’ facilities?

As written in Section 5.1 of the grant guidelines, feasibility studies must support business case development for prospective facilities in the Indo-Pacific – including an assessment of whether the facility would be viable at the proposed site.

Applicants might consider whether the R&D component of this Program could apply to these projects instead. As stated in section 5.1 of the grant guidelines, R&D projects can target innovative technologies, processes or solutions that look to, but are not limited to, helping improve efficiencies and lower manufacturing costs, or helping reduce material dependencies. For more information on eligible grant activities, see Section 5.1 of the grant guidelines.

4.8 Can a feasibility study be aimed at establishing an Australian-owned manufacturing facility in one of the eligible Indo-Pacific economies?

The grant guidelines do not preclude the establishment of an Australian-owned manufacturing facility in one of the eligible Indo-Pacific economies. More information about eligible activities and locations is provided in section 5 of the grant guidelines.

4.9 Can I include both a research and development project and a feasibility study combined in one submission or does have it to be one or the other?

A separate application would be required for a research and development project and a feasibility study project. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an organisation, as long as each application is for a separate, independent and distinct project.

4.10 Are there restrictions on sourcing componentry and technologies from certain countries?

There are no local or other sourcing requirements specified in the grant guidelines. However, to be eligible your project must be aimed at developing, diversifying, and/or



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reducing vulnerabilities in solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and/or battery supply chains in the Indo-Pacific. Eligible grant activities, locations and expenditure are outlined in section 5 of the grant guidelines. All eligible applications will also be reviewed against their alignment with the objectives and intended outcomes of the Program, as detailed in section 6.1 of the grant guidelines.

4.11 Are pilot projects eligible as part of R&D funding that is requested?

Yes, pilot projects would be an eligible activity. Under section 5.1 of the grant guidelines, these would be considered to fall under “trialling, feasibility testing, demonstration of equipment, technology and or new processes”.

4.12 Are feasibility studies for pilot projects eligible?

Yes, feasibility studies for pilot projects are eligible as long as they support business case development for prospective clean energy-related processing, manufacturing or recycling facilities in the Indo-Pacific. Section 5.1 of the grant guidelines specifies further requirements for feasibility studies.

4.13 Does a project have to involve manufacturing/assembly, or can it also cover R&D methods to improve manufacturing and assembly processes?

As per Section 5.1 of the grant guidelines, eligible R&D projects can include those that improve efficiencies and lower manufacturing costs. Methods that would improve manufacturing and assembly processes would fall within this category.

4.14 Can I apply for funding if I have a project that is already underway?

Yes. However, note that in section 6.3 - assessment criterion 3 of the grant guidelines, you are required to describe the likelihood that the project would proceed without the grant, and explain how the grant would impact the project in terms of size and timing. Any expenditure you incur prior to your project being approved for grant funding and a grant agreement being executed is not considered to be eligible expenditure. Further, the Commonwealth will not reimburse you for funding which you have already expended on your project, the grant application and funding sought should be for future stages of your project only.



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4.15 Can the grant funding be used to pay the salaries of Indo-Pacific partners?

Yes. While the grant will be paid to the lead Australian organisation entering into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth, this lead Australian organisation can transfer the grant funding to any other project partner to cover eligible project expenditure related to the Activity detailed in Section B of the grant agreement. Eligible expenditure is detailed in section 5.3 of the grant guidelines. This includes direct labour costs of employees you directly employ on core elements of the project.

4.16 What would be the expected outcome / output of a successful project? For example, would it be an academic paper, IP development, capability demonstration or business model development?

The grant guidelines do not contain a list of expected outputs from projects. All projects will be assessed against the eligibility requirements contained in sections 4 and 5 of the grant guidelines, followed by assessment against the assessment criteria contained in section 6 of the grant guidelines. Outputs could take a number of different forms and the grant guidelines do not prescribe preferred outputs.

4.17 Are activities involving the end use of the three technologies (e.g. hydrogen production using electrolyzers; electricity production using solar PV panels) eligible?

No. Eligible projects must focus on one or more of the following stages of solar PV, hydrogen electrolyser and/or battery supply chains:

- Raw material processing
- Manufacturing of components
- Assembly
- Recycling

Operation of equipment is only eligible to the extent that it supports the objectives of the program (e.g. testing of an electrolyser).

Eligible grant activities are outlined in section 5 of the grant guidelines.



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4.18 Is the grant mainly for STEM (science, technology and engineering) projects rather than law and social science?

The program is discipline agnostic. All applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria in sections 4 and 5 of the grant guidelines, followed by being assessed against the assessment criteria in section 6 of the grant guidelines.

4.19 Do project proposals need to be of a certain Technology Readiness Level (TRL) to be considered eligible?

There are no TRL requirements for this Program.

5. Working with international partners

5.1 Can an Indo-Pacific organisation apply as the lead applicant?

No. An Australian organisation with an Australian Business Number and an account with an Australian financial institution must apply on behalf of the consortium. For further information see section 4.1 of the grant guidelines.

5.2 Can the Australian Government provide support to help Indo-Pacific organisations link up with an Australian organisation?

There is not a designated mechanism to connect Indo-Pacific organisations interested in the Program with Australian organisations. However, applicants may consider approaching:

- The Australian Embassy in their country
- [Austrade trade and investment commissioners](#)
- [Southeast Asia Investment Deal Teams](#)

5.3 What happens if I am unable to find an Indo-Pacific partner?

If you are unable to find an Indo-Pacific partner, you will be ineligible to apply for a grant under the Program. Under section 4.2 of the grant guidelines, we can only accept applications where you identify at least one project partner that is an entity domiciled in one of the eligible Indo-Pacific economies listed in Appendix A.



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5.4 Can the international partner be a foreign government?

It is expected that organisations from Indo-Pacific and Quad countries could include research organisations, private corporations, government organisations and state-owned enterprises. These project partners must be domiciled – meaning registered or incorporated – in an Indo-Pacific or Quad country. For further information see section 7.2 of the grant guidelines.

5.5 Can the Indo-Pacific partner be an international non-government organisation (INGO)?

Yes. Indo-Pacific partners must be domiciled (registered or incorporated) in an Indo-Pacific economy listed in Appendix A of the grant guidelines.

5.6 Can the Indo-Pacific partner be a university?

Yes. Indo-Pacific partners must be domiciled (registered or incorporated) in an Indo-Pacific economy listed in Appendix A of the grant guidelines.

5.7 If the Indo-Pacific organisation is also registered in Australia would they still be eligible as an international partner?

Yes. The Indo-Pacific organisation is eligible if it is domiciled (registered or incorporated) in an economy listed in Appendix A of the grant guidelines.

5.8 Is there a definition of the role of the Indo-Pacific partner(s)? Such as, consultants or materials providers, theoretical research or technoeconomic analysis?

The grant guidelines do not define a specific role for Indo-Pacific partners. The role of each project partner is at the discretion of the group applying for the grant. However, note that under Section 7.2 of the grant guidelines, your application must include a letter of support from each project partner that includes the roles/responsibilities that they will undertake.

5.9 Can the Australian organisation and the Indo-Pacific partner already be engaged in a paid agreement together when they apply?

Yes. There is nothing in the grant guidelines that prevents organisations that are already working together from submitting an application for this Program.

5.10 Can joint applications include organisations that are not Australian or from an economy listed in Appendix A?

Joint applications are mandatory. An eligible Australian organisation must apply on behalf of the group (consortium). The consortium must include at least one organisation from an



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Indo-Pacific economy listed in Appendix A. As an additional project partner, organisations from Quad partner economies (India, Japan, United States) can also be included as part of a consortium.

The grant guidelines do not contain any restrictions on a consortium also including organisations that are not Australian or from an economy listed in Appendix A, so long as:

- The lead applicant applying on behalf of the group meets the eligibility criteria set out in section 4.1 of the grant guidelines
- The group includes at least one project partner that is an entity domiciled in one of the eligible Indo-Pacific economies listed in Appendix A
- You declare that project activities will be undertaken in Australia and/or at least one of the Indo-Pacific economies in Appendix A

For further information, refer to section 4 of the grant guidelines. Applicants should also have regard to the objectives of the program, which include helping to develop and diversify identified supply chains in the Indo-Pacific.

5.11 Are we allowed more than two project partners?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of project partners in the consortium.

5.12 The application requests information on Foreign Affiliations. Given the project has at least one international project partner, should we include both our affiliations and those of each international partner in the application form?

Yes. You should declare all known affiliations for all project partners, including the lead organisation and all other project partners, including the international partner or partners. For further information see sections 13.6.4 and 13.6.5 of the grant guidelines.

5.13 Who is expected to manage the risks associated with working with international partners and in international project locations?

The Australian organisation who applies on behalf of the group and enters into the grant agreement with the Commonwealth is required to manage the risks associated with working with an international partner or partners and in international project locations. The applicant is required to detail how they will manage these risks in the risk management plan required under section 7.1 of the grant guidelines. Resources to help develop the risk management plan are provided under section 13.6 (National security) and Appendix B.2 (Environmental, Social and Governance Considerations) of the grant guidelines.



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5.14 Is there a specific allocation of funding for eligible Indo-Pacific economies based on Gross Domestic Profit and/or economic size?

No, there are no pre-determined allocations for specific Indo-Pacific economies. All eligible projects will be assessed against the assessment criteria (outlined in section 6 of the grant guidelines). Each application will be considered on merit, including: how well it meets the assessment criteria, how it compares to other applications, and whether it provides value with relevant money. The Committee will consider value with relevant money and alignment to the program objectives to recommend projects for funding. Section 8 of the grant guidelines provides further information on the grant selection process.

6. Application process

6.1 How do I submit an application?

You must apply online through the business.gov.au portal. All submissions must be in English. Please ensure your application has:

- provided all the information requested
- addressed all eligibility and assessment criteria as outlined in the grant guidelines
- included all necessary attachments.

Before you apply online, you should make sure you read the grant guidelines, the sample grant agreement, and the sample application form. You can view these at [Quad Clean Energy Supply Chain Diversification Program – Round 1 | business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au).

Applications submitted via email will not be accepted.

6.2 Do all partners to the Grant need to submit an application?

No. The Australian organisation who will be entering the grant agreement with the Commonwealth must submit the application. For further information see section 4.1 of the grant guidelines.

6.3 What attachments are required as part of my application?

A number of attachments are required as part of your application process. You should consult section 7.1 of the grant guidelines for a detailed list of the mandatory attachments and what the attachments should cover or include. Please note that a failure to attach these documents or complete them properly will result in your application being deemed ineligible. All submissions and attachments must be in English.



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6.4 What do I need to include in the risk management plan?

A risk management plan is one of the mandatory attachments to your application. It must describe how you propose to monitor, manage and report identified risks. This must include your approach to:

- managing environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks (refer to Appendix B.2 for background information), including an assessment of the project's modern slavery risk profile and proposed processes to identify, address and manage modern slavery risks related to the project
- managing ethical technology use and transfer and intellectual property rights
- managing national security risks to Australia as outlined in section 13.6 of the grant guidelines, including cyber security attacks, foreign interference, intellectual property protection, export controls, unwanted transfer of technology, data or other knowledge
- conducting due diligence on potential consortia partners, considering the Australian Government's international collaboration advice.

For more information, see Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines.

6.5 What evidence is required to support the detailed project budget?

We do not need evidence at the application stage, but if you are successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

6.6 Can we add extra attachments to the application, not just what was asked for?

While you can submit any number of documents to the portal, we will only be opening and evaluating mandatory attachments specified in Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines. Any additional attachments that are not requested will not be considered as part of the application. Note that individual file sizes cannot be greater than 2MB and there is a 20MB collective total limit for all attachments.

6.7 If a university is the organisation applying, do they need to complete E.1 (latest financial year figures) and F.7 (Disclosure of financial penalties) and provide an accountant declaration?

Yes. E1 are business indicators and F7 disclosure of financial penalties are part of due diligence. An accountant declaration is a mandatory document listed under Section 7.1 of the grant guidelines.



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6.8 What does it mean to have a “formal arrangement in place with all parties”? What proof do you require?

Given the expected variety in the types of projects and international partner relationships the department will not be providing a template for the formal agreement. However, it is expected that a formal agreement would be in writing and legally binding where possible.

6.9 Will the department provide a template for the formal agreement between our company and the International Partner if our project is successful?

No. Given the expected variety in the types of projects and international partner relationships the department will not be providing a template for the formal agreement.

6.10 Will there be a page limit on the application form?

There is a 10 page limit for the detailed project plan. There is no page limit for other required attachments to the application. However, please note that no individual file can exceed 2MB and there is 20MB collective total limit for all attachments.

6.11 Can my organisation submit multiple applications, or be a member of more than one consortium? Can a person who is part of an organisation (e.g. researcher) be part of separate applications by different organisations?

There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an organisation, as long as each application is for a separate, independent and distinct project. There is also no limit to the number of applications an individual can be a part of.

However, if you intend to be part of more than one consortium, you must be able to justify that you will have, or be able to allocate, sufficient time and resources to all projects should they be successful, in line with Assessment Criterion 2 – Capacity, capability and resources to manage and deliver the project outlined in section 6.2 of the grant guidelines.

6.12 Can I contact DCCEEW to discuss my project proposal?

Any questions about this grant opportunity can be addressed to CESCD@industry.gov.au. DCCEEW is not able to provide feedback on specific project proposals, including design and scope.

6.13 Can we apply for an extension date to apply for this grant?

No. Extensions will not be granted under any circumstances.



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6.14 What if I make an unintentional error in my application?

If you have submitted your application and the application period is still open, you will have to withdraw your application and submit a new application. Replacement applications will not be accepted if submitted after the closing date and time has passed.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from you that will not change the nature of your application. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would improve your submission after the application closing time.

6.15 How do I withdraw my application?

If you wish to withdraw your application after the application period has closed, you can withdraw via email to CESCD@industry.gov.au with your application number requesting that your application be withdrawn.

6.16 When will Round 2 open for applications?

Round 2 is expected to open in the second half of 2025. There is no further detail on the exact timing of Round 2 available at this time.

6.17 If my application is unsuccessful in Round 1, can I apply for Round 2?

There is no prohibition on applicants to Round 1 making applications in Round 2 of the Program. However, the guidelines for Round 2 are not yet drafted, therefore you would need to reconfirm your eligibility for the Program when they are published. If you remain eligible, we would encourage you to consider any feedback on your unsuccessful Round 1 application when developing your Round 2 application.

6.18 Who can I contact if I have a question or need further information?

If you need further guidance around the application process, or you have a question which is not addressed in this FAQ document, contact:

Phone: 13 28 46

Email Address: CESCD@industry.gov.au



7. Application assessment

7.1 How will my application be assessed?

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, your application will then be referred to the Committee which will then assess it against the assessment criteria. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

We consider your application on its merits, based on how well it meets the criteria, how it compares to other applications, and whether it provides value with relevant money. In recommending projects for funding, the Committee will also give consideration to how the suite of funded projects will collectively contribute to achieving the Program's outcomes. For further information on the assessment of grant applications, refer to sections 8.1 and 8.2 of the grant guidelines.

7.2 Who will assess my application?

Your application will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by the Business Grants Hub, which is part of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria by the Committee. This is a group of subject matter experts comprising independent experts and representatives from Australian Government agencies. The Committee may also seek additional advice from other independent technical experts or advisors to inform the assessment process.

For further information on who will assess applications, refer to section 8.2 of the grant guidelines.

7.3 Is there weighting given to the criterion points for the purpose of the 50% score requirement?

Applications will be scored by the Committee against the 4 assessment criteria. Assessment criteria 1 and 2 will be scored out of 30 and assessment criteria 3 and 4 will be scored out of 20. Applicants must score at least 50% against each assessment criterion to be considered for funding.



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7.4 The grant opportunity guidelines indicate that applications need to score at least 50% against each assessment criterion to be recommended for funding. Does this mean I will be awarded funding if I score at least 50% against each criteria?

No. An eligible application will only be considered for funding if it scores at least 50% against each assessment criteria, but that does not guarantee success in this opportunity.

7.5 Who decides which applications will receive grants?

The Senior Executive Officer in DCCEEW with policy responsibility for the Program decides which grants to approve, taking into account advice from the Committee and the availability of grant funds (see Section 8.3 of grant guidelines for further information).

7.6 How many members are on the Committee?

The make up of the Committee, including the number of members on the Committee, will be determined by the Department based on the number of applications received.

7.7 Will the membership of the Committee be made public?

It is not expected that the membership of the Committee will be made public.

7.8 How will you be assessing the applicant's ability to manage national security risks?

As outlined under section 6.4 (Assessment criterion 4) of the grant guidelines, we will consider how you plan to monitor, manage and report on national security risks to Australia, giving specific consideration to the risks and resources outlined in Section 13.6 of the grant guidelines. You must submit a risk management plan to support your response. It is the applicant's responsibility to consider national security implications of the proposed project and to identify and manage any risks, particularly relating to export controls, intellectual property protection, espionage and foreign interference, foreign affiliations of project partners and unwanted transfer of technology, data or other knowledge. For further information on the risk management plan, refer to section 7.1 of the grant guidelines. The Committee will include individuals with national security expertise.

7.9 Will the proposal review process be confidential so that intellectual property in the proposal won't be disclosed accidentally?

Yes, the proposal review process is strictly confidential. Applications received will be managed to ensure that the risks of inadvertent disclosure of applicant information are appropriately managed.



8. Application outcomes

8.1 When will I hear the outcome of my application?

We expect to be able to notify applicants of the outcome of their applications in the second quarter of 2025, however these timelines are subject to change.

8.2 How will I be notified about the outcome of my application?

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing.

If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us. You may not be notified of this outcome until all grant applications have been executed with the successful grant recipients.

8.3 Can you provide feedback on applications that are unsuccessful?

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us. However, no discussion will be permitted regarding any other application.

8.4 Can I appeal a decision if I am not successful?

There is no appeal or review mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant. The Senior Executive Officer in DCCEEW with policy responsibility for the Program decides which grants to approve, taking into account advice from the Committee and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant opportunity should be sent to CESCD@industry.gov.au.

8.5 Will there be public announcements of successful applicants and their projects?

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles](#), Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims



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- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

9. Funding and reporting

9.1 How much funding can I apply for? Is there a minimum or maximum grant amount?

The minimum grant amount is \$100,000. The maximum grant amount is \$2,500,000. This minimum and maximum grant amount applies to both R&D projects and feasibility studies. In your application form, you will need to state what quantum of funding you are applying for within this range. The amount of funding you request should be commensurate with the scale and complexity of your proposed project.

9.2 Are we required to invest our own resources?

The minimum co-contribution to the project is 5 per cent of total eligible expenditure. This is an eligibility requirement.

9.3 Is it a cash and/or in-kind contribution?

Contributions to your project can be in cash, in-kind, or a combination of the two. We treat cash and in-kind contributions equally for determining your 5 per cent share of total eligible grant project value.

In-kind contributions are non-cash contributions to the project. For in-kind contributions to count towards your total eligible project expenditure, they must directly deliver eligible activities. Where you provide in-kind contributions, you must calculate the equivalent dollar value.

For more information on in-kind contributions, refer to Appendix C of the grant guidelines.

9.4 Are greater co-contributions well-regarded?

Greater co-contributions will be well-regarded as this may demonstrate that the grant is leveraging greater additional resources, as is considered under Assessment Criterion 3 of the grant guidelines, and may indicate that the grant payment would represent greater value with relevant money, as indicated in section 8 of the grant guidelines.



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9.5 Who is responsible for providing the co-contribution?

Co-contributions can come from the applicant and/or any project partners. There are no requirements around how much each project partner should contribute. There is no obligation for all project partners to provide a co-contribution.

9.6 Is there an opportunity to seek a contribution waiver?

No. Co-contributions are mandatory. The minimum contribution is 5 per cent of total eligible expenditure.

9.7 Do the co-contributions from partners need to be used for listed eligible activities to meet the co-contribution requirements?

Yes. Applicants are required to demonstrate a minimum contribution amount of 5 per cent of total eligible expenditure. Eligible expenditure is outlined in section 5.3 of the grant guidelines.

9.8 Can the Australian lead organisation transfer grant funding to other project partners – including those outside Australia?

Yes. However, note that the grant money can only be spent on eligible expenditure you incur on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement. For further information on eligible expenditure, refer to Section 5 of the grant guidelines.

9.9 Are there any requirements on where funds need to be allocated and spent, e.g. in Australia or with Indo-Pacific project partners?

There are no specific requirements as to how much of the grant funding should be spent in Australia and how much should be spent in Indo-Pacific partner economies.

However, note that all project expenditure must occur only in Australia or an Indo-Pacific economy listed in Appendix A, and you can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement. For more information, see section 5 of the grant guidelines.

9.10 If I am successful, when will I receive my funding?

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.



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We set aside 10 per cent of the total grant funding for the final payment. We will pay this when you submit a satisfactory end of project report demonstrating you have completed all obligations for the project.

For more information on the grant agreement and grant payments, see section 10 of the grant guidelines.

9.11 Will there be reporting requirements?

If you are successful in being awarded a grant, you will need to submit reports in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of partners directly related to the project
- any unusual or unexpected activity by the Australian or partner organisation members.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

For project expenditure reporting, evidence of expenditure will be required such as tax invoices, contracts and purchase orders to demonstrate funds have been spent on eligible activities. Expenditure may be spent by the lead organisation, project partners or both.

For further information on monitoring and reporting for this grant opportunity, refer to section 12 of the grant guidelines and to the Appendices 1 and 2 of the sample grant agreement.

9.12 What if my project fails after being awarded funding?

Where there is no possibility of remedy to your project, the Commonwealth will initiate a suspension of the project, followed by a termination. Unspent grant funds will need to be returned to the Commonwealth.