



## Environmental Research Program Expression of Interest Guidelines

**Closing Date: 5pm 10 February 2012**

**Grants available for projects of 1 to 3 years duration:      Major category - generally up to \$200,000  
Minor category - up to \$100,000**

### Application process

Applying for an Environmental Research grant will be in two stages:

**Stage 1:** Expression of interest (EOI) (advertised). **Closing date: 5pm 10 February 2012**

**Stage 2:** Detailed project application (by invitation only, based on EOI).

**These guidelines are for stage 1 only.**

### Program objectives

The objectives of the Environmental Research Program are to:

- generate new knowledge or information to facilitate local solutions to environmental problems
- discover new methods of operation for NSW industries that are less harmful to the environment
- provide knowledge about general environmental problems
- assess environmental degradation.

Note: this is a **research** program - proposals seeking to use funds to commercialise existing technologies, for ongoing monitoring or ongoing research are ineligible.

### Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, your organisation must be one of the following types:

Community organisations	Research institutes (public and private)
<p>Community organisations including community groups, incorporated associations (community or industry associations incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984), cooperatives, non-profit organisations incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) as applied in NSW.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Community organisations that are not incorporated are eligible to apply, but only if they arrange for the grant to be administered by a Council or other non-profit organisation.</p>	<p>Includes universities and government organisations that have the requisite capabilities and responsibility to undertake research programs.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The Trust will NOT fund Research Funding Institutes.</p>

Non-profit organisations incorporated under the Corporations Act must provide proof of their non-profit status:

- A certified copy of the company's latest extract of particulars issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) indicating their non-profit status; or
- A certified extract of the company's constitution that includes provisions that:
  - prohibit the company from making any distribution – whether in money, property or otherwise - to its members during the course of its operations
  - prohibit from making any distribution – whether in money, property or otherwise - to its members on dissolution
  - ensure profits made by the organisation are used to carry out the organisation's purposes.

A maximum of **three** EOIs per organisation are permitted for each category.

Individual researchers from Universities and statewide organisations should not submit their EOI directly to the Trust. **The Trust will only accept applications from Universities if they are submitted via their Research Grants Office** to ensure that the above limits are not exceeded. This also applies to statewide organisations, who should submit their applications via their Head Office/Chief Executive Officer.

## Funding and priority areas for 2012

\$1,000,000 is available for this program. Approximately 60% will be for the major category of Climate Change. Biophysical, economic and social research proposals will be considered in that category. The balance will be for the best proposals across the two minor categories described below as well as for meritorious Seeding Grant applications (see separate information on Seeding Grants). Only biophysical research proposals will be considered in the minor categories.

### Project categories

- 1. Climate Change - major category** (Grants are generally limited to \$200,000 each. Larger grants will be considered with strong justification)

Biophysical, Social or Economic research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

Priority areas for climate change impacts and adaptation:

- Climate systems, such as past and present climates and investigating extreme events
- Social and biophysical responses, such as:
  - Human health and social impacts, especially on land use systems and human settlement e.g. from bushfires, extreme weather events and water and air quality
  - Biophysical impacts and responses e.g. for the coastal zone, rivers and freshwater resources, marine systems, soil and land systems, native vegetation and terrestrial biodiversity
- Sectoral and regional risks, such as regional impacts and risk of emergencies that require responses
- Adaptive capacity, in particular:
  - Assessing capacity of ecosystems to adapt to climate change impacts
  - Research into techniques and cost effective options for managing the impacts of climate change

- 2. Biodiversity and conservation - minor category** (Grants are limited to \$100,00 each)

Biophysical research only relating to, for example (but not limited to):

Priority areas for climate change impacts and adaptation:

- Threats to biodiversity, including pests and weeds
- Conservation planning
- Terrestrial and Marine Parks
- Terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem function
- Restoration ecology

- 3. Resource Efficiency and Sustainability - minor category** (Grants are limited to \$100,00 each)

Biophysical research relating to, for example (but not limited to):

- Waste avoidance and reuse
- Resource recovery, especially innovative methods of sorting and processing waste
- Waste management to avoid pollution
- Environmental impacts of alternative waste management
- Improving efficiency and resource utilisation
- Increasing sustainability e.g. energy or water conservation

## Timeframes

Projects can run for a maximum of three years and must commence between 1 January 2013 and 1 March 2013.

## Assessment criteria

Each EOI will be assessed by the Environmental Research Technical Committee (with the assistance of relevant experts where required), who will assess your EOI against the following assessment criteria:

- 1. Relevance.** Will this fill a strategically significant gap in knowledge that would otherwise be likely to impede environmental decision-making in New South Wales within the foreseeable future?
- 2. Merit of the research.** Will the project make an important contribution to society's knowledge base? Is it well considered and will it employ sound methodology? Will it employ competent staff? Does it provide value for money?
- 3. Potential for success.** Given the objectives, methodology, estimated budget and time frame, what is the likelihood of success of the project?

## Important information about the EOI form

The EOI is a four page document - the boxes provided for answers to questions are a set size and will not expand to accommodate additional text if you continue to type beyond the bottom of the text box. Please ensure your answers are fully contained within the limits of the text boxes.

## Checklist and submission details

### Submission details

- Include all the information that is sought in the form but **do not include attachments** (unless it is evidence of your non-profit status, where required).
- Submit your EOI by the **closing date – 5pm 10 February 2012**.
- Submit your entire application by **ONE** of the methods below. (i.e. DO NOT email AND post)

<b>Email to:</b> (preferred method)	<a href="mailto:info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au">info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If emailing your EOI, please email the <b>EOI form as a Word document (DO NOT PDF)</b>.</li></ul>
<b>Post to:</b>	The Administrator Environmental Trust PO Box 644 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If posting your EOI please send <b>2 copies</b> of your EOI form to the Trust.</li><li>• Do not bind or staple your EOI or attachments.</li></ul>
<b>Hand deliver to:</b>	Environmental Trust Level 2, 1 Fitzwilliam St PARRAMATTA NSW 2150	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If hand delivering your EOI please deliver <b>2 copies</b> of your EOI form to the Trust.</li><li>• Do not bind or staple your EOI or attachments.</li></ul>

## Acknowledgement of receipt of EOI

You should expect acknowledgement of your EOI within two weeks of the closing date. This confirmation will include a unique reference number, which should be provided in all correspondence to and from the Trust. If you do not receive acknowledgement within two weeks, please contact the Environmental Trust on (02) 8837 6093.

**Note:** If you email your EOI, the Trust will acknowledge receipt of your email within two working days. If you have not received notification of receipt of your email within this time, it is your responsibility to contact the Trust to ensure that your email has been received.

## Next stage

Applicants whose EOIs are short-listed will be invited to submit a full application.

You should expect to be advised by the first week of May and be in a position to complete the application by **1 June 2012**. Successful projects will receive funding between 1 January 2013 and 1 March 2013 depending on the start date of the project.

## Who to contact if you need further help

If you require further help with your application, please contact the Program Administrator by phone on (02) 8837 6093 or by email at: [info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au).

**Any EOI that is late, incomplete or ineligible will not be considered.**