



**POWERING
AUSTRALIA**

Field Trial Grant Guidelines

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CLEAN TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING



THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AUSTRALIA

Clean technology manufacturing gives Australia a rare chance to build a stronger, more resilient economy.

The global clean-tech manufacturing market was worth A\$2 trillion in 2024 and is set to almost triple by 2035. Australia can capture more of this fast-growing market by making the most of its world-class critical minerals, abundant renewable energy, and growing technology expertise.

Growing advanced clean-tech industries will diversify Australia's exports and create sustainable jobs across regions and communities, including more opportunities for First Nations businesses to lead and participate.

Without quick, coordinated action to build scale, capability, and stronger supply chains, Australia risks missing out on the full economic and environmental benefits of the clean energy transition.

The choices and effort we make today will decide if Australia can build lasting industries that replace declining fossil fuel exports with advanced clean technologies made here at home.

The challenge is real, but so are the opportunities. This program supports business and organisations involved with clean technology, including but not limited to:

- batteries, including precursor materials and technology
- critical minerals processing
- low and zero emissions transportation
 - electric, hydrogen and hybrid vehicles
 - low carbon liquid fuels
 - enabling infrastructure
- industrial decarbonisation, such as green metals
- renewable energy generation and storage
 - wind
 - solar
 - hydrogen
- transmission and distribution
- carbon capture, utilisation and storage

The clean technology value chain has many segments, each with technically complex processes. The Field Trial Program looks to support Australian businesses and organisations working in any of these segments.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Clean technology manufacturing	1
The opportunity for Australia	1
Background	3
Powering Australia	3
The Field trial program	3
Objectives	3
Field trial grants	4
Governance and accountability framework	4
Probity and transparency	5
Conflicts of interest	5
Fraud avoidance	5
Grant application process	6
Eligibility and merit assessments	6
Eligibility	6
Merit criteria	7
Grant use	10
What an approved grant can pay for	10
What an approved grant cannot pay for	10
Eligible expenditure principles	11
Grant selection process	12
Assessment of grant proposal	12
Who will assess proposals?	12
Who will approve grants?	12
Notification of proposal outcomes	13
The field trial grant agreement	13
The parties	13
The field trial project	14
Project delivery and roles	14
Project funding and contributions	14
Reporting and completion	14
Case study reports	15
Case study report 1 – Field trial outcomes	15
Case study report 2 – Commercialisation challenges and lessons learned	15

BACKGROUND

POWERING AUSTRALIA

The Powering Australia Industry Growth Centre (Powering Australia) was established in 2024 to create the conditions for success in clean-tech manufacturing by connecting businesses, accelerating commercialisation and building Australian capability.

The Powering Australia program is an initiative funded by the Australian Government and Industry under the Australian Made Battery Plan. Running from 2023 to 2027, it is backed by a \$14 million investment, matched by \$10m in industry contributions. The Powering Australia program sits within the Australian Government's Future Made in Australia agenda to maximise the economic and industrial benefits of the move to net zero.

Intended outcomes include growing Australia's renewables technology industry, increasing competitiveness domestically and internationally, upskilling the workforce, developing end-to-end supply chains for batteries and other renewable technologies, and supporting Australia's emission reduction targets. Included within these outcomes is the establishment of field trials to support the commercialisation of clean technology.

THE FIELD TRIAL PROGRAM

Australia has world leading deployment of modern renewable technologies. Its harsh climate and demanding applications are an excellent proving ground for export markets.

Powering Australia's Field Trial Program aims to support Australia's clean-technology developers prove their clean-technology products in a relevant, commercial operating environment. It will prove technical and commercial readiness between TRL 7-9.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct field trials of Australian manufactured clean technology within the six sector nodes of Powering Australia (batteries, critical minerals, industrial decarbonisation, generation, networks and carbon, transport and First Nations) to support commercialisation of Australian technology.
- Help support and scale clean technology manufacturing in Australia.

The Field Trial Program's objectives are to:

- support the commercialisation of Australian clean technologies by enabling real-world field trials that de-risk deployment, build consumer confidence and accelerate market uptake.
- strengthen clean-tech manufacturing and deployment opportunities in Australia across Powering Australia's sector nodes: batteries, critical minerals, industrial decarbonisation, generation, networks and carbon, and transport.
- generate practical evidence, insights and lessons from field trials that can inform industry, investors and government policy.

The intended outcomes are to:

- accelerate the readiness of Australian clean technologies for commercial deployment, including progression from pilot or demonstration stages to early market adoption.
- improve investor and customer confidence by generating credible, real-world performance, cost and operational data.
- reduce technical, commercial and regulatory barriers to scale by identifying challenges and solutions encountered during deployment
- support increased domestic and international competitiveness of Australian clean-technology firms.

FIELD TRIAL GRANTS

Powering Australia is offering grants to conduct field trials to Australian businesses that are active in the clean technology supply chain.

The intention is to reduce barriers to entry, particularly cost, for Australian businesses and organisations to deploy and trial their clean technology to support and capitalise on the transition to a net zero emissions economy.

The Field Trial Grant support package is a closed, non-competitive program with grants available from \$50,000 - \$1,000,000 (excl. GST), available until 2027. Recipients (or their clients) are expected to provide a significant cash contribution towards the field trial program.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Field Trial Program is overseen by Powering Australia's Board and informed by its Node Leaders and Executive team.

Powering Australia manages the grants within the oversight of the Board and in accordance with the following Governance and Accountability framework.

PROBITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The Field Trial Program represents a significant investment of funds granted by the Australian Government. As such, the highest standards of public sector values: honesty, integrity, impartiality and accountability, underpin all Grant-related processes and procedures.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Powering Australia recognises the risks posed by actual or perceived conflicts of interest throughout the Grant lifecycle from application and assessment to award and ongoing management. To mitigate these risks, Powering Australia implements comprehensive procedures and documentation, which may be reviewed by an independent probity advisor. These will include:

- procedures for declaring interests by officials, applicants and recipients
- processes to manage conflicts throughout the Grant lifecycle
- a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form for individuals to declare actual or perceived conflicts
- clear guidance in all documentation on what constitutes a conflict of interest.

The following individuals will be required to complete the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form:

- members of the Field Trial Project Team and Powering Australia Executive
- application reviewers and decision-makers
- members of the Powering Australia Board.

Completed forms will be reviewed by an appropriate authority, who may escalate the matter to a designated decision-maker. Based on the assessment, actions may include:

- no further action
- implementation of a conflict-of-interest management plan
- exclusion from specific grant processes or sectors and/or
- any other action(s), as appropriate.

FRAUD AVOIDANCE

To safeguard public funds, the Field Trial Program's fraud prevention measures comply with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles 2024 and follow Powering Australia's fraud prevention measures. These include:

- development of internal control mechanisms (e.g. access hierarchies)
- strict adherence to Powering Australia's financial approval delegation
- mandatory evidence-based milestone reporting before any Grant payments are authorised.

These controls are designed to help ensure that funding is used appropriately and that payments are only made upon verification of deliverables.

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

You must be invited to submit a proposal.

Before submitting a proposal, you must read and understand these grant opportunity guidelines.

To submit a proposal you must:

- develop a short proposal that matches the merit criteria and submit this through <https://fieldtrials.grantplatform.com/>
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility criteria and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments

You are responsible for ensuring that your application/proposal is complete and accurate. We will investigate any false or misleading information and may exclude your application/proposal from further consideration.

If you find an error in your application/proposal after submitting it, you should contact us immediately at fieldtrialgrants@poweringaustralia.com.au. We do not have to accept any additional information, or requests from you to correct your application after the closing time.

You cannot change your application after the closing date and time.

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/proposal. However, we can refuse to accept any additional information from you that would change your submission after the application closing time.

You should keep a copy of your application/proposal and any supporting documents.

ELIGIBILITY AND MERIT ASSESSMENTS

ELIGIBILITY

You must meet these eligibility guidelines to be awarded a Field Trial Program Grant.

Your Business (or organisation) must:

- be registered in Australia with an Australian ABN
- have employees with Australian working rights who are demonstrably working within Australia in at least one of the Powering Australia node sectors above
- demonstrate that the clean technology field trial you propose will advance the program objectives above
- all expenditures must be towards the project purpose

Should your proposal be assessed as ineligible, you will receive notice of this via return email including the reasons for the adverse assessment.

MERIT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the merit criteria below. Grants will be awarded based on the relative merit of applications, subject to the availability of funds and alignment with the objectives of the Field Trial Program.

The assessment will consider the extent to which the application addresses each criterion and demonstrates a clear and credible pathway to achieving the intended outcomes of the Program.

The following merit criteria and indicative weightings will be used to assess applications.

Line of sight to commercial uptake (30%)

Highly rated applications will clearly demonstrate that the proposed field trial will materially support the commercialisation of an Australian clean technology.

This may include evidence of:

- a clearly articulated commercialisation pathway, including how the field trial will reduce technical, commercial, regulatory or market risks.
- an assessment of competitiveness in the target market, including demand for the technology, including addressable market size, customer need and competitive positioning, and competitor assessment.
- the maturity of offtake arrangements, customer trials, memoranda of understanding, letters of intent or commercial negotiations.
- how field trial outcomes will support progression to manufacturing scale-up, deployment or market entry in Australia and/or internationally.

Australian clean technology means a product, process, system, or enabling technology that:

1. Delivers environmental benefits
2. Demonstrably reduces greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, resource use, or environmental harm compared with conventional alternatives, including through improved energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, emissions reduction, electrification, circular economy practices, or sustainable materials.
3. Has a substantial Australian development or commercialisation nexus, meaning that the technology:
 - Was developed, invented, or substantially engineered in Australia, or
 - Is being commercialised with the intent to manufacture, scale, or deploy the technology in Australia, including the establishment of Australian manufacturing capability, supply chains, or intellectual property ownership.
4. Represents a technological innovation or advancement, including new or improved:
 - hardware, equipment, or materials
 - software or digital systems enabling environmental performance
 - industrial processes or manufacturing technologies
 - integrated systems delivering emissions reduction or sustainability outcomes.
5. Is capable of being manufactured, deployed, or scaled commercially, rather than being purely theoretical research.

Value for money (25%)

Highly rated applications will demonstrate that the proposed project represents value for money and that public funding is appropriately leveraged.

This may include evidence of:

- an appropriate and well-justified budget, with costs aligned to the scope and objectives of the field trial
- the level of co-investment, including the proportion of industry cash contribution relative to Powering Australia funding. A high cash co-investment ratio is essential.
- the extent to which the project delivers meaningful commercial, industrial or emissions-reduction outcomes relative to the funding requested
- efficient use of resources to generate high-quality data, insights and learnings that can benefit the broader clean-technology ecosystem.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed project requires financial support and that the project would not proceed, or would proceed at a smaller scale, slower pace, or outside Australia, without funding from this program. Applicants must describe the expected impact of not receiving funding and disclose any previous or current financial or in-kind support received from Commonwealth, State, Territory, or local government sources for the project or related technology.

Capacity to deliver the field trial (25%)

Highly rated applications will demonstrate that the applicant has the organisational, technical and financial capacity to deliver the proposed field trial within the agreed timeframe and budget.

This may include evidence of:

- a clear and achievable project plan, including milestones, deliverables and governance arrangements
- access to appropriate sites, infrastructure, partners and approvals required to undertake the field trial
- identification of key risks (technical, financial, regulatory, delivery) and appropriate mitigation strategies
- sufficient financial resilience to deliver the project, supported by financial statements and declarations of solvency, commensurate with the grant size.

Demonstrated capability (20%)

Highly rated applications will demonstrate that the applicant and key project partners have the relevant experience and capability to successfully undertake the field trial and translate outcomes into commercial impact.

This may include evidence of:

- demonstrated technical expertise relevant to the clean technology being trialled
- prior experience delivering pilot projects, demonstrations, field trials or commercial deployments
- the skills and experience of key personnel, including project management and commercial capability
- relevant partnerships with customers, manufacturers, research organisations, utilities, regulators or supply-chain participants.

GRANT USE

WHAT AN APPROVED GRANT CAN PAY FOR

An approved Field Trial Grant may be used to fund eligible expenditure that is directly related to the design, delivery and completion of the approved field trial, and which demonstrably advances the objectives of the Field Trial Program.

Subject to the approved project scope and funding agreement, eligible expenditure may include:

- up to 20%–50% of total eligible project costs, as approved by Powering Australia
- costs directly associated with conducting the field trial, including:
 - installation, integration and commissioning of the technology being trialled
 - testing, monitoring, data collection and performance verification activities
 - temporary modifications to existing infrastructure required solely for the purposes of the field trial
- specialist technical services or contractors required to support the field trial (e.g. engineering, safety, commissioning or validation services)
- reasonable project management costs directly attributable to delivering the field trial
- costs associated with regulatory, safety or compliance requirements necessary to undertake the field trial
- development of two case study reports, including analysis, drafting and design, to be delivered in accordance with Powering Australia brand guidelines
- other eligible expenditure approved by Powering Australia that is clearly linked to achieving the field trial outcomes.

All industry contributions must be provided in cash to Powering Australia, which will disburse the collective funds in accordance with the grant agreement and approved project budget.

WHAT AN APPROVED GRANT CANNOT PAY FOR

An approved Field Trial Grant cannot be used to fund expenditure that does not directly support the approved field trial or the objectives of the Field Trial Program.

Ineligible expenditure includes, but is not limited to:

- activities that do not demonstrably advance the commercialisation of clean technology.
- costs incurred prior to written confirmation that the grant has been awarded.
- general business operating costs not directly attributable to the field trial (e.g. rent, utilities, general administration).
- costs associated with research or research training, including laboratory-based research that is not part of a real-world field trial.
- activities that are primarily product development or R&D, rather than field testing in an operational environment.
- capital expenditure unrelated to the field trial or that provides an ongoing benefit outside the approved project scope.
- travel, accommodation or related expenses, unless explicitly approved in writing as essential to the delivery of the field trial.
- internal overheads or corporate costs that cannot be clearly apportioned to the field trial.
- management time associated with preparing the application or complying with routine reporting obligations.
- marketing, promotional or sales activities not directly related to documenting and disseminating field trial outcomes.
- costs funded under other Australian Government grant or subsidy programs, unless expressly approved.
- activities involving unacceptable or unmitigated safety, environmental or regulatory risks.
- expenditure incurred outside the approved project period or after 31 December 2027.
- activities that involve conflicts of interest that cannot be appropriately managed, including where the applicant and a supplier have a direct ownership or control relationship.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE PRINCIPLES

All expenditure must be:

- incurred solely for the purpose of delivering the approved field trial
- reasonable, necessary and supported by appropriate documentation
- consistent with the approved project budget and funding agreement
- compliant with all applicable laws, regulations and probity requirements.

Powering Australia reserves the right to determine, at its discretion, whether proposed expenditure is eligible and may require additional information to support eligibility determinations.

GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF GRANT PROPOSAL

An invitation to apply for funding under this program does not constitute an offer of funding and does not guarantee that an applicant will be successful.

We will firstly review your proposal against the eligibility criteria. Only eligible proposals will move to the next stage.

We consider eligible proposals through a closed non-competitive process. If your proposal is eligible, we will then assess your proposal against the assessment criteria. We consider your application/proposal on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the assessment criteria
- whether it provides value with relevant money.

When assessing the extent to which the proposal represents value with relevant money, we will have regard to:

- the overall objectives to be achieved in providing the grant
- the relative value of the grant sought
- the extent to which the geographic location of the application matches identified priorities
- the extent to which the evidence in the application demonstrates that it will contribute to meeting the outcomes/objectives

WHO WILL ASSESS PROPOSALS?

We will establish an assessment committee to assess your suitability to receive a grant by reviewing information and documentation in the proposal against the assessment criteria.

WHO WILL APPROVE GRANTS?

The COO (Program Delegate) decides which grants to approve taking into account the recommendations of the assessment committee and the availability of grant funds for the purposes of the grant program.

The Program Delegate's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL OUTCOMES

We will advise you of the outcome in writing. If you are successful, we will advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

Should your proposal be successful, you will receive notification via email. The notification will confirm the:

- **“Project”**, being the approved field trial, including the technology to be trialled and the agreed scope of activities
- **“Field Trial Activities”**, including installation, testing, monitoring, data collection and any associated deliverables
- **“Delivery Partners”**, where applicable, including trial hosts, subcontractors or other project partners
- **“Approved Project Budget”**, being the total eligible project costs
- **“Grant Amount”**, being the funding contribution that Powering Australia will make
- **“Industry Contribution”**, being the cash contribution that the Applicant will provide
- **“Project Completion Date”**, being the date by which the field trial must be completed
- **“Reporting Requirements”**, including milestone reporting and the requirements and due dates for the two case study reports.

Should you reconsider and decide not to proceed with the approved field trial, you may withdraw your application up until the grant agreement is executed. You should do so by writing to info@poweringaustralia.com.au

THE FIELD TRIAL GRANT AGREEMENT

Powering Australia will work with the successful Applicant and any agreed Delivery Partners to finalise a Field Trial Grant Agreement. The agreement (see Appendix A for the terms of the agreement) will include, but is not limited to, the following considerations.

THE PARTIES

- identification of the legal entities of the Applicant, Powering Australia and any agreed Delivery Partners
- identification of the nominated bank account(s) for the receipt and disbursement of industry contributions and grant payments.

THE FIELD TRIAL PROJECT

- confirmation of the technology to be trialled and the approved scope of the field trial
- confirmation of the activities to be undertaken, including installation, testing, monitoring, data collection and validation
- identification of the field trial site(s) and any infrastructure or operational requirements
- identification of any special risks (including safety, environmental or regulatory risks) and agreed risk management measures
- identification of any intellectual property or confidential information introduced by the Applicant or Delivery Partners that requires special consideration
- confirmation of the Project Completion Date by which the field trial must be completed.

PROJECT DELIVERY AND ROLES

- identification of the Applicant's responsibilities for delivering the field trial
- identification of any Delivery Partners, including their roles and responsibilities
- confirmation of Powering Australia's role in administering the grant and overseeing delivery in accordance with the agreement.

PROJECT FUNDING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- confirmation of the Industry Contribution amount and the due date the Applicant will pay the contribution to Powering Australia following issuance of a tax invoice
- confirmation of the Grant Amount that Powering Australia will contribute to the approved project
- confirmation of how and when Powering Australia will disburse funds in accordance with the agreed milestones and payment schedule.

REPORTING AND COMPLETION

- confirmation of the milestone reporting requirements, including progress and financial reporting
- confirmation of the requirements and due dates for the two case study reports, including:
 - the field trial outcomes and performance of the technology
 - challenges to commercialisation and lessons learned
- confirmation of any additional reporting or evaluation activities required to support program monitoring.

CASE STUDY REPORTS

Grant recipients will be required to submit two case study reports within 30 days of the Project Completion Date.

It will involve the submission of two short-form case study reports, prepared in accordance with Powering Australia's branding and publication guidelines.

CASE STUDY REPORT 1 – FIELD TRIAL OUTCOMES

This report will describe the clean technology that was field trialled and the outcomes of the field trial. The audience for this case study are your future customers. The report must include:

- an overview of the technology or solution and its intended application
- a description of the field trial scope, including where and how the technology was deployed
- a summary of performance outcomes, including key technical, operational and, where relevant, cost metrics
- an assessment of whether the field trial met its objectives and any variances from expected outcomes
- a discussion of benefits that have accrued, or are expected to accrue, to the applicant's business as a result of the field trial
- any relevant learnings regarding safety, regulatory or operational considerations.

Indicative length: 2-10 pages.

CASE STUDY REPORT 2 – COMMERCIALISATION CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

This report will focus on the commercialisation pathway and the broader learnings from the technology and product development process culminating in the field trial. The audience for this report are other clean-technology businesses undertaking similar development processes. The report must include:

- identification of the key technical, commercial, regulatory or market challenges encountered
- a description of how these challenges were addressed, or remain to be resolved
- insights into barriers to scale or market adoption, including manufacturing, supply chain or offtake considerations

- recommendations or lessons learned that could inform other clean-technology proponents, investors or policymakers
- reflections on how the field trial outcomes support a line of sight to commercial uptake.

Indicative length: 2-10 pages.

APPENDIX A: TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Transfer of obligations on Child Safe and Vulnerable People

Mutual indemnity

Applicant and Provider to act in good faith

Applicant and Provider to have insurance

Recognition of the Funder and the Australian Government

Powering Australia may make public name of business, the purpose of the field trial and the delivery partners

All personnel engaged in delivering the field trial must be appropriately qualified and experienced to perform their roles, including having obtained any required qualifications, licences, permits, approvals or competencies prior to undertaking any part of the field trial activities.

The Applicant is solely responsible for the delivery of, and participation in, the field trial, and Powering Australia accepts no liability in relation to the conduct of the field trial or any outcomes arising from it.

Governing Law

No assignment

Force majeure

Dispute resolution

No partnership

Privacy – comply with Australian Privacy Principles

Appendix to agreement is a copy of the Application