



Australian Government
Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Recycling Modernisation Fund - Plastics Technology Stream Funding Guidelines

Opening date: 18 July 2023

Closing date and time: 5:00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time on 13 November 2023

Please take account of time zone differences when submitting the application.

Where to apply: Please submit the application package to: rmf@dcceew.gov.au.

Commonwealth policy entity: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Administering entity: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Enquiries: If state or territory governments have any questions regarding the application process, contact us at: rmf@dcceew.gov.au

Project proponents should contact their relevant state or territory department. Details are at www.dcceew.gov.au

Date guidelines released: 18 July 2023

Type of grant opportunity: Open competitive

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1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for Recycling Modernisation Fund Plastics Technology stream funding. State and territory governments must read these guidelines before applying.

Project proponents should note that applications must be submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) by state and territory governments (the applicant). Project proponents should contact their relevant state or territory department to discuss their project.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the program
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how applications must be made
- how applications will be considered and selected
- how funding will be administered
- how projects will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

The program is administered by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department).

1.1. Background

Plastic pollution is an international problem that continues to grow with increasing global plastic production and use. In Australia, approximately 13 per cent of the 2.65 million tonnes of plastic disposed of in 2020-21 was recycled, significantly below recycling rates for all other waste streams. Only 18 per cent of post-consumer plastic packaging was recycled.

1.2. About the Plastics Technology stream funding opportunity

The Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) is addressing critical gaps in Australia's recycling infrastructure. The \$60 million RMF Plastics Technology stream is the next step in the Government's action to address plastic recycling rates and pollution by supporting advanced and innovative technologies targeting hard-to-recycle plastics. By supporting more advanced recycling technologies, we will unlock opportunity for previously hard-to-recycle plastics like soft plastics, boost our plastics recycling rates, support the transition away from virgin plastics and drive towards a safe circular economy for plastics.

The Plastics Technology stream will contribute to the following targets of the National Waste Policy Action Plan:

- To build industry capacity and infrastructure to collect, separate, and recycle plastics and to remanufacture recycled plastic materials (Target 1.4)
- Identify financial and other incentives that may assist key industries, including the waste and resource recovery industry, to transition to a more circular economy (3.18).

The Plastics Technology stream will also contribute to the objectives of increased plastics recovery rates and increased use of recycled content.

1.3. Definition of hard-to-recycle plastics

Funding under the Plastics Technology stream is available for projects which target hard-to-recycle plastics which are plastics in waste streams where there are:

- low recovery and recycling rates due to difficulties in recycling, and
- currently limited infrastructure and technology solutions to support circularity in the supply chain.

1.4. Objectives of the Plastics Technology stream

The objectives of the Plastics Technology stream are to:

- Significantly increase Australia's recycling and recovery rates of hard-to-recycle plastics
- Support a safe circular economy for plastics in Australia to transform waste plastic into valuable new products, such as food-grade plastic packaging
- Build domestic and international confidence to invest in recycling infrastructure in Australia
- Support long-term job creation and a more highly skilled workforce in the Australian recycling industry
- Protect our environment through reduced plastic pollution.

1.5. Intended outcomes of the Plastics Technology stream

The Plastics Technology stream is intended to deliver national solutions that drive significant increases in Australia's recycling and recovery rates for hard to recycle plastics, and increased collaboration across supply chains to promote a safe circular economy. Projects should be underpinned by identified need, based on objective data, such as the Australian Plastics Flows and Fates Study (please see Addendum – Demonstrating national benefit).

The Plastics Technology stream will achieve this by supporting projects such as:

- Advanced recycling projects targeting hard-to-recycle plastics, such as mixed, multi-layer, flexible or contaminated plastics
- Commercialisation and scaling-up of emerging and trial technology targeting circularity of hard-to-recycle plastics
- Infrastructure upgrades and innovative technology to help extract and process plastics contained within products such as e-waste into higher-value products
- Proposals to equip existing or new material recovery facilities or plastic recovery facilities with advanced sorting, separation and de-contamination technology such as optical or robotic machinery to increase the diversion of plastics from landfill
- Proposals put forward by a consortium proposing end-to-end solutions and circularity in our plastics supply chain. For example, this may include supply chain collaboration between a collection and sorting facility of plastic waste, an advanced recycling facility, and manufacturers.

2. Funding amount and arrangements

The Australian Government has made available up to \$60 million towards the Plastics Technology stream under the RMF.

2.1. Available funding

Funding is available from 2023-24 until 30 June 2027 to support projects of significant scale. State and territory applicants may apply for a minimum grant of \$1 million and a maximum grant of \$20 million. Project proponents are responsible for any remaining eligible project expenditure, plus any ineligible expenditure.

2.2. Project period

The project must be commissioned and operational by 30 June 2027 at the latest.

2.3. Funding arrangements

Applications for funding must include at least a 50% contribution towards eligible project costs from the project proponent, or in the case of a consortium proposal, the consortium members. State and territory co-contributions are not required, however applications which leverage higher contributions from project proponents and/or co-contributions from states and territories will be preferred in the assessment process.

Please refer to the eligibility criteria below for details on the project proponent.

Funding for projects will be provided to project proponents under contractual arrangements with state and territory governments. Commonwealth funding will be provided to state/territory governments in accordance with arrangements under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (the Agreement), with payments facilitated through bilateral schedules to the *Federation Funding Agreement – Environment*. The Agreement and further information including guidance material, templates and a link to the *Federation Funding Agreement – Environment*, can be found at www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au.

Bilateral schedules to the *Federation Funding Agreement – Environment* will be negotiated with participating state and territory governments following the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water's decision on which projects will receive funding.

3. Eligibility criteria

We will only consider an application where all the eligibility criteria have been satisfied.

3.1. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

Applications for funding are only open to state and territory governments and must have an identified project proponent. In the case of a consortium, each of the project proponents must be identified.

Eligible project proponents (or in the case of a consortium, lead project proponents) are:

- an Australian entity or partnership incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- an entity or partnership under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*

- an Australian research institution (can be a tertiary education institution, a government agency established for research, a cooperative research centre, an institute or centre of research or a privately owned and accredited research facility). Consultancies are not considered to be research institutions
- a council, regional organisation of councils or other local government-controlled organisation
- a non-government/not-for-profit organisation (must comply with the Australian Taxation Office's definition) with an established legal status, or those without legal status that can have grant funds administered by another organisation with legal status
- an Aboriginal Land Council.

3.2. Project eligibility criteria

Applications must:

- relate to eligible activities listed under paragraph 4.1 that is one or more of:
 - new infrastructure, technology, processes, machinery and/or equipment to recycle hard-to-recycle plastics
 - an improvement or expansion of existing infrastructure, technology, processes, machinery and/or equipment to recycle hard-to-recycle plastics
 - commercialisation or scaling up to build or increase existing capacity for recovering and recycling hard-to-recycle plastics.
- demonstrate avoidance, mitigation and management measures for potential environmental impacts resulting from the project including carbon emissions
- demonstrate that the project is economically viable over its operational life
- demonstrate at least a 50% financial contribution towards eligible project costs from the project proponent, or in the case of a consortium proposal, the consortium members
- have written confirmation of state or territory support (see 6.2).

We cannot waive the eligibility criteria under any circumstances.

3.3. Who is not eligible?

Project proponents and lead project proponents are not eligible to participate in the Plastics Technology stream funding opportunity if the:

- project does not meet the project eligibility criteria
- have failed to adequately address any statutory environmental or safety breach notice issued within the last three years, or cannot demonstrate they are working effectively to resolve the breach
- have been subject to prosecution or a statutory notice from the Fair Work Ombudsman for industrial relations enforcement action in the last three years, and have failed to rectify the non-compliance.

4. What the funding money can be used for

To be eligible the project must aim to meet the program objectives set out in section 1.4.

4.1. Eligible activities

Eligible activities are activities that have not yet commenced, that will increase the recovery and recycling rates of hard-to-recycle plastics and promote the objectives of a safe circular plastics economy, such as:

- Advanced recycling projects targeting hard-to-recycle plastics, such as mixed, multi-layer, flexible or contaminated plastics
- Commercialisation or scaling-up of emerging and trial technology targeting circularity of hard-to-recycle plastics
- Infrastructure upgrades and technology to extract and process plastics contained within products, such as e-waste, into higher-value products
- Proposals to equip existing or new material recovery facilities or plastic recovery facilities with sorting, separation and de-contamination technology such as optical or robotic machinery to increase the diversion of plastics from landfill
- Proposals put forward by a consortium proposing end-to-end solutions and circularity in our plastics supply chain. For example, this may include supply chain collaboration between a collection and sorting facility of plastic waste, an advanced recycling facility, and manufacturers.

4.2. Eligible locations

The project can include activities at any location within Australia.

4.3. What funding cannot be used for

Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- the purchase of land
- pre-construction activities such as site clearing or earthworks
- business case development and/or feasibility studies
- capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers and the construction, renovation, or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories not directly related to the project
- business as usual expenses, or maintenance costs
- routine operational expenses such as communications, postage, printing and stationery
- accommodation
- legal and accounting fees and bank charges, not directly related to the project
- non-project related costs, or costs associated with ineligible activities.

This list is not exhaustive and other costs may be ineligible where they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project, or they are contrary to the objective of the program.

Projects that are predominantly waste to energy projects, or waste to fuel, are not eligible for funding. A project will only be considered for funding where any waste to fuel or waste to energy is incidental to, or a by-product of, a process that is primarily designed to achieve plastics circularity.

5. Assessment criteria

Selection of projects for funding is a merit-based process.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria set out below by an independent expert panel with relevant expertise, and a departmental panel comprised of Australian government representatives. We will assess the application based on the weighting given to each criterion. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water will be the decision-maker.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence provided in the application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. Each state and territory government applicant should provide detailed evidence to support the answers and address each of the assessment criteria.

Eligible applications will be assessed in accordance with the following assessment criteria:

Assessment Criteria	Information requirements	Weighting (points)
Alignment of the project with program objectives and intended outcomes	Demonstrate this by describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the increase in Australia’s recycling and recovery rates of hard-to-recycle plastics that will be delivered by the project the strategic benefit of the project for Australia, and for the jurisdiction how the project will achieve the objectives and intended outcomes of the Plastics Technology stream the material targeted by the project and why it is a hard-to-recycle plastic the nature, extent and timeliness of anticipated outcomes and the benefits of the project why the Australian Government should invest in the project, including how the project represents value for money. 	30
Benefits to Australia’s safe plastic circular economy, or contribution to	Demonstrate this by identifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent to which the project clearly identifies and provides evidence of reliable feedstock and an end market that retains resources in the economy 	25

<p>managing plastics where circularity is not an option.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if applicable, the extent to which the feedstock for the project will be sourced from regional and remote locations, including from other states and territories • if applicable, how the project will develop and contribute to ongoing and sustained collaborations to build a safe circular economy for plastics • the extent that the project will maximise Australian employment outcomes, such as increased jobs and/or a more highly skilled workforce over the life of the project and into the future • the extent to which infrastructure funded through the program is designed and delivered to reduce environmental impact, such as through minimised carbon emissions, the use of recycled materials, and sound waste management practices • how the project will create and retain other benefits for Australia, including IP or new skills. 	
<p>Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project</p>	<p>Demonstrate this by identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the plan to manage and deliver the project • track record and experience of project proponents in managing projects of a similar nature or scale • where the application relates to a consortium, the arrangements to ensure each proponent delivers on its commitments throughout the life of the project • access, or plan to ensure future access, to any required infrastructure, equipment, technology, commercial agreements, IP etc • risks identified and proposed mitigation strategies • clear process for monitoring and reporting on the project. 	20
<p>Managing environmental impacts, and contribution to</p>	<p>Demonstrate this by identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management and reporting of any environmental impacts that may result from the project, including the adoption of measures 	10

traceability of waste materials	<p>to minimise carbon emissions of operations and other environmental release of materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the project will achieve and report on end-to-end traceability (from source/aggregation point to final use) of the targeted plastic feedstock. 	
Access to finance and investment	<p>Demonstrate this by identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the private sector investment the funding will leverage • the state / territory government investment the funding will leverage • the project proponents' access, or future access, to the required finance and investment to fund their share of eligible project costs • if applicable, intended funding arrangements to support ongoing collaborative activities. 	15

6. How to apply

6.1. Timeline

The application process is shown in Table 1 below. Please note, the closing date will not change, however, the assessment and announcement dates are indicative only and are subject to change.

If a state or territory government is successful, we expect the project to commence in the 2023/24 financial year.

Table 1: Expected timing for this funding opportunity

Date	Event
18 July 2022	Guidelines published and application period opens
13 November 2022	Application period closes
December 2023	Preliminary eligibility assessment of applications and contact applicants if further information is required
January-February 2024	Independent expert panel and departmental panel reviews applications
February 2024	<p>Recommended projects provided to the Minister for the Environment and Water</p> <p>Successful applicants are officially advised</p> <p>State/territory governments begin to negotiate grant agreements with proponents</p>

6.2. Application form

Before applying, the state or territory government applicant should read and understand these guidelines and the application form.

Applications must be submitted by the relevant state or territory government. We will not provide application forms or accept applications for this grant opportunity from project proponents. We will not accept applications by fax or mail.

As the eligible applicant (the state or territory government) is required to submit the following documents:

- A complete and signed application form
- A letter of support from the responsible state or territory Minister, or delegated senior executive from the state or territory government applicant, confirming
 - that the applicant supports the project
 - that the applicant will administer the contractual arrangements with the project proponent
 - the amount of funding to be contributed by the state or territory government applicant towards the project

Note: this may be a single letter that covers each of the applications submitted by the applicant

- Letter/s of support from all project proponent(s)
- Project Budget
- Project Plan
- Cost-Benefit and Financial Analysis
- Any additional supporting information or attachments
- Any additional information required by the application form.

State or territory government entities are responsible for making sure the application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth). If we consider that false or misleading information has been provided in the application, we may not progress the application.

If we find an error or information that is missing, we may ask for clarification or additional information from state/territory government that will not change the nature of the application.

6.3. Application details

Applications must include (but are not limited to) the following information:

- project details including any associated activities
- expected outcomes and benefits of the project and how it supports the objectives of the Plastics Technology stream and national priorities
- timetable and tangible milestones
- a clear, comprehensive budget and financial management strategy including (where relevant) state or territory and industry co-investment

- evidence demonstrating the economic viability of the project over its operational life
- avoidance, mitigation and management measures to minimise adverse environmental impacts from the project including but not limited to climate change and pollution
- details of any planning or regulatory requirements for the project
- consultation plan with relevant stakeholders including traditional custodians and communities
- if applicable – an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the project proponent will bring.

Each state or territory government must attach any supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the application form.

State and territory government applicants must adhere to the following naming conventions for submitting the application documents:

Application Form	PT-state/territory-Project name-Application
Application Budget	PT-state/territory-Project name-Application Budget
Project Plan	PT-state/territory-Project name-Project Plan
Cost-Benefit and Financial Analysis	PT-state/territory-Project name-Cost Benefit Analysis
Letter of support from the jurisdiction	PT-state/territory-Project name-Letter of support from jurisdiction
Letter/s of support from all project proponent(s)	PT-state/territory-Project name-Letter(s) of support from project proponent(s) – Proponent(s)
Supporting Documents	PT-state/territory-Project name-Supporting Documents
Any additional information required by the application form	PT-state/territory-Project name-Additional information

6.4. Applications from consortia

We recognise that some project proponents may want to join together as a consortium to deliver a project. In these circumstances, the state or territory government must appoint a lead project proponent.

The application should identify all members of the consortium and include a letter of support from each of the project proponents. Each letter of support must include:

- Details of the project proponent
- An overview of how the project proponent will work with the lead project proponent and any other project proponents in the group to successfully complete the project

- An outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the project proponent will bring to the group
- The roles/responsibilities the project proponent will undertake, and the non-financial resources it will contribute (if any)
- The proponent's financial contribution towards the project (if any), and the arrangements that will be in place to ensure the commitment is delivered
- Details of a nominated management level contact officer.

6.5. Timing of grant opportunity processes

The state or territory government must apply between the application opening and closing dates.

Late applications

We will not accept late applications unless a state or territory applicant or project proponent(s) has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered on their merits and in accordance with probity principles.

How to lodge a late application

State and territory applicants seeking to submit a late application will be required to submit a late application request to: rmf@dcceew.gov.au

The request should include a detailed explanation of the circumstances that prevented the application being submitted prior to the closing time. Where appropriate, supporting evidence must be provided to verify the claim of exceptional circumstances.

Written requests to lodge a late application will only be accepted within 3 days of the application period closing. We will only accept late applications within 2 weeks of the application period closing.

A member of the department's Senior Executive Service, or a person appointed as their delegate, will determine whether a late application is accepted. The decision of the delegate will be final and not be subject to a review or appeals process.

Once the outcome is determined, the department will advise the applicant if their request is accepted or declined.

7. Selection process

7.1. Selection process

Project proponents should engage with their relevant state or territory body to develop the application. Applications without written support from the relevant state or territory minister will not be considered. Where there is more than one application submitted by a state or

territory government, the jurisdiction may be invited to provide advice on the relative prioritisation of those projects.

Once a complete application is submitted by the relevant state or territory, the department will first review the application against the eligibility criteria. If eligible, it will then proceed to assessment. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

We consider the application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications
- whether it provides value for money
- the overall objectives of the funding opportunity
- the evidence provided to demonstrate how the project contributes to meeting those objectives
- existing and / or potential market failure
- minimising possible duplication with other Commonwealth or State and Territory programs
- the financial, fraud and other risks posed by the project and project proponent(s)
- how the project will contribute to the national plastics recycling supply chain and achieve an overall mix of projects that meet program objectives within the state/territory, and nationally.

Applications will be assessed by an independent expert panel with relevant technical and commercial expertise, and a departmental panel comprised of Australian government representatives.

If the selection process identifies unintentional errors in the application, we may contact the state or territory government to correct or clarify the errors, but the state or territory government cannot make any material alteration or addition.

7.2. Who will approve funding?

The Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water will decide which projects will receive funding and will consider the recommendations of the department and expert panel.

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

- the approval of the grant funds
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- any terms or conditions of the grant.

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

7.3. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise of the outcome of the application in writing. State/territory governments will begin negotiations of grant contracts for successful projects with project proponents.

Bilateral schedules to the *Federation Funding Agreement – Environment* will be negotiated with participating state and territory governments following the Minister for the Environment and Water's decision on which projects will receive funding.

Funding for projects will be provided to project proposals under contractual arrangements with state and territory governments, with Commonwealth funding provided in accordance with arrangements under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.

The Commonwealth Minister for Environment and Water has discretion to publicly announce projects with the relevant state or territory Minister. Successful applications and some project information may be displayed on the department's website.

8. Monitoring and reporting

8.1. Keeping us informed

Applicants will be required to report to the department on any matter that is likely to affect the project including (but not limited to) the following details:

- the contractual arrangements proposed to be entered into with the project proponent, and the arrangements entered into
- key changes in project proponent organisation or business activities, particularly if they affect its ability to complete the project, carry on business and pay debts as and when they fall due
- changes to the project proponent/s name, addresses, nominated contact details, bank account details
- if a state or territory government become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement
- events relating to a project and provision of an opportunity for the Minister for Environment and Water or their representative to attend.

These details will be provided to the Commonwealth in accordance with bilateral agreements with the state/territory governments.

8.2. Reporting

Project proponents must submit reports in line with contractual agreements with state and territory governments. Routine reporting will be required on progress, and in relation to any variation in the project and include:

- progress against agreed project milestones (including commencement and completion dates), including how milestones have been assessed
- progress against the objectives of the Plastics Technology stream
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- current capacity, spare capacity and estimated additional capacity of the funded project (tonnes per annum)
- environmental, economic and social benefits, including construction and on-going employment
- material flows including source/aggregation point and final use

- contributions of proponents directly related to the project.

State and territory governments will be required to report the above information at anticipated and actual milestone completion, quarterly and as requested by the Commonwealth.

Please note that a summary of project information provided to the Commonwealth may be made publicly available on the departmental website unless it is considered confidential information.

9. Privacy and Confidentiality notice

9.1 Privacy

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable, whether or not the information or opinion is true or recorded in a material form.

Sensitive information is a subset of personal information that has a higher level of privacy protection than other personal information. For example, information about an individual's criminal record or racial or ethnic origin.

By submitting an application, the applicant consents to the department collecting and using their personal information (including any sensitive information) for the purpose of:

- verifying or assessing the funding application and making a decision
- verifying, assessing and making a decision about other applications
- providing advice to other Commonwealth, State and Territory government entities
- reviewing and ensuring the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government funding
- research
- announcing the award of funding
- for related purposes, or otherwise as required or authorised by law.

If an application includes the personal or sensitive information of a third party, for example a project proponent, the applicant must provide the department the written consent of the third party for the department to use the personal information for the purposes outlined in this notice, and ensure that the third party is given a copy of this notice.

We may disclose personal information:

- to the independent expert panel with relevant technical and commercial expertise, and a departmental panel comprised of Australian government representatives
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister and their advisors
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to other Commonwealth, State and Territory government entities
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose personal information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- applicants agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

An applicant can decide not to provide personal information or use a pseudonym, however, this may mean the Department cannot assess the application and/or will affect its outcome.

9.2 Confidentiality

An applicant can mark parts of an application as confidential with an explanation of the reason for confidentiality. For example:

- the information relates to a third party and/or is commercially sensitive,
- disclosure of the information would cause unreasonable harm to a state/territory government entity or someone else, or;
- the information was obtained by you with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information to:

- to the independent expert panel with relevant technical and commercial expertise, and a departmental panel comprised of Australian government representatives
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister and their advisors
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to other Commonwealth, State and Territory government entities
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- applicants agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

Confidential information will not be disclosed outside of the parties listed above unless the applicant's consent is obtained or otherwise as required or authorised by law.

In some instances, the restriction on using or disclosing confidential information may affect an application, in which case we will consult with the applicant on how to manage the confidentiality issue.

9.3 Privacy Policy

See the department's Privacy Policy on our website for more information about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email the department at privacy@dcceew.gov.au.

10. Glossary

Term	Definition
Applicant / state or territory applicant	Entities that are able to apply for funding under the program, which is state and territory governments.
Application form	The document applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
Assessment criteria	The criteria used to assess the merits of proposals and determine application rankings.

Term	Definition
Department	The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
Eligible activities	The activities undertaken by an applicant in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in section 4.1.
Eligible application	An application for grant funding under the program that has been determined as eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
Grant agreement/Contractual agreement	A legally binding contract between the state/territory government and a project proponent for the grant funding.
Guidelines	Guidelines that the Minister gives to the department to provide the framework for the administration of the program, as in force from time to time.
Hard to recycle plastics	<p>Plastics in waste streams where there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low recovery and recycling rates due to difficulties in recycling, and • currently limited infrastructure and technology solutions to support circularity in the supply chain.
Independent Expert Panel	The Panel provides strategic oversight, advice and recommendations to the decision-maker on assessed applications.
Commonwealth Minister	The Minister for the Environment and Water.
Personal information	<p>Has the same meaning as in the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) which is:</p> <p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program funding or Program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
Project proponent	An entity listed under Section 3.1 that can partner with a state or territory to make an application for funding.

Term	Definition
Selection process	The process used to select and recommend projects which may involve comparative assessment of applications and the assessment of applications against the eligibility criteria and/or the assessment criteria.

11. Addendum – Demonstrating national benefit

The latest Australian Plastics Flows and Fates Study 2020-21 – National Report found 3.79 million tonnes of plastics were consumed in Australia in 2020-21. Of this, approximately 2.65 million tonnes reached the end of its intended purpose and was disposed to waste streams. Of the material disposed of, only 334,000 tonnes was recycled.

Polymer	Consumption (tonnes)	Disposal (tonnes)	Recycling of disposed material (tonnes)	Recycling of disposed material %	Recycling shortfall (tonnes)
PET (1)	379,800	315,700	78,900	25.0	236,800
PE-HD (2)	633,500	482,200	86,500	17.9	395,700
PVC (3)	438,000	215,900	4,000	1.9	211,900
PE-LD/LLD (4)	433,300	359,000	58,200	16.2	300,800
PP (5)	544,200	447,000	45,500	10.2	401,500
PS (6)	91,700	69,800	8,600	12.3	61,200
PS-E (6)	66,500	38,500	11,500	29.9	27,000
ABS/SAN/A SA (7)	94,200	42,900	7,200	16.8	35,700
PUR/PIR (7)	102,100	57,900	3,400	5.9	54,500
PA (7)	120,600	82,000	8,300	10.1	73,700
Bioplastic (7)	9,900	8,300	100	1.2	8,200
Other (7)	293,300	218,000	6,900	3.2	211,100
Unknown polymer	583,800	309,600	14,900	N/A	N/A*

*For 'Unknown polymers' the quantities are not the same 'polymer type' and so are not directly comparable, and a recycled rate % cannot be calculated

Applications under the Plastics Technology stream should demonstrate how the proposal will address shortfalls with reference to data on Australia's recycling rates, based on information from the Flows and Fates Study or other objective data sources. The use of data will support the prioritisation of projects when assessing their contribution to the intended outcomes of the Plastics Technology stream.