



Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) Program – Renewables and Low Emissions Round

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – RENEWABLES AND LOW EMISSIONS ROUND

1. What is the objective of BRII?

The objective of the Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) program is to drive innovation within small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and the government by encouraging the development of innovative solutions by SMEs to public policy and service delivery challenges.

2. How does BRII work?

The program covers challenges for which SMEs can develop solutions. These challenges were proposed by Australian Government agencies and successful challenges were recommended by Industry Innovation and Science Australia (IISA) and approved by the Minister. More detail on each of the challenges is available on business.gov.au/BRII-RLE.

SMEs can apply for a competitive grant to undertake a Feasibility project on their proposed solution to a challenge. Grantees who have successfully completed a Feasibility project can be invited to apply for a further competitive grant for the development of a proof of concept.

Feasibility projects must demonstrate the scientific, technical and commercial feasibility of the proposed solution to the challenge. Grants for Feasibility projects are up to \$100,000.

Proof of Concept (PoC) projects involve undertaking activities to produce a working prototype or demonstration of the proposed solution. Grants for PoC projects are up to \$1 million.

3. What is a ‘challenge’?

A challenge is a problem that an Australian Government agency has in relation to its policy or service delivery responsibilities for which the agency cannot find a suitable solution in the current market.

Details of the round challenges can be found at business.gov.au/BRII-RLE.

4. Are BRII grants competitive?

Yes, applications for both Feasibility and PoC grants are assessed against the BRII assessment criteria. The assessment criteria are listed in section 7 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

5. Who assesses BRII Feasibility and Proof of Concept grant applications?

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) will assess whether the application meets the BRII eligibility criteria. Eligible applications are assessed against the BRII assessment criteria by the Australian Government agency who proposed the challenge, and then by a committee of IISA.

The committee will make a recommendation to the Program Delegate as to which projects to fund. Further details on the grant selection process are provided in section 9 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

6. What grant amounts are available?

Feasibility grants are up to a maximum of \$100,000.

PoC grants are up to a maximum of \$1,000,000.

7. When are the grant funds paid?

We will pay the entire Feasibility grant funds on execution of the grant agreement. For PoC grants, we will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

Further details on the expected timing of grant opportunity processes are provided in section 8.3 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

8. Is my business eligible?

To be eligible to apply for a Feasibility grant you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)

and be one of the following entities:

- an entity, incorporated in Australia
- an individual or partnership, provided you agree to form a entity incorporated in Australia to enter into a grant agreement

and:

- have a combined annual turnover of less than \$20 million for each of the previous three financial years. This includes the turnover of any related bodies corporate. However, if you are controlled by a Publicly Funded Research Organisation, including university spin-offs with at least 40 per cent university ownership, you must only have an annual turnover in isolation of less than \$20 million for each of the last three years. Newly established companies are welcome to apply.

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- an organisation not included above
- income tax exempt
- a trust (or incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust)
- a Commonwealth, state or local government agency or body (including government business enterprises).

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply.

You can find more information on eligibility in section 5 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

9. I am a start-up company, can I apply?

Yes, start-up companies are welcome to apply.

10. I am an individual or partnership, can I apply?

Yes, as long as you agree to form an entity incorporated in Australia before signing a grant agreement. See the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#) for more information.

11. Can I submit an application for more than one of the challenges?

Yes, you can apply and submit an application for multiple challenges, however you can only receive grant funding for one challenge in this round. You will need to complete and submit a separate application for each challenge you wish to apply for. You cannot submit more than one application per challenge.

12. Can I receive funding for more than one challenge?

No. You can only receive grant funding for one challenge in this round, as stated in section 4 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

13. Can I apply in collaboration with others (i.e. universities, overseas organisations)?

Yes, you can apply in collaboration with others. A collaborative project involves a lead applicant and at least one other applicant. Only the lead applicant must be an eligible applicant. The grant is paid to the lead applicant.

Further details on joint (consortia) applications are provided in the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

14. How long are the Feasibility and Proof of Concept stages?

The maximum time allowed is three months for Feasibility projects and 18 months for PoC projects. There is no minimum time.

15. What happens if there are any changes during the project?

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a project variation, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum three month period for Feasibility projects and 18 month period for PoC projects
- changing project activities.

Note – the program does not allow for an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project end date. We will not consider changes after the project end date.

If a delay in the project results in milestone achievement and payment dates moving to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is enough funding in the relevant year to accommodate the revised payment schedule.

16. Who owns the IP at the completion of the challenge?

Grantees will retain intellectual property rights and the right to sell in domestic and global markets.

17. If I successfully complete a Proof of Concept project, will the Australian Government purchase my solution?

The Australian Government agency that proposed the challenge has the option to negotiate the purchase of the solution, but is under no obligation to do so. Any purchase of the solution will be subject to negotiation between the agency and the solution provider in good faith.

18. How do I apply?

To apply, you must:

- complete the relevant online Business Research and Innovation Initiative [application form](#) on business.gov.au
- provide all the information that is needed for us to assess your application
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria, ensuring each requirement has been considered
- ensure all mandatory attachments are included.

19. What documents do I have to supply as part of my application?

The following documents are required with your Feasibility project application:

- project plan
- project budget
- letters of support if collaborating with other companies
- financial turnover declaration.

If your project is eligible to proceed to the PoC stage, you will be required to supply the following documents:

- project plan
- detailed project budget
- risk strategy
- letters of support if collaborating with other companies
- Feasibility project report
- commercialisation plan

See the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#) for more information on the required documents. Several of the required documents must follow set templates, which can be found at [business.gov.au/BRII-RLE](#).

20. How are individual projects monitored?

Project progress will be monitored by the Challenge Management Group and informed by submitted project progress reports and project support meetings. We will only make PoC grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports. We will assess your report and conduct site visits if necessary.

You can find more information on how your grant activity is monitored in section 13 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

21. Who makes up the Challenge Management Group?

The Challenge Management Group manages individual projects related to specific challenges. The group is made up of a representative from DISR, the Australian Government agency who put forward the challenge and an authorised representative of the grant recipient.

22. Is a final report required at the completion of Feasibility and Proof of Concept projects?

At the completion of Feasibility projects and PoC projects, an end of project report is required to be submitted.

23. Is this program administered under legislation?

No, this program is not administered under separate legislation.

24. Is there a set application form?

Yes. Your application must be submitted through our online [portal](#). A sample of the application form is available to download at [business.gov.au/BRII-RLE](#).

25. Will there be funding available for multiple projects across each challenge?

Yes, funding will be available for multiple projects. Approximately five projects per challenge will be funded at the Feasibility stage and two projects at the PoC stage, depending on the cost of projects and the quality of the proposals.

26. Can you attach videos when submitting the application?

Supporting documents or diagrams/pictures can be submitted. There is no opportunity to submit video material.

27. If multiple solutions are received for a challenge that are effectively the same, how will the final list of applications to be funded for that challenge be determined?

The Feasibility project stage is a merit based, open competitive grant available for all businesses. Each application will be assessed against the assessment criteria which are set out in the grant opportunity guidelines. The assessment criteria consider a wide range of factors. To be recommended as suitable for funding, your application must score highly against each assessment criterion and whether it provides value with relevant money compared to other applications. PoC is a closed competitive grant available for only successful Feasibility projects. Only the most meritorious applications will be awarded grant funding.

28. Do solutions need to be Information Security Registered Assessors Program (IRAP) approved?

Feasibility and PoC projects do not need to be IRAP approved. Any solutions purchased by agencies will need to meet the security requirements specified by the purchasing agency.

29. Is it essential that all members of the team are based in Australia? Can an applicant apply with a state government partner?

Only the lead applicant needs to meet the eligibility criteria. Collaboration partners do not need to meet the eligibility criteria.

30. If a (start-up) company hasn't been formed/commenced, can they apply as an individual or partnership and create a company incorporated in Australia after application lodgement, if their application is successful?

Yes, newly established businesses, individuals and partnerships can apply. Should your application be selected for funding, we would require you to become an entity incorporated in Australia prior to receiving any grant funds.

31. Is any weight given to an application in relation to what costs the proponent is putting in?

No, applications are assessed purely against the assessment criteria as set out in the grant opportunity guidelines.

32. Who is the delegate for the grant decision?

The Program Delegate is a manager within the Department of Industry, Science and Resources with responsibility for the program. The Program Delegate will be the final decision maker as to which applications are funded.

33. After the closing date, what is the timeframe for decisions?

A decision on the awarding of Feasibility grants is expected to take approximately 16 weeks after the assessment of applications as outlined in the grant opportunity guidelines. You can find more information on expected timing of grant opportunity processes in section 8 of the [BRII grant opportunity guidelines](#).

34. Is there an opportunity to go through/discuss the application?

As this is a competitive grant program it is not appropriate for the department/agencies to comment on individual applications prior to lodgement. A webinar will be conducted after applications have opened and dates will be made available on business.gov.au/BRII-RLE.

35. Will further rounds have different challenges?

Yes. Future rounds will have new challenges.

36. Need more information?

Visit business.gov.au/BRII or call 13 28 46.