

Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund (QSEIF)

Funding Guidelines for Water-saving technologies

Closing dates:

Note that draft and final applications will only be considered if received by the closing dates in each funding round.

(Refer to the website of the Department of Environment & Resource Management or QSEIF Application form for dates of the next funding round).

QSEIF assists Queensland organisations develop innovative technologies or processes that reduce water consumption and reliance on community water supplies.

Technologies eligible for funding include those that:

- Enable grey water, rainwater, waste water or seawater to be utilised more effectively to reduce consumption of potable water.
- Minimise or eliminate leaks or water wastage.
- Substitute recycled or low-grade water for potable water in industrial processes.
- Reduce the energy involved in producing, treating, recycling or utilising water.

Eligible projects must have an innovative component, as funding is intended to offset the technical risk involved in developing or adapting novel technologies or process improvements that reduce consumption of potable water, or demonstrating the effectiveness of unproven technology. Funding will not be provided for projects that would be commercially viable without government support.

QSEIF encourages collaboration between the applicant organisation and one or more project partners. Applicants may contract technological development to an external research institution, university, consulting group or another company.

University researchers with a project proposal should seek an industry partner with the capability to commercialise the technology, contribute at least 20% of project funding, and exercise oversight and financial management of the project.

Eligibility Requirements

Project proposals must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be Queensland-based organisations, and the main project activities must be undertaken within Queensland. Applicant organisations must be incorporated before government funding is committed to the project.
- Projects must have an innovative component.
- A minimum 20% of total external project costs¹ must be borne by the applicant. Applicants are expected to contribute a greater share of funding for projects having less technical risk. Other government grant funding may not contribute to project costs.
- Only applications that have been submitted in draft format will be eligible for submitting as a final application.
- Projects must lead towards a commercially-viable outcome.
- Intellectual property developed in the project must belong to a Queensland-based organisation.
- Projects must enhance Queensland's position as a source of sustainable water and energy technologies.
- Water savings must not be achieved with a large increase in energy use.
- Draft and final applications must be lodged by the closing dates.
- Projects must be able to commence soon after funding is approved, and should be completed within about eighteen months.
- Project outcomes must be compatible with legislation, standards and building codes likely to be in effect when project outcomes are ready to be commercialised.

Funding is NOT available to State or Federal government departments or to government-owned corporations.

Selection criteria for applications

QSEIF is a competitive process. Applications that meet basic eligibility requirements are evaluated against the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated potential to achieve substantial reductions in water consumption and reliance on community water supplies.
- Demonstrated potential for broad adoption and commercialisation of the technology or process developed, adapted or proven in the project.
- Feasibility, practicality and a sound technical basis for the project.
- An effective strategy to manage the Intellectual Property developed in the project, and to commercialise or implement the project outcomes.
- The technical and financial capability of the applicant and project partners to successfully undertake and complete the project and achieve the intended outcome.
- A need for Queensland Government funding support.
- The track record of the applicant and project partners in acting in an environmentally, financially and socially responsible manner.
- The completeness of the application.

¹ External costs are products or services purchased from organisations that are independent of the applicant (i.e. excluding payments to employees, or to companies with common Directors or ownership, of the organisation receiving government funding).

Applications are expected to meet all the above criteria.

The amount of funding available for any one project will generally be limited to \$200,000.

Application process

- Prospective applicants should contact a QSEIF Project Officer in the Department of Environment and Resource Management, DERM (see contact details below) to discuss their proposal and obtain an application form.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek guidance at each stage of preparing their application.
- **Draft applications must be submitted by the closing date for receipt of draft applications in the current funding round.**
- The Department will provide feedback on draft applications to assist applicants to further develop and refine their proposals. Only applications that have been submitted in draft format before the draft application deadline will be eligible to be submitted as a final application.
- **Final applications must be received by the closing date for final applications in the current funding round.**
- Each final application that meets eligibility requirements will be forwarded to a leading specialist in the respective technology area for in-depth assessment.
- Additional information may be sought from referees, searches of financial records of the applicant, and compliance with environmental permits.
- Evaluation of final applications will be undertaken by an independent Queensland Sustainable Energy Advisory Council (QSEAC), which will recommend projects for Ministerial approval.
- Information about the status of applications will not be available until the evaluation process is complete.
- Approved projects are announced publicly approximately 2-3 months after the closing date for final applications, and a description of each approved project will be published on the DERM website. The decisions of the QSEAC and the Minister are final, and no discussions will be entered into.
- Offers of QSEIF funding will be subject to specific conditions set out in a project contract, and the amount (or proportion) of DERM project funding may differ from that proposed in the project application.
- No funds will be paid until a contract has been agreed and signed by the applicant organisation and DERM. Payments will be made after achievement of specified milestones set out in the contract. General conditions for a typical contract can be viewed on the DERM website at: <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/qseif>

For further information or to discuss your proposal, contact:

Dr Martin Gellender

Tel: 3330.5430

Email martin.gellender@derm.qld.gov.au