



**Industry &
Investment**

BUILDING THE COUNTRY PACKAGE

WATER ADJUSTMENT INNOVATION FUND (WAIF)

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Round 2

A \$9 million fund over five years that will help businesses in eligible NSW country towns affected by water reforms to invest in projects that benefit the environment. Preference will be given to promote the development of innovative products and services related to water saving that create local employment and investment, ensuring the sustainability of those communities. Sustainable innovations in areas other than water may also be considered.

Examples of eligible projects could be in the field of piping and metering projects, or data centres that require a dry climate.

Objectives

The program aims to broaden the range of industries and economic diversity in country towns that have been impacted as a result of water reform, by encouraging viable businesses (that meet eligibility criteria) to establish, expand or relocate to these towns.

Who Can Apply?

Industry and Investment NSW (I&INSW) is currently seeking expressions of interest for assistance through the WAIF. Applications can be accepted from businesses, business clusters and industry groups located in the Murray Darling Basin which includes the catchment management areas of the Border Rivers/Gwydir, Namoi, Central West, Western, Lachlan, Lower Murray Darling, Murrumbidgee and Murray. Preference will be given to projects in communities adversely impacted by prolonged drought or the impact of climate change reforms.

To help build competitive advantage, assistance will be available to businesses in eligible localities that:

- supply/produce water saving technology, products and services;
- are developing innovation and sustainability in water-related technologies;
- are involved in the development and production of other innovative and sustainable products/services that have a positive environmental effect;
- have potential to reduce imports of these technologies;
- create local employment and investment;
- broaden the economic base of eligible locations.

Types of Assistance

Assistance will be provided to viable businesses to establish, expand or relocate to towns that have been impacted as a result of water reform. Assistance would be directed to costs including (but not limited to) the following:

- Product research and development
- Investment in manufacturing equipment
- Commercialisation of products and / or technologies
- Plant and equipment installation costs (including transportation)
- Skills training for employees
- Technical consultancies

Application Procedure

An application for assistance through the WAIF is a two stage process.

1. Expressions of Interest:

It is recommended that projects are discussed with your local I&I NSW office (refer end of this information section) prior to submission of an expression of interest. Expressions of interest must briefly and clearly demonstrate the following points:

- That the business is establishing in, expanding or relocating to, an eligible location impacted by water reform / drought; or the business is creating permanent employment in an eligible location.
- The project involves the use of innovative technologies in product / service development that encourage efficient water usage, or projects that will contribute to the development of sustainable and environmentally positive manufacturing practices, or involve innovative product and service development.
- How the project will broaden and strengthen the economic base of areas undergoing water reform through the generation of new jobs and business investment.
- Capacity to implement the project to an estimated timetable.
- It is preferable that the innovation is able to be replicated or applied in other locations where product / service demand has been established.
- Any funding provided under this program is intended to be complementary to similar State and Commonwealth programs.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by no later than **Monday 23 November 2009**.

The document must be signed by a legally authorised person for and on behalf of the applicant company and should be submitted to:

Paul Mathews
Manager, Business Investment Programs
Industry & Investment NSW
GPO Box 5477
Sydney NSW 2001
Email: paul.mathews@business.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Government reserves the right to consider and approve projects that do not satisfy all eligibility criteria provided that the project meets the intent of the program, to promote economic growth and diversity in eligible locations.

2. Application and Assessment

After initial assessment of expressions of interest, suitable projects will be invited to submit a detailed application demonstrating how the proposal meets the program criteria. These projects will be subject to a rigorous assessment process prior to any funding decisions being made.

Retrospective projects cannot be considered. Any assistance offered will be subject to a binding agreement between the parties which will include project milestones including employment and investment potential.

For more information contact your nearest regional office:

Albury	(02) 6041 4808
Armidale	(02) 6771 3284
Broken Hill	(08) 8087 8033
Dubbo	(02) 6883 3100
Goulburn	(02) 4821 8000
Orange	(02) 6360 8400
Tamworth	(02) 6766 1360
Wagga Wagga	(02) 6921 6422

WATER ADJUSTMENT INNOVATION FUND

Expression of Interest

SECTION A - INFORMATION

Company details			
Company Name			
Trading Name			
Business Address			
Postal Address			
Website			
ABN (if applicable)		ACN (if applicable)	

Contact details

Contact		Title/Position	
Telephone No.		Fax No.	
Mobile No.		Email Address	

Structure/ownership

Individual Business <input type="checkbox"/> Industry Body <input type="checkbox"/> Business Group <input type="checkbox"/> Co-operative <input type="checkbox"/>			
How long has the organisation been operating?	years	How long under current ownership?	years

Project description

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Project location/address (if not same as above)

Describe how your business is establishing, expanding or re-locating to an eligible location impacted by water reform / drought, or creating permanent employment in an eligible location?

Describe how your proposal involves the use of innovative technologies in product / service development that encourage efficient water usage, **or** how the project contributes to the development of sustainable and environmentally positive manufacturing practices, **or** how the project involves innovative product and service development.

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How will the project broaden/strengthen the economic base of the location through the generation of new jobs and business investment?

Estimated Number of New Jobs:
 Projected Investment (\$):

Estimated project budget and project funding

Project Costs (please itemise costs)	Amount (\$)	Project Funding	Provider	Amount (\$)
Product research and development		Commercial loan 1		
Investment in manufacturing equipment		Commercial loan 2		
Commercialisation of products and / or technologies		Other sources of funds		
Plant and equipment installation costs (including transportation)				
Skills training for employees				
Technical consultancies				
Other				
TOTAL		TOTAL		

Please indicate your capacity (financial, management and business) to implement the project.

Estimated development timetable (include stages)

Is the innovation able to be replicated or applied in other locations where product / service demand has been established? If so how?

Will the project create flow on benefits to other businesses / industry sectors? If so, please describe these benefits.

Have you received or applied for funding for this project from any other similar State or Commonwealth Government program? If so, please provide details.

Declaration

Any personal information provided to the Department is voluntary and protected by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW) and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW). The information is essential to determine your eligibility under the Department's business investment programs. The information may be used to send you communications such as newsletters, flyers, and initiations about business-related activities. Please refer to our website www.business.nsw.gov.au for more information on our privacy policy and your rights to access or correct the information.

I have read and acknowledge the above declaration with respect to possible assistance under this program. I certify that the information provided in and supporting this application is true and correct and that I am legally authorised to sign this application for and on behalf of the applicant company/organisation.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Name _____ **Position** _____