Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Renewable Manufacturing Grant

Supplementary guidance

June 2026

NSW GOVERNMENT

Acknowledgment of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place and their rich contribution to society.

Artist and designer Nikita Ridgeway from Aboriginal design agency – Boss Lady Creative Designs, created the People and Community symbol.

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Contents

1. Introduction 4

1.1 Purpose of this guidance 4

2. Commercial readiness index guidance 5

3. Eligibility criteria guidance 9

3.1 Change of applicant entity 9

4. Merit criteria guidance 14

5. Terms and conditions 22

5.1 Commencement and authority for the guidelines and supplementary guidance 22

5.2 Limitations 22

5.2.1 No representation, warranty or guarantee 22

5.2.2 No obligation to update 22

5.2.3 No liability 23

5.2.4 Other limitations 23

5.3 Confidentiality and disclosure of information 23

5.4 Conflicts of interest 24

5.5 Evaluation 26

5.6 Grant acknowledgement 26

5.7 Discretion of the department 27

5.8 Privacy 27

Image credits 28

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this guidance

This guidance document is supplementary to the Renewable Manufacturing grant funding guidelines published on our website.

This guidance provides important information to help you complete your application for the Renewable Manufacturing grant. It supports you to:

- determine the commercial readiness of the product you want to manufacture
- understand what information is required in your application to meet the eligibility and merit criteria
- understand the assessment process
- understand the general terms and conditions.

This guidance must be read in conjunction with the funding guidelines and information published on our website.

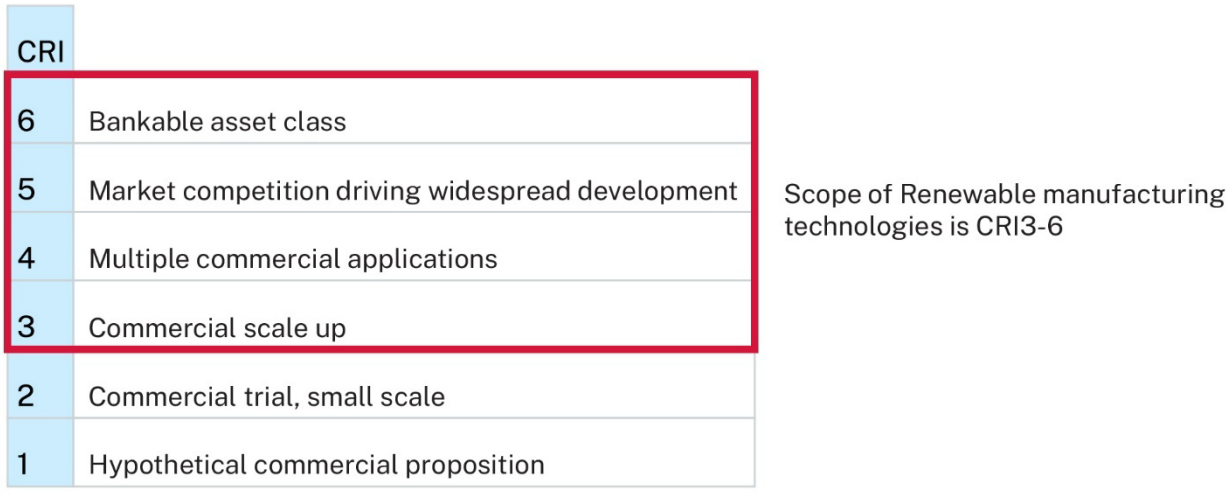
You can also read the frequently asked questions on our website. Specific questions related to individual applicant's proposal will not be published.

We will also hold an Information and Q&A session about this funding opportunity. You can register to attend via our website. If you cannot attend this session a recording of it will be published on our website.

2. Commercial readiness index guidance

The commercial readiness index (CRI) is a tool to help assess the commercial readiness of a technology project. A project's readiness can range from a CRI 1 where there is research to prove that a technology is feasible in the field to a CRI 6 where the technology or application is being commercially deployed and is a bankable asset class.

Figure 1: CRI requirements for the grant



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The CRI consists of 2 components:

- the status summary: the current commercial status of the project in the market
- the detailed indicators: these are used to reflect the commercialisation progress of a project.

See ARENA's Commercial Readiness Index for further information.

This grant requires projects to have a CRI of 3 to 6. Figure 1 above identifies the required CRI range for the renewable energy components technologies that will be funded by this grant. Table 1 is an example of a CRI table applicants can use to evaluate their project.

Table 1: CRI – status summary and indicators

	Status summary level					
Indicators	Bankable asset class	Market competition driving widespread development	Multiple commercial applications	Commercial scale-up	Commercial trial, small scale	Hypothetical commercial proposition
Regulatory environment						
Stakeholder acceptance						
Technical performance						
Financial performance – costs						
Financial proposition – revenue						
Industry supply chain and skills						
Market opportunities						
Company maturity						
	6	5	4	3	2	1

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Table 2 describes the CRI Status Summary at each level. This is determined by evidence in the market and does not require each individual indicator (see Table 3) to be at the same level as the Status Summary.

Table 2: CRI status summary descriptions

Level	Summary
1	**Hypothetical commercial proposition:** technically ready – commercially untested and unproven. Commercial proposition driven by technology advocates with little or no evidence of verifiable technical or financial data to substantiate claims.
2	**Commercial trial:** small-scale, first-of-a-kind project funded by equity and government support. Commercial proposition backed by evidence of verifiable data typically not in the public domain.
3	**Commercial scale-up:** occurring driven by specific policy and emerging debt finance. Commercial proposition driven by technology proponents and market segment participants. Publicly discoverable data driving emerging interest from finance and regulatory sectors.
4	**Multiple commercial applications:** becoming evident locally, although still subsidised. Verifiable data on technical and financial performance in the public domain driving interest from a variety of debt and equity sources, however still requiring government support. Regulatory challenges are being addressed in multiple jurisdictions.
5	**Market competition driving widespread deployment:** in the context of long-term policy settings. Competition emerging across all areas of the supply chain with commoditisation of key components and financial products occurring.
6	**'Bankable' grade asset class:** driven by same criteria as other mature energy technologies. Considered as a 'bankable' grade asset class with known standards and performance expectations. Market and technology risks not driving investment decisions. Proponent capability, pricing and other typical market forces driving uptake.

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Table 3 provides a description for each indicator.

Table 3: CRI indicator descriptions

Indicators	Summary of indicators
Regulatory environment	The maturity of the planning, permitting and standards relating to the technology.
Stakeholder acceptance	The maturity of the process for evidence-based stakeholder consultation linked to renewable energy integration into the energy markets.
Technical performance	The availability of discoverable technical performance information.
Financial proposition - costs Financial proposition - revenue	The availability of robust, competitive financial information linked to capital and operating costs and forecast revenues allowing investors to take increasing levels of future market and project risk.
Industry supply chain and skills	The development of a competitive and efficient industry product and skills supply chain required to support a commercially viable sector.
Market opportunities	The development from a hypothetical commercial plan to the demonstration of a viable market (local and/or overseas) via competitive channels to market and sustainable business models.
Company maturity	The development of the sector to include established companies with strong credit ratings and established performance records.

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3. Eligibility criteria guidance

As an applicant you are required to demonstrate how you meet the eligibility criteria for this grant. Tables 4 and 5 provide guidance to help you respond to the eligibility criteria.

3.1 Change of applicant entity

The department will only enter into a funding deed with the applicant assessed by the department during the application process. If, at any stage of the application process, the funding recipient is expected to be a different legal entity to the applicant stated, the applicant must clearly specify this in their application and provide all necessary information requested to evidence this. We reserve the right to deem an application ineligible for funding if the applicant is unable to support these claims with sufficient evidence.

Table 4: Eligibility criteria guidance - Eligibility criterion 1: Applicant

Number	Description	Application evidence required
1.1	The applicant must hold or be willing to obtain an Australian Business Number (ABN) prior to entering into a funding deed.	• ABN, or • indicate willingness to obtain an ABN prior to entering into a funding deed.
1.2	The applicant must be or will become an entity prior to entering into a funding deed as below: • a company incorporated in Australia • a company limited by guarantee • an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust • an incorporated association or a co-operative • an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.	• entity type of your organisation, or • indicate willingness to become one of the listed entity types prior to entering into a funding deed.
1.3	The applicant must hold or will obtain all insurances required by law including $20 million public liability insurance and workers compensation prior to entering into a funding agreement.	• certificates of currency for each insurance policy, or • indicate a commitment to provide certificates of currency prior to entering into a funding deed
1.4	The applicant must be solvent, of going concern, able to pay its debts when they fall due and not be subject to any insolvency event including the subject of an order or resolution for winding up or dissolution (other than for the purposes of reconstruction or amalgamation) or the appointment of a receiver, liquidator, administrator or similar.	• A declaration you are not subject to an insolvency event.
1.5	The applicant must not be listed on the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) sanctions list.	• A check will be carried out by the department.

Number	Description	Application evidence required
1.6	The lead applicant must disclose any legal proceedings or investigations including litigation, arbitration, mediation or conciliation that are taking place, pending or (to the best of the applicant's knowledge, after having made proper enquiry) threatened against the applicant or a related body corporate (as defined in the *Corporations Act*).	• Declare any proceedings that could affect your project of the reputation of the NSW Government.
1.7	The applicant must disclose all Australian Government and/or Australian state, territory grants applied for in relation to the project. This includes a history of grant funding over the last 5 years (including both successful and unsuccessful applications).	• Details of grant funding you have applied for or received over the last 5 years.
1.8	The applicant materially complies with all: • obligations under employment contracts, industrial agreements and awards • codes of conduct and practice relevant to conditions of service and to the relations between the applicants and the employees employed by the applicant • applicable Workplace Health and Safety legislation.	• A declaration of compliance.
1.9	If required, the applicant must achieve Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval before commencement of the project.	• If applicable, you must give a warranty you will obtain evidence of FIRB approval, within a reasonable notice period of being awarded funding. Acknowledging, that funding will not be granted until such evidence is given.

Table 5: Eligibility criteria guidance - Eligibility criterion 2: Project

Number	Description	Application evidence required
2.1	The project will deliver new or expanded industrial facilities in NSW that will manufacture renewable energy products at commercial scale. This includes: • components suitable for grid-scale renewable energy generation, storage, and transmission such as, but not limited to, wind towers, solar panels, batteries and transmission cables.	A brief description of your project, including: • the product you are manufacturing. • your project deliverables • the commercial readiness (CRI) of your project (must be between 3 – 6).
2.2	The project is located in NSW.	Your project's site address.
2.3	The project is expected to be fully delivered and operational within 4 years of contract execution and no later than 30 June 2032.	Your project's start and end date.
2.4	The grant funding amount requested is between $5-30 million (excluding GST)	• a confirmation that the funding amount requested is within the permitted range. A list of eligible costs which will be funded by the department (see merit criterion 2.1).
2.5	The project is sustainable without continued government investment.	• a declaration that your project once completed will be sustainable without continued government investment or support.
2.6	The project would not occur in NSW at all, or in the same timeframe without government support.	• A letter from your CEO or project sponsor confirming government support is required to proceed, including clear rationale justifying the need for government support.
2.7	The project has a viable commercial strategy.	• A commercial strategy for your project.

Number	Description	Application evidence required
2.8	The project has a minimum cash contribution of at least 50% of the total eligible project costs from non-NSW Government sources.	• a declaration you will provide a cash contribution for at least 50% of the total eligible project costs. Provide the following information: • your total project costs • the grant funding amount sought (see eligibility criterion 2.4) • evidence for your cash contributions (see merit criterion 4.2).
2.9	The applicant has not received NSW Government funding for the same project, or any part of the project, with the same scope of outputs and activities.	• a declaration you have not received funding for the same project outputs and activities. • details of any grants you have received in the last 5 years (see eligibility criterion 1.7).

4. Merit criteria guidance

Applicants will be required to provide information to demonstrate how they meet merit criteria for the fund. Tables 6-9 provide guidance to assist applicants respond to the equally weighted merit criteria.

Table 6: Merit criteria guidance - Merit criteria 1: Deliverability and technical feasibility

Number	Description	Application evidence required
1.1	Technical capability, capacity and resources to deliver and operate the manufacturing facility.	1.1.1 Your organisation's relevant experience in delivering and operating manufacturing facilities of a similar scope, outcomes, and characteristics to the proposed project or other evidence of technical capability and capacity to project manage project delivery. 1.1.2 An organisational structure identifying your key project team members and key external consultants, contractors and supply chain partners, and their role in the project delivery and operations. 1.1.3 CVs for key project team members outlining their relevant experience, expertise and role for both delivery and/or operations (PDFs only, no website links or LinkedIn profiles). 1.1.4 Capability statements for key external consultants, contractors and supply chain partners relevant to delivering your project. 1.1.5 Experience, expertise and role of any partner organisations that will be collaborating on your project for both delivery and/or operations (if applicable). 1.1.6 Independent cost estimates and/or quotes from suppliers and contractors (dated in the previous 6 months) to support your project's cost estimates. 1.1.7 Contingency allowances supported by a register of assumptions for your project contingencies and assumptions and their impact on delivery cost and time.

Number	Description	Application evidence required
1.2	Readiness to deliver an operational commercial-scale manufacturing facility within 4 years of contract execution and no later than 30 June 2032.	1.2.1 A project plan with objectives, tasks, timelines, Gantt charts, organisational structure, a procurement plan and supplier dependencies. 1.2.2 A register of significant risks and a plan to mitigate and manage risks. 1.2.3 Key management and technical resources for your project including key consultants, contractors and suppliers. 1.2.4 A stakeholder engagement plan for managing your project's internal and external stakeholders. 1.2.5 An overview of planning and preparation for relevant development planning approvals and other permits. 1.2.6 Supporting documentation such as supplier quotes, proposals and plans. 1.2.7 Access to any required infrastructure, equipment, technology, commercial agreements, IP, specialist skills or expertise, and regulatory or other approvals.

Table 7: Merit criteria guidance - Merit criteria 2: Financial and commercial feasibility

Number	Description	Application evidence required
2.1	Financial viability and profitability of the proposed manufacturing of the product.	A completed financial and economic data template (provided) that includes: 2.1.1 total capital and operating costs for your project's lifespan, broken down by plant and equipment, labour, materials and contractors/subcontractors 2.1.2 operational costs for input goods, materials and utilities 2.1.3 depreciation and amortisation costs 2.1.4 forecasted sales revenues for the renewable energy component 2.1.5 finance costs and interest charges 2.1.6 eligible costs funded by the NSW Government 2.1.7 taxes 2.1.8 projections for gross profit, Earnings Before Interest and Taxes (EBIT), Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) and net profit 2.1.9 debt and equity contributions from various parties/financiers e.g. Organisation equity, third party investors, banks and financial institutions, venture capital, vendors financers, government grants, etc 2.1.10 drawdown schedule for all project funds 2.1.11 repayment schedule for any project debt financing 2.1.12 key commercial and financial risk management assumptions, along with sensitivity and scenario testing for revenue, demand, and cost assumptions 2.1.13 timing and cash flow details for costs and revenues.

2.2	Market viability for the renewable energy component.	2.2.1 Provide a commercial strategy and business plan which includes: a. commercial strategy detailing market demand (local and/or overseas) b. target market segments and locations c. initial market entry approach d. type, numbers, and buying patterns of potential customers e. letters of support or off-take commitments from potential customers, specifying pricing and volume f. scaling and expansion strategy based on target markets g. evaluation of domestic versus export sales including risks associated with international expansion h. comprehensive organisational SWOT analysis (internal organisational strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and threats with respect to manufacturing the renewable energy component). This should clearly include assessment of but not limited to: i. organisational competitive advantages ii. unique value proposition of the product iii. current position in the market iv. cost competitiveness of the proposed product v. sales and distribution channels vi. competitor analysis including competitors' position in the market and main strengths and weaknesses vii. barriers to market entry and expansion (e.g., regulatory, stakeholder, technical, financial, supply chain, labour/skills, environmental including waste and recycling, and any other) viii. demand for locally produced renewable manufacturing products i. marketing plan for product launch and promotion.

Number	Description	Application evidence required
		2.2.2 A total addressable market (TAM) analysis backed by credible data sources, including: a. a revenue model identifying specific customers or customer types b. a market share analysis combining TAM and revenue model data. 2.2.3 An IP strategy and protection mechanisms (e.g. future protection strategies, patent insurance, trademarks, etc.). 2.2.4 Evidence of commitment from your board and executive management. 2.2.5 Where multiple entities or organisations are collaborating to own and deliver the project, provide evidence of this collaboration such as heads of agreement, consortium agreements, joint venture agreements, letters of intent, etc. 2.2.6 If applicable, letters of support or intent from other parties such as government entities and/ or customers.

Table 8: Merit criteria guidance - Merit criteria 3: Strategic significance

Number	Description	Application evidence required
3.1	The extent to which the project grows the NSW supply chain capacity and capability for the renewable energy sector.	3.1.1 Demonstration of how the project grows NSW supply chain capacity and capability such as: • leverage of NSW or Australian innovation • the cost competitiveness of your product on the international market • how your project enhances existing strengths through co-location or vertical integration with other businesses in the supply chain (e.g. critical mineral projects, steel and aluminium industries) • how your project builds on existing expertise or capabilities within the Australian workforce • how your project establishes a new NSW supply chain through onshoring manufacturing capability • sufficient scale to attract other manufacturers or businesses, forming industry clusters • your project's potential to supply critical components for the NSW renewable energy transition • rapid scale-up with a short duration from funding award to completion.
3.2	The extent to which the project alleviates supply chain risks for the renewable energy sector.	3.2.1 Evidence showcasing your project's contribution to mitigating supply chain risks, such as: • the percentage of production inputs sourced within Australia • diversity in the country of origin of sourced inputs for production • addressing current or anticipated supply shortages in NSW • measures to enhance resource efficiency, sustainability and adherence to ESG principles such as process optimisation, waste reduction, product recyclability and responsible procurement practices.

Number	Description	Application evidence required
3.3	The extent to which the project will stimulate economic growth for NSW.	3.3.1 Demonstrate the extent to which your project will stimulate economic growth for NSW, such as: • capacity of your project to attract investment from outside NSW and Australia • your project's potential to generate export opportunities for NSW within the renewable energy sector • the number of new full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created by your project • sustainable, ongoing employment opportunities established with a minimum 3-year term • employment opportunities created for underrepresented groups including first nations persons and women • potential of your project to create jobs in regions and communities affected by the energy transition, such as the Hunter and Illawarra.

Table 9: Merit criteria guidance - Merit criteria 4: Value for money and affordability to government

Number	Description	Application evidence required
4.1	The value that your project will contribute to the NSW economy as determined by a cost benefit analysis (CBA) undertaken by the department.	4.1.1 A completed financial and economic data template (provided).
4.2	The value of the funding contribution in the form of committed finance from the applicant, partners and other non-NSW Government sources as a percentage of the total project cost. Contributions from non-NSW Government sources must be at least 50% of the total eligible project costs. In-kind (non- financial) contributions are not eligible.	4.2.1 Breakdown of your project activities funded by the NSW Government and your respective funding sources including cash, debt, investor equity, etc. 4.2.2 Evidence supporting your funding contribution in the form of committed finance from your organisation, partners, and other non-NSW Government sources as a percentage of the total project cost, including term sheets for debt and equity as well as letters of support.

Table 10: Additional require information - Due diligence

Description	Application evidence required
Financial viability of an existing business entity, a parent company or participant in a joint venture.	• Audited financial statements including profit and loss statements and balance sheets for the previous 3 years. • Information on any director infringements or insolvency proceedings.

5. Terms and conditions

5.1 Commencement and authority for the guidelines and supplementary guidance

The Renewable Manufacturing grant funding guidelines and this supplementary guidance published on our website have been approved by the department. Both documents may be varied from time to time or revoked.

The department has the authority to award funding and execute and vary the funding deeds that allow the NSW Government to provide this funding.

5.2 Limitations

5.2.1 No representation, warranty or guarantee

The department and its employees, agents and officers do not give any representation, warranty or guarantee, whether express or implied, in relation to the information contained in any materials released by the department associated with the grant funding including their:

- completeness
- accuracy
- currency
- reliability
- the process by which they were prepared.

The department and its employees, agents and officers do not provide any opinions regarding legal, accounting, regulatory, taxation or any other matters. Without limiting the foregoing, nothing in the funding materials is or should be regarded as advice in relation to these matters.

Nothing in the funding materials (including without limitation to, the funding guidelines, the supplementary guidance or the funding deed) is or should be regarded as advice. You must satisfy yourself by undertaking your own investigations or seeking advice at your own cost.

5.2.2 No obligation to update

The funding materials, the information contained herein and the matters to which it relates may be amended, updated or withdrawn at any time, at the department's discretion. However, the department does not accept any responsibility to update, supplement or correct the materials nor to inform applicants about any matter that may affect the materials.

5.2.3 No liability

The department and its employees, agents and officers expressly disclaims all liability for any loss or damage incurred by any person arising from or because of, any person's use of or reliance on any information, statement, opinion or matter (express or implied) contained in, derived from or omitted from the materials, except for any liability which cannot be excluded as a matter of law.

5.2.4 Other limitations

The funding materials are not an offer, recommendation or invitation by the department in respect of any contract or commitment and (subject to a funding agreement being fully executed) nothing in the materials will form the basis of any contract or commitment.

You must rely entirely upon your own investigations, review and analysis in relation to your assessment of whether to apply to and participate in the funding.

5.3 Confidentiality and disclosure of information

Unless otherwise stated, any commercial-in-confidence information provided by you as part of, or in connection with, a registration, application or negotiation process will be treated confidentially by the department.

We may disclose commercial-in-confidence information provided by you to the following parties:

- the Minister or Minister's Department
- the NSW Ombudsman and Audit Department of NSW
- the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water staff, consultants and advisers
- any agency or body of the NSW Government, or any other organisation or individual considered by the department to have a need or an entitlement to know that information (including any federal, state or territory agency or body), where that need or entitlement to know that information arises out of or in connection with the department's assessment, verification or due diligence of any aspect of your application
- where authorised or required by law to be disclosed, to those parties.

If the department discloses commercial-in-confidence information to any of the above parties, the department will inform the party that the information is strictly confidential.

Otherwise, the department will only disclose commercial-in-confidence information provided by you with your consent.

5.4 Conflicts of interest

You, including advisors and consultants engaged on your project must declare:

- any perceived or existing conflicts of interest
- or that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest as part of your application.

You and your advisors may have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, if you or any of your board, management or staff:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application assessment process
- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict you from conducting your proposed activities fairly and independently
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because your organisation receives funding under these grants.

All applicants have obligations to report any conflict (identify an actual, apparent or perceived conflict of interest) that may arise (including during the application or assessment phase) of the project. For example, an applicant may want to engage a NSW Government advisor to help it prepare its grant application.

A consultant or service provider that is currently working with the department must declare this as a conflict but is not automatically precluded from being engaged by a grant recipient. Factors which will be considered when determining whether you can engage a consultant or service provider include:

- the size of the organisation. That is, a large consultancy is more likely to be able to use separate teams on a project
- the nature of the work being undertaken by the consultancy. That is, similar work increases the potential for probity risks to arise
- the extent to which individuals involved had access to confidential information about the project and whether this information is to be released to the market as part of the Net Zero Manufacturing Initiative.

Decisions will be made in accordance with the department delegations for expenditure.

If the engagement with the grant recipient is permitted, the department program team will consider seeking assurance from the consultant or service provider that it will put appropriate processes in place to manage probity risks.

As part of ongoing reporting requirements, you are required to update any conflicts of interests, where applicable. You will be asked whether any conflicts of interest have arisen during the reporting period or if any are likely to arise. Updated declarations and confirmations

are required from you when new personnel join the project or at the commencement of a new project or phase within a project.

NOTE: You are advised to contact us if you are unsure whether something constitutes an actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.

5.5 Evaluation

The department will evaluate this grant to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved.

We may also interview you or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the funding was in achieving its objectives.

Without limiting any specific reporting or evaluation requirements set out in any funding deed you execute with the department, the department may contact you up to 2 years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation. You consent to the use of your information for this purpose by:

- the department
- NSW Treasury
- the Minister or Minister's department
- the NSW Ombudsman and Audit Department of NSW
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water staff, consultants and advisers
- any agency or body of the NSW Government, or any other organisation or individual considered by the department to have a need or an entitlement to know that information (including any federal, state or territory agency or body), where that need or entitlement to know that information arises out of or in connection with the purpose above.

5.6 Grant acknowledgement

If a successful applicant/grant recipient makes a public statement about a project funded by the grant, they are required to acknowledge the support provided by the department.

Grant recipients must also provide any communication materials (print or digital) around your project that reference funding from this grant for approval by the NSW Government before release or distribution, this includes any media releases about your funded project.

5.7 Discretion of the department

Notwithstanding anything else in the guidelines and this supplementary guidance, applicants acknowledge and agree that the department has the right (in its absolute discretion) to reject, refuse to consider or cease to assess an application, at any time, if it is of the view (in its absolute discretion) that an application is unlikely to be successful.

Applicants acknowledge and agree that the department has the right to amend the process or reallocate funding to other applicants or projects, where it is of the view that it is needed to do so.

5.8 Privacy

The department uses the information you supply to us for processing and assessing your application. While the department does not publicly release your application as a matter of policy, the department may be required to do so under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* or another lawful requirement.

The department may also disclose information you supply to us for the purpose of milestone reporting, evaluating and/or auditing this grants program. If you require strict commercial and/or personal confidentiality, you should address this in your application.

More information on the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* is available on the website.

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For more information

For more information about the net zero manufacturing initiative grants please visit our website or contact us via the email below.

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