



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**Call for Expressions of Interest
addressing research priorities in
Emergency Management**

Closing date for Expressions of Interest: 6 November 2009

For more information go to:

www.nccarf.edu.au

or

www.climatechange.gov.au

E-mail: i.fellegara@griffith.edu.au

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1. BACKGROUND

The Australian Government is investing \$117 million (from 2008 to 2012) in climate change adaptation policies, programs and research through the Department of Climate Change (the Department). This investment will support implementation of key elements of the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) at its meeting in April 2007.

The Department has the primary role in delivering the Australian Government's investment in climate change adaptation research, in partnership with key researchers and organisations throughout Australia. This partnership is being coordinated mainly through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF), hosted by Griffith University.

As part of the Australian Government's investment, the Department has established the Climate Adaptation Research Grants Program (the Program). The Program provides seed funding of up to \$30 million to fund priority adaptation research needs. These priority research needs have been identified in National Adaptation Research Plans, developed by the NCCARF in consultation with lead researchers and stakeholders.

NCCARF's current work program is structured around eight priority themes:

- Water resources and freshwater biodiversity
- Marine biodiversity and resources
- Terrestrial biodiversity
- Primary industries
- Human health
- Emergency management
- Settlements and infrastructure
- Social, economic and institutional dimensions.

Further background information about the Program, NCCARF, and the National Adaptation Research Plans is available on the Department's website www.climatechange.gov.au and NCCARF's website www.nccarf.edu.au.

2. FUNDING AND PROCESS

A new grants program, the Climate Adaptation Research Grants Program, has been established by the Department. The Program will provide seed funding for research addressing priorities in the eight themes listed in Section 1. These priorities have been identified through a set of National Adaptation Research Plans.

This Call for Expressions of Interest addresses research priorities identified in the National Adaptation Research Plan for:

- **Emergency management**

This National Adaptation Research Plan can be viewed at www.nccarf.edu.au

The research priorities identified in this Plan are listed in Table 1.

2.1 Funding available

Total funding of up to \$2.0 million will be available in this round for grants to address research priorities in Emergency Management.

- The size of grants disbursed to individual research projects will vary depending on the scope of the project. Projects requiring support of less than \$50,000 are unlikely to be funded.

Funding can be used for:

- a) Personnel salaries and on-costs, including
 - Research associates, professional officers, technicians, laboratory attendants.
- b) Development or purchase of research resources, including:
 - Social surveys;
 - Software tools;
 - Databases; and
 - Minor items of equipment specifically required to support the research.
- c) Travel and communication costs associated with the research, including costs of
 - Workshops and similar meetings;
 - Face-to-face interviews; and
 - Research planning meetings.

Funding may not be used for:

- Capital works and general infrastructure;
- Salaries of researchers other than those directly employed on the project;
- Special Studies Programs (in-lieu of normal duties);
- Student fees or HECS liabilities; or
- Computers and other information and communication facilities that duplicate existing capacity.

Funds must be expended by 30 June 2012 and projects completed by 31 December 2012.

2.2 Process for allocating research grants

The process for the grants call under the Program will be in two stages designed to minimise applicants' time spent developing full proposals and to encourage research collaborations where possible prior to the development of full proposals. This two-stage process involves first, an open call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) and, second, invitations to shortlisted applicants to prepare full project proposals, as outlined below:

1. Short EOIs are invited from researchers with an interest in undertaking research addressing one or more of the research priorities (see Table 1).
2. EOIs will be assessed by an independent Science Review Panel, convened by the NCCARF and the Department, for scientific assessment against the selection criteria (see 3.3).
3. The Panel will review the EOIs to identify outstanding proposals. The Panel may seek additional information from proposers, if considered necessary.
4. NCCARF recommends a shortlist to the Department. The Department will invite successful shortlisted applicants to submit full research proposals.
5. NCCARF, in consultation with the Department, may explore, encourage and broker potential research partnerships and/or the development of research consortia. The Adaptation Research Network for Emergency Management will support NCCARF in this brokering role.
6. NCCARF and the relevant research Networks will assist shortlisted applicants in the development and submission of full proposals.
7. The Science Review Panel will conduct a scientific assessment of proposals against selection criteria; NCCARF recommends to the Department a final set of projects eligible for funding.
8. The Department makes an assessment of the projects against the Program Criteria and submits a final package of projects eligible for funding to the Minister for Climate Change and Water for final decision.
9. The Department contacts successful applicants to negotiate grant agreements.
10. The Science Review Panel and the Department may seek additional independent expert advice at any time throughout the process.

2.3 Contractual issues

Successful applicants will be required to sign a funding agreement with the Department before funding commences. This agreement will cover the project budget, financial and performance reporting and acquittal, intellectual property, assets and data requirements.

2.4 Confidentiality

The information provided by applicants in support of their expression of interest will be treated as confidential by NCCARF, the Department and any of the independent expert advisors unless that information is already known to be in the public domain. Applicants should note, however, that information they provide may be provided to the Minister and that NCCARF or the Department may also be required or authorised by law to disclose certain information provided by applicants.

2.5 Intellectual property

Prior to signing the funding agreement, the funding recipient will be required to describe any existing material¹ relevant to the project for which intellectual property rights are either owned by the organisation or owned by a third party but which the organisation has a licence to use. This is referred to in the Funding Agreement as the “Existing Material”. The intellectual property rights in the Existing Material at all times remains vested in the funding recipient.

The material created by the funding recipient under a Funding Agreement is referred to as the “Contract Material”. Immediately upon creation of that Contract Material, the funding recipient will own the intellectual property rights in the Contract Material.

The funding recipient will grant a licence over the Contract Material to DCC. The nature of this licence is that it will be a permanent, irrevocable, free, world-wide, non-exclusive licence to use, reproduce, adapt and exploit the Contract Material.

The Contract Material will be freely accessible and available to the government, end-users and the general public.

2.6 Timing

Significant dates for applications are:

Call for Expressions of Interest	10 October 2009
Closing date for submission Expressions of Interest	6 November 2009
Invitations for Full Proposals	24 November 2009
Closing date for submission of Full Proposals	18 December 2009
Announcement of successful candidates	February 2010
Funding Agreements signed	March 2010

2.7. Governance arrangements – Role of Minister

The Australian Government Minister for Climate Change and Water has sole responsibility for the final funding decisions. In making a decision, the Minister can draw upon any source of advice, including that from the Department and NCCARF.

¹ Existing Material means all Material in existence prior to the date of the contract, that is either:

- a) Incorporated in; or
- b) Supplied with, or as part of; or
- c) Requested to be supplied with, or as part of

the Contract Material.

3. CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

3.1 Application process

An application form for the EOI and other relevant documents can be found on the Department's website at www.climatechange.gov.au/impacts and on the NCCARF website at www.nccarf.edu.au.

EOIs (and full proposals) should be submitted electronically via e-mail or by post to:

Dr Ida Fellegara
Adaptation Research Grants Program
NCCARF
Griffith University
Gold Coast Queensland 4222
Email: i.fellegara@griffith.edu.au

Enquiries may be directed to:

Dr David Ugalde
Tel: 07 5552 8247 or 0466 207 436
Email: d.ugalde@griffith.edu.au

3.2 Who can apply

EOIs will be accepted from public or private research institutions, consortia of researchers or individual researchers. The submissions will be considered from all interested parties regardless of any participation in or affiliation with the NCCARF and/or any of the Adaptation Research Networks.

3.3 Selection criteria

EOIs will be assessed against the following selection criteria.

Scientific Criteria

1. **Appropriateness** – The extent to which the project addresses one (or more) of the identified research priorities.
2. **Challenge and Innovation** – The extent to which the project addresses a significant gap in scientific knowledge, and/or develops new tools or methods that meet an identified need(s), using approaches that are innovative and/or creative.
3. **Project Design** – The extent to which the project has clearly stated objectives which address research priorities set out in Table 1. Is the project design the best method to address the specific research question?
4. **Feasibility** – Scientific and technical feasibility of the project based on current knowledge and understanding. Are any risks clearly acknowledged and addressed?
5. **Track Record** – The extent to which the proposed researcher/research team have the capacities and competencies necessary to undertake a research project of national importance (including time allocation of key personnel to project).

Program Criteria

6. **Co-funding** – How much co-funding does the project include (both cash and in-kind contributions) from either the proposer and/or other funding sources? Proposers should also indicate the potential for acquiring additional funding for the project in the future.
7. **Value for money** – To what extent do the outputs of the project represent the best value for money available, in relation to national benefit?

4. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

This call for proposals will provide funding for projects addressing the priority research needs identified in the National Adaptation Research Plan for Emergency Management.

Proposers are strongly advised to read the Plan before applying. It is available from:
www.nccarf.edu.au

The specified priority research needs for this funding round are listed below in Table 1.

Table 1: Research priorities in the area of Emergency Management

1.	Understanding risk
1.1	Understanding the changes in climate that will place the natural environment, human activities and welfare at the greatest risk; the nature, location and intensity of these changes [Note that successful proposals under this heading will not include climate modeling activity.]
1.2	Identifying and evaluating the tools that will enable decision-making under future climate uncertainty. [Note that successful proposals under this heading will not include climate modeling activity.]
2.	Community and organizational resilience
2.1	Understanding community resilience in a changing climate.
2.2	Identifying behaviours that promote community preparedness and community preventive strategies in a changing climate?
2.3	Identifying the most effective strategies to ensure that individuals, governments and the private sector adopt better practices in preparing for the increased risk to communities, business operations or critical infrastructure arising from climate change.
3.	Adaptive strategies
3.1	Understanding how climate change will affect the emergency management sector's capacity to support preparedness, response and recovery.
3.2	Understanding the role of the private sector in adaptation through emergency management.
4.	Regional Implications
4.1	Understanding how the climate change adaptive capacity of other countries, particularly those in the Pacific region, impacts upon the Australian emergency management system and Australian fire and emergency services organisations.