



**ACT**  
Government

**RENEWABLE ENERGY  
INNOVATION FUND (REIF)  
DIRECT GRANTS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

DECEMBER 2019

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### **Acknowledgment to Country**

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Ngunnawal people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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# RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION FUND DIRECT GRANTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## 1. CANBERRA, THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY, AND THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE

Canberra has a dynamic, knowledge-based economy with a vibrant R&D and start-up culture.

The ACT Government's commitments to 100% renewable electricity by 2020 and net zero emissions by 2045 put us in the lead, both nationally and internationally, in renewable energy and climate policy. Yet the ACT's renewable energy programs are delivering much more than renewable electricity to the Canberra community at the lowest possible price.

Our world-leading ambition is also creating new businesses, research and trades training opportunities, attracting international renewable energy companies to the Territory, expanding the horizons of companies already here, and creating commercial opportunities for new and emerging ventures, creating the jobs of the future for Canberrans.

It is an exciting time to be in the renewable energy and energy storage sector as the world moves into a net zero emissions economy. Energy markets globally are

transitioning away from traditional centralised models to a more dynamic, decentralised web of energy generation, storage devices and control systems. Yet many significant challenges remain in making the transition to this new global energy future.

## 2. RENEWABLE ENERGY INNOVATION FUND

The ACT Government's \$12 million industry-funded Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) is driving the long-term development and sustainability of the renewable energy industry in the ACT.

REIF has been created from industry contributions associated with the ACT Government's first and second wind auctions. REIF is administered by the ACT Government, with the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability (the Minister) as the decision-maker for the allocation of REIF funding. In allocating REIF funds, the Minister receives input and guidance from a Business Advisory Board (BAB), comprising leaders from Canberra's renewable energy business and academic community who are appointed by the Minister.

## 3. REIF DIRECT GRANTS

REIF Direct Grants aim to provide flexible, early-stage funding to businesses to support a broad diversity of new and emerging technologies, ventures and activities consistent with the funding scope provided at **Appendix A**.

## 4. WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH REIF DIRECT GRANTS?

This round of Direct Grants has up to \$1.13 million in funding available. In considering proposals, especially with regards to larger funding amounts, the BAB will be looking for how REIF money will leverage private and/or other public funding sources, and the level of direct return to the ACT economy.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for a REIF Direct Grant:

1. The application must be for activities that fall within the Funding Scope (see Appendix A);
2. The applicant receiving the grant must be a corporate entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN). Universities and other organisations are eligible only to the extent that a separate corporate entity is formed or exists with an independent ABN and with the purpose of undertaking and commercially benefitting from the proposed funded activities; and
3. The majority of the proposed funded activities must occur within the ACT.

## 6. SELECTION PROCESS

**Appendix B** provides a flow chart illustrating the selection process under the REIF Direct Grants program.

Once proposals have been submitted, the BAB will assess all eligible proposals against the merit criteria below. The BAB will then request presentations from those proposals that seem likely to be successful before completing their final assessment against the merit criteria and recommend proposals to the Minister.

In the instance that a member of the BAB declares a conflict of interest with any submitted proposal, that member will not be involved in the assessment of the proposal or any presentation that may be required.

During assessment, it may be decided to enter into direct negotiations with any grant proponent.

The final decision on preferred grants will be made by the Minister, at their absolute discretion, with advice from the Business Advisory Board.

## 7. MERIT CRITERIA

REIF Direct Grants will support projects that contribute to the ACT Government's vision of Canberra as an internationally recognised centre for renewable energy research, innovation and investment.

Proposals will be considered on a value for money basis against the following merit criteria:

1. The level of innovation, potential demonstration and scalability of new technologies and ventures (30%);
2. The extent of potential commercial opportunities flowing from the funded activity and the strength of the proponent's business model (30%);
3. The capacity of the proponent to deliver the funded activity, deliver the purported benefits and manage risks (20%);
4. The extent of the proponent's new financial or in-kind contribution to Canberra's renewable energy innovation ecosystem (10%); and
5. The amount of additional public or private funding leveraged, or likely to be leveraged, by the proposal (10%).

## 8. HOW TO APPLY

Proposals are to be submitted electronically via the Smarty Grants webpage at

<https://actgovt.smartygrants.com.au/REIFDirectGrants2>.

The proposal must include:

- a detailed project description and objectives;
- proposed project timeline;
- project benefits and expected outcomes;
- implementation plan, including timing of key milestones and deliverables;
- the benefits of the funded activities to the ACT renewable energy ecosystem; and
- details on existing or proposed co-funding arrangements.

## 9. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact

[energypolicy@act.gov.au](mailto:energypolicy@act.gov.au).



# APPENDIX A

# FUNDING SCOPE

Developing solutions to complex energy problems will require innovation and collaboration across Canberra's renewable energy innovation ecosystem. REIF Direct Grants will focus on the demonstration and scale-up of new technologies and ventures which will support the development of the ACT as an export-oriented hub for renewable energy research, innovation and investment.

Projects funded by REIF Direct Grants must align with the following research, education and business sectors:

- Renewable energy generation science, engineering and social science
- Energy storage science, engineering and social science
- Energy generation asset management
- Distributed energy grid and market integration
- Solar and wind resource forecasting and mapping
- Electrification in the transport, residential and building sectors
- Other emerging technologies such as hydrogen and biogas innovation
- Innovative socially impactful projects in the clean energy sector that drive behavioural change.

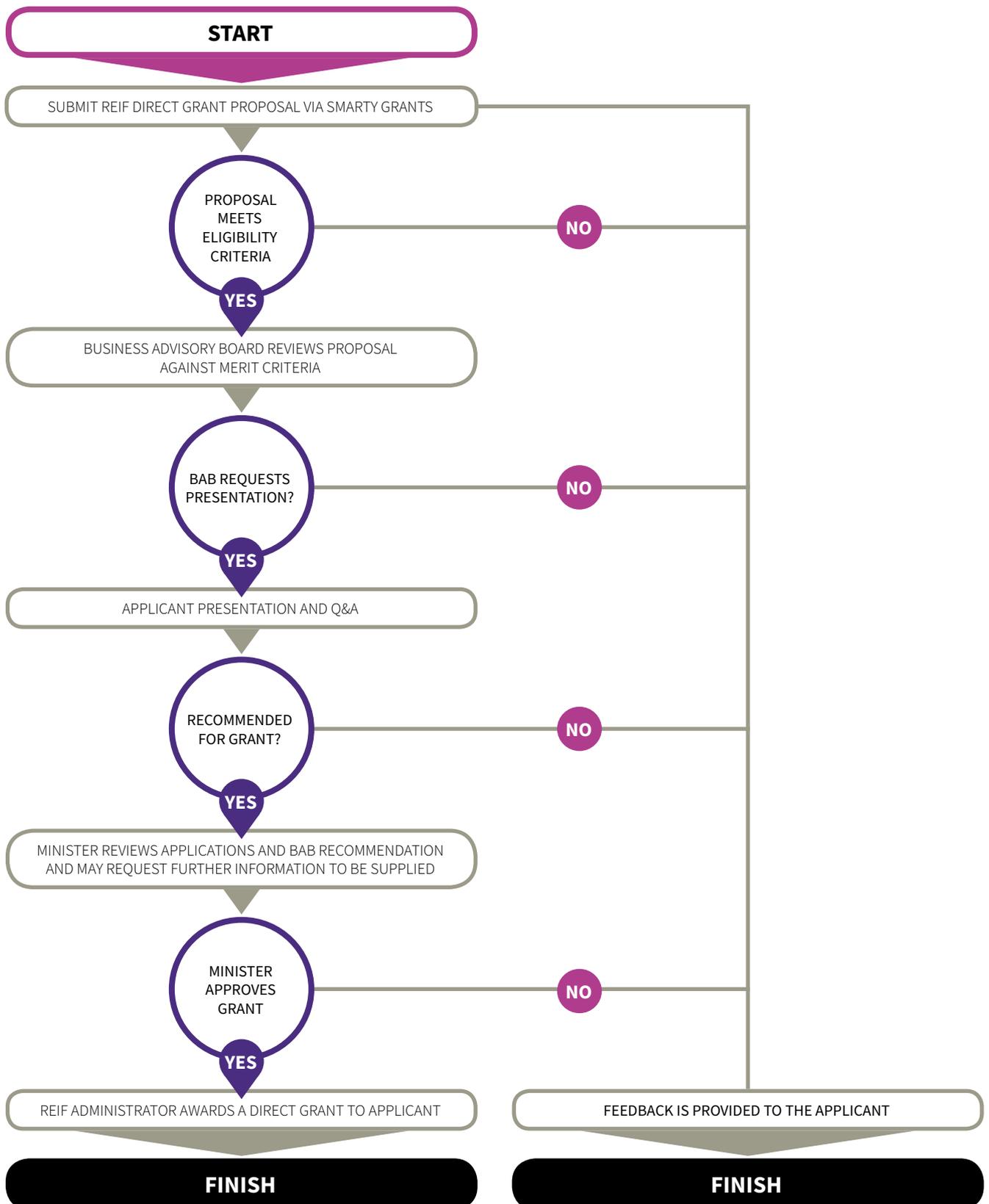
The ACT Government has legislated our commitments to becoming a net zero emissions city by 2045 and our ongoing commitment to 100 per cent renewable electricity 'on and from' 2020. Once the ACT reaches 100 per cent renewable electricity in 2020, we will need to turn our attention to our next biggest source of emissions in transport and buildings to work towards the interim emissions target of a 50-60 percent reduction on 1990 levels by 2025.

While not essential, the ACT Government invites proposals that contribute towards these broader policy goals and help consolidate and grow the ACT's capability in the renewable energy ecosystem:

- Post 2020, petrol and diesel transport (passenger vehicles) and natural gas are the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the ACT. Projects that integrate renewables with smart zero emission transport and heating system and hot water technology are of high interest.
- The upfront cost for electric vehicles (EVs) and range anxiety are the two major barriers to EV uptake, and projects that help address these issues would be of high interest. This could include the use of hydrogen fuel cells as range extenders and projects to make electric transport more accessible to low-income households.
- The ACT Government is required to maintain its 100% renewable electricity target from 2020 onwards, so there is an interest in projects that help reduce risks of the electrification of transport and buildings increasing peak electricity demand, and projects that look at storage, improving our understanding of distributed energy systems, and integrating electric transport with the grid.
- Projects that assist the transition pathway of natural gas use from residential applications and address the associated impacts on consumers and the grid.
- As the ACT transitions to zero emissions there will be more EV batteries and household batteries that could be repurposed and used to help achieve the just transition by helping low income and community housing cut energy costs. Projects that address these issues would be of interest.

# APPENDIX B

# SELECTION PROCESS



The background is a solid purple color. Overlaid on this are several thin white lines that intersect at a single point in the upper right quadrant. These lines radiate outwards, creating a starburst or web-like pattern. The lines vary in length and angle, some extending towards the top and others towards the bottom and left edges of the frame.

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