

Research and Innovation Fund 2019/20 Expressions of Interest Information Pack

August 2019

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What is the LGNSW Research and Innovation Fund?

The purpose of this Fund is to support new areas of research, policy development and innovation for the advancement of local government in NSW. The intent is to leverage the Fund to fill gaps in our evidence base, explore emerging issues, promote informed discussion and debate, and encourage the development of research partnerships within the sector.

LGNSW has allocated seed funding of \$50,000 in 2019/20 for a research project that drives innovation, has broad sector application and can attract further financial and in-kind investment from councils, industry and university partners.

To do this, councils (including ROCs and JOs) are asked to:

1. Propose research projects on areas of innovation in the following fields:

- Water management (e.g. supply, quality)
- Infrastructure (e.g. digital technology, asset)
- Environment (e.g. waste management, rehabilitation, climate change)
- Economy (e.g. population, economic development)
- Community and Social (e.g. engagement, new services).

Expressions of interest (EOIs) are due by **Wednesday 25 September 2019**.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their research ideas with LGNSW prior to submitting applications. Please contact Jennifer James, Service Development Consultant on jennifer.james@lgnsw.org.au or 9242 4185.

2. Co-contribute to short-listed projects

After applications close on 25 September, our Advisory Committee will short-list projects based on the criteria stated below. These short-listed proposals will be announced at the LGNSW Annual Conference in October. All councils and potential university partners will have the opportunity to discuss and make further in-kind and/or financial contributions to these projects.

Following broader sector consultation, the Advisory Committee will announce the successful project in November 2019.

What kind of projects will attract funding?

The following criteria will be used to short-list successful project proposals.

Aligns with the LGNSW Policy Principles

LGNSW has developed a clear 'policy compass' in terms of the core principles that are important to our members – economic, infrastructure, planning, environment, social and community, governance and accountability. LGNSW policy principles are included in Attachment One of this document, and are also on the LGNSW website at <https://lgnsw.org.au/policy/policy-principles>.

Aligns with nominated areas of research

The Fund in 2019/20 will support projects that focus on research and innovation in the following fields:

- Water management (e.g. supply, quality).
- Infrastructure (e.g. digital technology, asset management).
- Environment (e.g. waste management, rehabilitation, climate change).
- Economy (e.g. population, economic development).
- Social and Community (e.g. engagement, new services).

Important for the NSW local government sector

It is important your research proposal has application to councils across the sector and is not addressing a problem unique to one or a small number of councils. We therefore encourage councils to identify council partners in your EOI. LGNSW can assist applicants to do this.

Will generate new knowledge or innovation

The Research and Innovation Fund is to be used to generate new knowledge and innovation for the sector. Outputs from the successful research project may include new methods or technologies, advancement of our existing knowledge base, and be based on concepts which are novel and innovative. The Fund will not support councils to trial or implement technologies, systems or processes that exist or have been tested elsewhere.

Active council contributions

Through the process of awarding the funds, we are seeking council partners who will participate directly in the research – by offering time, expertise, facilities, communications etc. We are also hoping that councils will contribute funds of their own to the project.

Capacity to attract other project partners

LGNSW encourages councils to work with community, business and university partners to progress their research ideas. To this end, LGNSW will assist applicants in identifying eligible universities with whom to partner.

The [LGNSW website](#) provides a list of universities who could be approached by councils at the EOI stage to better understand their research capacity and discuss potential partnerships with university researchers.

How can I lodge an EOI?

Expressions of Interest can be lodged on the [LGNSW website](#) by the **25th September 2019**.

The process will require you to fill out an electronic form which allows for a brief rationale and description of your project concept. Once the successful proposals have been short-listed, we will work with the applicants and other project partners (including university researchers) to complete a full project proposal.

LGNSW has invited an Advisory Committee to assess the project proposals. The Advisory Committee includes the LGNSW President and two members of the LGNSW Board, one metropolitan General Manager and one regional General Manager, two research experts and the Chief Executive of LGNSW (or nominee).

LGNSW is aiming to meet the following milestones before announcing the successful project in November 2019:

- **August** – Expressions of interest will be invited from councils identifying projects that relate to research, policy development and innovation for the advancement of local government in NSW.
- **September** – Closing date for EOIs is **Wednesday 25 September 2019**.
- **October** – Advisory Committee meets to select successful projects for short-listing; These will be announced at the LGNSW Annual Conference (14-16 Oct). University partners and other councils will be invited to engage with the short-listed applicants and contribute (financially or in-kind) to these projects.
- **November** – Successful project announced.

To discuss your proposal before you lodge your EOI please contact Jennifer James, Service Development Consultant on jennifer.james@lgnsw.org.au or 02 9242 4185.

Attachment One – LGNSW Policy Principles

LGNSW has developed a clear ‘policy compass’ for the core principles that are important to our members:

Economic

- Local government must have control of its revenue raising and investment decisions and be fairly funded by the Commonwealth and State/NSW Governments to meet its infrastructure and service responsibilities.
- Local government promotes local and regional economic development and employment growth.

Infrastructure

- Local government is best placed to plan for, deliver and manage essential local infrastructure.

Planning

- Local government is best placed to lead and influence local and regional planning processes according to the needs and expectations of local communities.
- Local government planning prioritises community quality of life.

Environment

Local government actions reflect Ecologically Sustainable Development principles:

- Intergenerational equity – today’s actions maintain or enhance the environment for future generations.
- Precautionary principle – prevent environmental degradation and manage and mitigate risk.
- Conservation of biological diversity.
- Improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources – recognising the value of the environment to the community.

Social and community

- Equity – fair distribution of resources.
- Rights – equality for all people.
- Access – to services essential to quality of life.
- Participation – of all people in their community.
- Recognition – of the unique place of Aboriginal people in NSW and the right of Aboriginal people to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal communities.

Governance

- Local government must be constitutionally recognised and respected as an equal sphere of government.
- Local government is democratically elected to shape, serve and support communities.
- Local government is committed to the principles of good governance.

Accountability

- Local government is responsible and accountable to the citizens and the communities it represents, through consultative processes, legislative accountabilities, efficient delivery of services and effective customer service.
- Local government is recognised as a responsible and place-based employer.