Queensland Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund)

Frequently asked questions

What is the Queensland Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund)?

The Queensland Waste to Biofutures Fund (W2B Fund) is a $5 million funding program that was announced in the 2018 State Budget. The fund provides $5 million over 2018/19 to support the development of waste to biofutures projects in Queensland.

The W2B Fund provides grants of between $50,000 and $1 million towards eligible project costs for an eligible project, under the following two funding pathways:

- **Funding Pathway One – Plant and Equipment.** Provides up to 50 per cent co-funding for the purchase and installation of plant and equipment for an existing or greenfield facility to produce bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.
- **Funding Pathway Two – Research Collaboration.** Provides up to 50 per cent co-funding for research collaboration projects that have the potential to contribute to the commercial development and growth of Queensland's biofutures industry.

Why has government established this fund?

The W2B Fund has been established to enhance the commercialisation of Queensland's biofutures industry and increase the state's capacity to produce bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.

The W2B Fund is one initiative to achieve the Queensland Government's long-term vision to attract investment, develop new industries and grow jobs in the biofutures and resource recovery sectors.

Innovative processing of waste feedstocks can support Queensland's transition to a low carbon economy through the recovery of waste to improve energy efficiency, enhance fuel security and to reduce emissions.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from Queensland-based local governments and businesses as well as not-for-profits, or applicants in the process of establishing a business for the purpose of launching a waste to biofutures project in Queensland.

Consortia may also apply, including businesses, local governments or universities working to deliver integrated waste to biofutures projects.

Applications are also encouraged for research collaboration that has the potential to accelerate the commercial readiness of an existing or proposed Queensland biofutures facility. For example, a collaborative project between a recognised research institute and a proponent of a Queensland biofutures facility.

Each pathway has a two-stage competitive merit-based process where applicants are assessed against each other. Shortlisted EOI applicants from each funding pathway will then be invited to submit a Detailed Application.

Why is there a need for two funding pathways?

The two funding pathways will help develop new and existing biofutures facilities.

Each pathway has been designed to support projects with the potential to contribute to the commercial development and growth of Queensland's biofutures industry.

What are the key differences between the two funding pathways?

Each pathway targets the different needs of the biofutures industry and the types of support industry stakeholders require. An overview of the two funding pathways is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: W2B Fund - Funding Pathways

	Funding Pathway One – Plant and Equipment	Funding Pathway Two – Research Collaboration
Applicant and project eligibility	Refer to sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 of the Guidelines.	Refer to sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.3 of the Guidelines.
Available grants	Grants of between $50,000 and $1 million towards eligible project costs.	Grants of between $50,000 and $1 million towards eligible research collaboration project costs.
Support type	Up to 50 per cent co-funding for the purchase and installation of plant and equipment for an existing or greenfield facility to produce bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.	Up to 50 per cent co-funding for research collaboration projects that have the potential to contribute to the commercial development and growth of Queensland's biofutures industry.
Assessment	Two-stage competitive, merit-based process where applicants submit an EOI. Shortlisted applicants invited to submit a Detailed Application.	Two-stage competitive, merit-based process where applicants submit an EOI. Shortlisted applicants invited to submit a Detailed Application.
EOI stage	All applicants must meet applicant eligibility criteria in section 2.3.1 of the Guidelines. Projects assessed against the project eligibility criteria in section 2.3.2 of the Guidelines.	All applicants must meet applicant eligibility criteria in section 2.3.1 of the Guidelines. Research collaboration projects assessed against the project eligibility criteria in section 2.3.3 of the Guidelines.
Detailed Applications	Assessed against the assessment criteria in section 3.4.1 of the Guidelines.	Assessed against the assessment criteria in section 3.4.2 of the Guidelines.
Assessment period	Applicants will have three weeks to submit an EOI, followed by an assessment period. A further three weeks will be allowed for applicants shortlisted under the EOI stage to submit a Detailed Application, followed by an assessment period.	
Eligible project costs	Refer to section 2.4 of the Guidelines.	Refer to section 2.4 of the Guidelines.
Ineligible project costs	Refer to section 2.5 of the Guidelines.	Refer to section 2.5 of the Guidelines.

When do applications close?

Expressions of Interest open at 8am AEST on Sunday 17 March 2019 and close at 5:00pm AEST on Monday 8 April 2019.

What type of projects will be considered for funding?

The W2B Fund will provide targeted grant funding for pilot and demonstration or commercially scalable projects in Queensland that use waste to produce bioenergy, biofuels and high-value bioproducts.

Project proposals may consider a range of processing feedstocks including carbon-rich waste streams from agriculture, food processing, construction and industrial processes.

The Guidelines outline the project eligibility criteria for applications under both Funding Pathway One and Funding Pathway Two.

Funding Pathway One – Plant and Equipment

For a project to be eligible under Funding Pathway One, the applicant must demonstrate that the project meets the six (6) project eligibility criteria set out in section 2.3.2 of the Guidelines.

Under Funding Pathway One, grants are available for capital expenditure for plant, equipment and technology and associated software for the proposed project. The project must be capable of producing either bioenergy, biofuels and bioproducts or a combination of these products from feedstocks. The project must be located in Queensland and could involve the construction of a new greenfield facility or the expansion of an existing plant.

Project examples

Examples of projects that would be regarded as eligible under Funding Pathway One include:

- A facility that will process Feedstock* into a bio-crude oil capable of being refined into liquid fuel products.
- A facility that will process Feedstock into biochemicals, bioplastics and other high-value Bioproducts*.
- A facility that will convert Feedstock into Biofuels*, renewable diesel, biojet fuel or other fuels derived from biochemical, thermochemical or similar conversion processes.
- A facility that will convert Feedstock into Bioenergy* for on-site electricity or export to the electricity network.

The project must be at a technology readiness level suitable for deployment at pilot, demonstration or a commercial scale in Queensland. Funding is available either for a new greenfield facility or for the expansion of an existing plant capable of producing Bioenergy, Biofuels and Bioproducts from Feedstock.

*Please refer to section 5 of the Guidelines for definitions of Feedstock, Bioenergy, Biofuels and Bioproducts.

Funding Pathway Two – Research Collaboration

For a project to be eligible under Funding Pathway Two, the applicant must demonstrate that the project meets the project eligibility criteria set out in section 2.3.3 of the Guidelines.

Under Funding Pathway Two, the department will consider co-funding trials, evaluations, technical and engineering assessments that have the potential to contribute to the commercial development and growth of Queensland's biofutures industry (Research Collaboration Project).

The applicant must demonstrate that the Research Collaboration Project has a direct benefit to the Queensland biofutures sector and will be undertaken by a recognised research institute or suitability qualified consultant (collaboration partner).

The project must involve collaboration between the applicant and a collaboration partner in relation to an existing or proposed Queensland biofutures facility and have the potential to accelerate the commercial readiness of the biofutures facility.

Project examples

Examples of Research Collaboration Projects that would be regarded as eligible under Funding Pathway Two are as follows:

- An applicant (Queensland research institute) may enter into an agreement with a company and seek co-funding to undertake field trials of a Feedstock to diversify production at the company's proposed Queensland biofutures facility.

- An applicant may commission and co-fund a Queensland university to undertake a technical assessment to obtain a process guarantee for a proposed Queensland biofutures facility.
- An applicant may co-fund an accredited laboratory to undertake Biofuel/Bioproduct testing to meet international export compliance standards for a proposed Queensland biofutures facility.
- An applicant may commission and co-fund a qualified engineer to undertake a 'pre-Final Investment Decision' (FID) engineering assessment to attract investment for the commercial scale up of an existing Queensland biofutures facility.

What information will be requested at the detailed application stage?

Applicants who are invited to submit a detailed application will be emailed a link to an online application form.

- Detailed Applications for Funding Pathway One (Plant and Equipment) will be assessed against the assessment criteria set out in section 3.4.1 of the Guidelines.
- Detailed Applications for Funding Pathway Two (Research Collaboration) will be assessed against the assessment criteria set out in section 3.4.2 of the Guidelines.

Preview versions of the detailed application forms for **Funding Pathway One** and **Funding Pathway Two** can be viewed online. Detailed applications will only be accepted from applicants who are successful at the EOI stage.

At what stage of development will a project be considered for funding?

Funding Pathway One – Plant and Equipment

Under Funding Pathway One, the project must be at a technology readiness level suitable for deployment at pilot, demonstration or a commercial scale in Queensland.

A Technology Readiness Level (TRL) guidance note is provided in the EOI Application Form to assist applicants to self-assess the technical readiness of their project.

The applicant must address all questions in the EOI Application Form for Funding Pathway One.

Funding Pathway Two – Research Collaboration

Under Funding Pathway Two, the applicant must demonstrate that the Research Collaboration Project has the potential to accelerate the commercial readiness of an existing or proposed Queensland biofutures facility.

The applicant must address all questions in the EOI Application Form for Funding Pathway Two.

What type of processing feedstocks will be considered for projects?

Project proposals may consider a range of processing feedstocks including biomass and carbon-rich waste streams from agriculture, food processing, construction and industrial processes. These are essentially waste streams that can be used as inputs for the production of bioenergy, biofuels or bioproducts.

Feedstocks are defined in section 5 of the Guidelines.

What type of production outputs will be considered for projects?

Project proposals must be capable of producing either bioenergy, biofuels and bioproducts or a combination of these products from feedstocks. Within the context of the W2B Fund, bioenergy means energy generated from the conversion of feedstock. Biofuels and bioproducts means fuels or products that are essentially substitutes, composites or complementary to fossil-based fuel products.

Feedstock, bioenergy, biofuels and bioproducts are defined in section 5 of the Guidelines.

Do bioproducts include fertilisers?

Fertilisers are considered as a 'bioproduct' provided that the fertiliser is **not** produced from conventional chemical and fossil fuel refining processes.

The applicant will need to demonstrate that the production output (biofertiliser) is a direct substitute for petroleum or chemical fertilisers and describe how the production output (biofertiliser) would be regarded as a high-value bioproduct.

What is the timeframe for project delivery?

The project must commence within six months of entry into a Funding Agreement with the State and be delivered within two years (based on agreed milestones).

Applicants shortlisted to detailed application stage must propose up to four payment milestones to complete the project in their Detailed Application form. Funding will be provided to funding recipients in instalments and paid in arrears upon verified, successful completion of agreed milestones.

Who can apply?

Applicant eligibility is outlined in section 2.3.1 of the Guidelines.

An applicant must be a legal entity (e.g. existing business, local government, not-for-profit organisation) with an active Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Registered Business Number (ARBN).

The applicant must propose a project located, or to be located, in Queensland (or, in the case of a Research Collaboration Project, propose a project that relates to a proposed or existing Queensland biofutures facility).

Consortia may also apply, including businesses, local governments or universities working to deliver integrated waste to biofutures projects.

However, one organisation must be identified as the lead applicant and administrator of the project and will need to meet identified eligibility criteria.

When will grants be approved?

The W2B Fund has a two-stage assessment process. Applicants will have three weeks to submit an expression of interest (EOI), followed by an assessment period.

Applicants will be advised in writing if their EOI has been accepted by the department. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to submit a Detailed Application. A further three weeks will be allowed for applicants to submit a Detailed Application, followed by an assessment period.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the W2B Fund **website** for more information about the fund.

The department is not able to assist with the preparation of your application. Applicants at the EOI stage are encouraged to discuss their application with their nearest regional office.

Contact details for the department's regional offices can be found **here.**