

Research and Innovation Fund - Expressions of Interest

August 2018

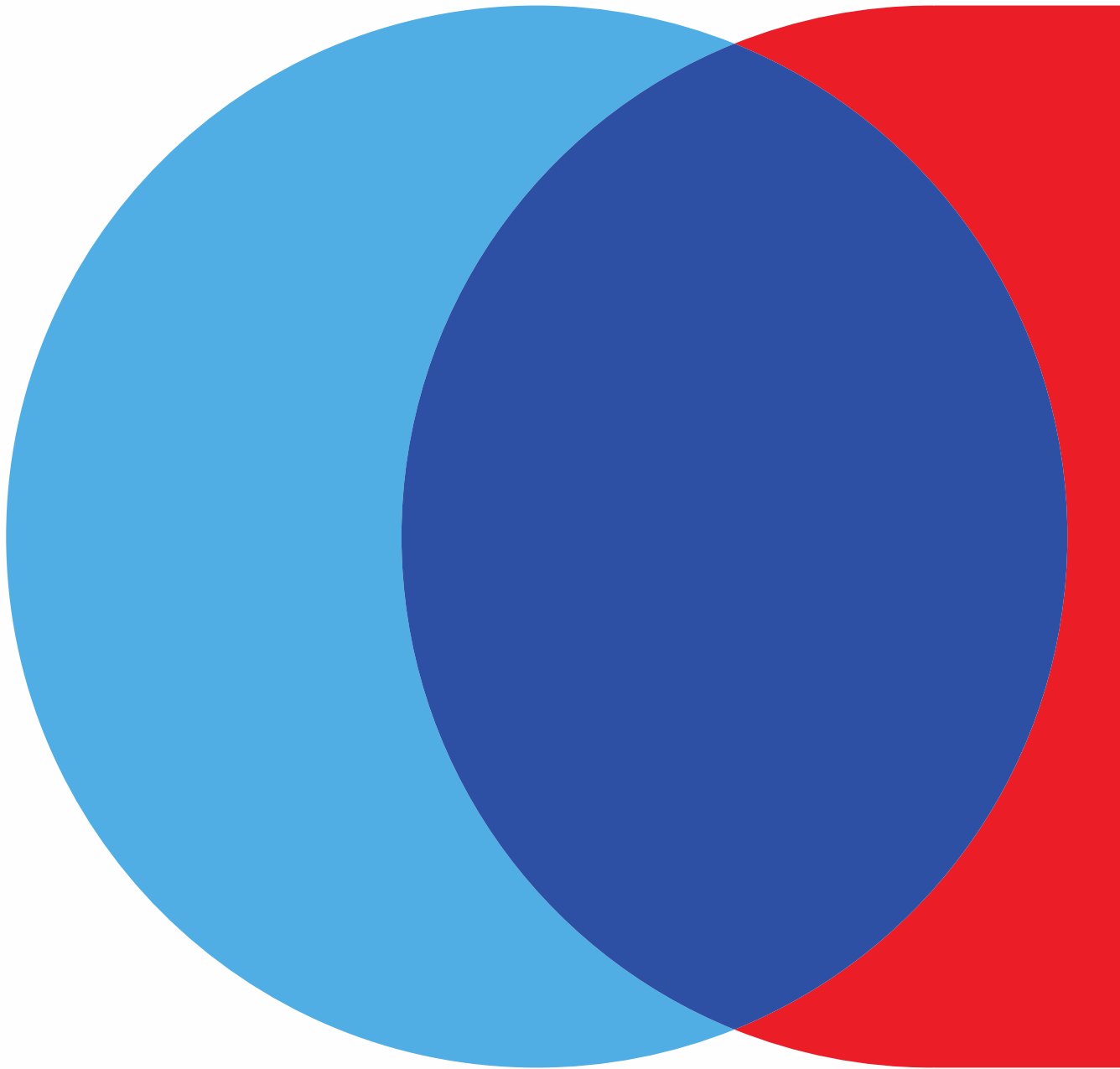


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What is the LGNSW Research and Innovation Fund?

The purpose of this project is to support new areas of research, policy development and innovation for the advancement of local government in NSW. Local Government NSW (LGNSW) is hoping 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 for the first year of operations, and is embarking on a process to leverage this investment by selecting projects that have broad sector appeal or application and then seeking to attract council, industry and university partners. To do this councils are asked to:

1. **Put forward innovative and original proposals or ideas** – these may cross any area of council activities and interests. Expressions of interest (EOIs) are due by 15 October 2018, whereupon tertiary institutions will be invited to engage with councils to scope projects which may attract other council and university partners and even national research funding.
2. **Become a project partner** - once we receive all the EOIs we'll circulate them to invite all councils to make contributions, additionally the EOIs will be made available to councils at the 2018 LGNSW Annual Conference. The project proposal that attracts the highest level of interest from councils is the one that will be awarded the LGNSW seed funding and will be progressed to work with a university partner in lodging an ARC Linkage Grant application for federal funds



What kind of projects will attract funding?

Councils are involved in such a diverse range of activities and community issues and concerns that this program could apply to all areas of council operations. Attachment Three provides a list of some of the projects involving councils that have been funded through the Linkage program in 2018.

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 web site at <https://lgnsw.org.au/policy/policy-principles>.

Important for the NSW local government sector

Once your council's EOI has been received, then a sector-wide engagement process will seek contributions for project ideas from all councils across NSW. LGNSW will progress the project which enlists the highest level of interest to seek further funding. Projects will therefore need to be considered by other councils to be significant and worthy of support, and we would encourage councils to identify council partners – neighbours, in your region or with similar interests and issues.

Will generate new knowledge or innovation

It is anticipated that LGNSW seed funding will be combined with council funds to develop a proposal that attracts matching university funds and can be developed into a proposal for the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grants scheme. The ARC Linkage Program funds projects that support partnerships with industry and have a defined benefit for the end user. Generally, grants are awarded to projects which seek to generate new methods or technologies, advance our existing knowledge base, and are based on concepts which are novel and innovative. Some of the more detailed criteria are included as Attachment Two.

Active council contributions

In undertaking this project 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 match our contribution with funds of their own.

Capacity to attract other project partners

Many councils may be able to progress their projects by working with community or business partners. LGNSW encourages councils and universities to work together, and are seeking active research experts within NSW universities who are willing to progress research which has the potential to address important challenges facing NSW local government.

LGNSW will work with eligible universities to develop research partnerships that support both parties to achieve their policy and investment objectives and address key community challenges. While EOIs are open Councils are encouraged to monitor the LGNSW website for events and meeting opportunities with university partners to better understand the research capacity of each university and discuss potential partnerships with university researchers.

How can I lodge an EOI?

Expressions of Interest can be lodged on the LGNSW Website at <https://lgnsw.org.au/key-initiatives/research-and-innovation-fund> and applications for 2018 close on the **15th October**.

The process will require you to fill out an electronic form which allows for a brief description of your project concept. Once the successful proposals have been selected we will work with other project partners further down the track to complete a full project proposal and funding application.

LGNSW has invited an advisory committee to assess the project proposals. The advisory committee will include the LGNSW President and two members of the LGNSW Board, one metropolitan General Manager and one regional General Manager, one research expert and the Chief Executive of LGNSW (or nominee).

LGNSW is aiming to meet the following milestones in order to develop the project concept that can then be progressed by a university partner to apply for ARC funds by the end of 2018:

- **August** – An Advisory Committee comprising LGNSW, Council and research representatives will be established to oversee the competitive allocation of funds
- **September** - 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
- **October** – University partners will be invited to engage with councils to match project concepts with active research experts
- **November** – All councils will be invited to match contributions to the list of identified research projects, with the topic attracting the highest council funding commitment selected
- **December** – The selected project will be developed into a proposal for the Australian Research Council Linkage Scheme.

To discuss your proposal before you lodge your EOI please contact Sarah Artist, Senior Manager Innovation & Capacity on sarah.artist@lgnsw.org.au or 9242 4182.



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



Attachment Two – Criteria for ARC Linkage Grants

Significance and Innovation

Will new methods or technologies be developed that address a specific market opportunity?

How will the anticipated outcomes advance the knowledge base and/or address an important problem and/or provide an end-user and/or industry advantage?

Are the proposed Project aims and concepts novel and innovative?

Does the proposed Project significantly enhance links with organisations outside the Australian publicly-funded research and higher education sectors?

Approach and Training

Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims of the proposed Project?

Where relevant, is the intellectual content and scale of the work proposed appropriate to a higher degree by research?

Feasibility

Is there an existing, or developing, supportive and high-quality environment for this research both within the Administering Organisation and in the Partner Organisation(s)?

Are the necessary facilities available to conduct the proposed research?

Is there evidence that each of the Partner Organisation(s) is genuinely committed to, and prepared to collaborate in, the proposed research Project?

How adequate are the Cash and in-kind Contributions?

Benefit

How will the proposed Project benefit Partner Organisation(s) and other relevant end-users?

Will the proposed research encourage and develop strategic research alliances between the higher education organisation(s) and other organisation(s)?

Will the proposed research maximise economic, commercial, environmental and/or social benefit to Australia? Are there adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, commercialisation, if appropriate, and promotion of research outcomes?

Is it demonstrated that, where relevant, the applicants have identified the freedom to operate in the Intellectual Property and patent landscape to enable future benefits to end-users and/or industry?

Does the proposed Project represent value for money?

Attachment Three – 2018 ARC Funded Projects with Councils as Partners

Administering Organisation and Funding Amount	Participating Organisations	Project Summary
The University of New South Wales, \$251,360	Swinburne University of Technology; Southern Cross University; La Trobe University; Brookfield Multiplex; Yourtown; Blacktown City Council; Heyday Group	Reducing youth unemployment through social procurement in construction. This project aims to produce new conceptual insights into effective cross-sector collaboration in construction, in order to provide solutions to address youth unemployment. Youth unemployment is a significant economic, social and health problem. Yet Australia’s largest youth employer, the construction industry, faces skills shortages to deliver an unprecedented construction and infrastructure pipeline. Social procurement is a potential solution to both these challenges but requires new approaches to cross sector collaborations. This project aims to develop new insights, practical knowledge and practical tools for effective social procurement.
The University of Sydney, \$423,500	The University of New South Wales; The Council of the City of Sydney; TAFE NSW; foodlab Detroit	Addressing food insecurity through participatory social enterprise. This project aims to address food insecurity by assisting vulnerable populations to participate in the development of new food businesses. The project is expected to empower individuals and communities and create new economic development opportunities. The social and economic benefits of this project includes increased access to food, greater participation in new food enterprises and an improved quality of life for vulnerable people experiencing food insecurity in Australia.

Administering Organisation and Funding Amount	Participating Organisations	Project Summary
The University of New South Wales, \$505,000	The University of Western Australia; Bureau of Meteorology; Office of Environment and Heritage; United States Geological Survey; Northern Beaches Council; City of Mandurah; Department of Transport	An Australian storm wave damage and beach erosion early warning system. This project aims to develop a new coastal hazard early-warning system capability for Australia, to alert coastal communities, emergency managers and coastal engineers to impending storm wave damage and coastal erosion. Emergency preparedness informed by early warning is expected to significantly benefit vulnerable communities and infrastructure along Australia’s coasts.
The University of Melbourne, \$629,331	RMIT University; Catholic Education Office Diocese Of Parramatta; Goodliffe Trading Trust & Landy Family Trust & J Littlefield & Stephens Family Trust & Lauchlan Family Trust & Le Nepveu Family Trust & Curran Family Trust; Department For Education And Child Development; Hobsons Bay City Council; Department Of State Development	Building connections: schools as community hubs. This project aims to support school systems and planning authorities enhance engagement between schools and local communities. The key objective is to advance the cost-effective development of the infrastructure required to deliver community programs and services from school sites, in addition to education programs for school-aged students. The project expects to generate new knowledge about how best to plan, design, govern and manage facilities and infrastructure to enable schools to operate successfully as more than a school, encouraging the development of resilient and connected communities. The outcomes are expected to include a development framework for maximising schools as community hubs.
Monash University, \$4,918,357	Swinburne University of Technology; RMIT University; The University of New	ARC Research Hub for Smart Next Generation Transport Pavements. The ARC Research Hub for Smart Next Generation Transport Pavements aims to make road, airport and dockyard pavements smart, low cost, long-

Administering Organisation and Funding Amount	Participating Organisations	Project Summary
	<p>South Wales; The University of Newcastle; ARRB GROUP LTD; AUSTROADS LTD; vicroads; Australian Asphalt Pavement Association; Logan City Council et. Al.</p>	<p>lasting, safe, green and adaptable to future transport demands. Australia’s road network, upon which the nation depends for its economic and social prosperity, is at risk due to increases in passenger and freight load degradation of the road network, and material and expertise scarcity. The Hub will deliver new materials and modelling, smart construction, and rehabilitation systems required for future demands, while enhancing road safety and reducing environmental impact.</p>