

Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund

Guidelines for Registration of Interest for Project Funding

Round 2

Closing: 5 pm Thursday 19 August 2010.

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1 SUMMARY - KEY INFORMATION

1.1. *Registration of Interest Process*

The timetable and Registration of Interest process is as follows:

STEPS	BY WHEN
STEP 1	Read these <i>Guidelines for Completing a Registration of Interest for Project Funding</i> .
STEP 2	Contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment to discuss the proposed project. Ann Allworth 03 96378202
STEP 3	PREPARE A BUSINESS CASE. A template for the business case can be downloaded at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf
STEP 4	COMPLETE an electronic REGISTRATION OF INTEREST FORM at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf and attach the business case before submitting. The Registration of Interest should be submitted by no later than 5pm Thursday 19 August 2010 . No late registrations will be accepted. If you are unable to complete the application electronically please contact Ann Allworth 03 96378202 to make alternative arrangements.
STEP 5	Shortlisted proponents will be invited to an interview.
STEP 6	On notification of success in the competitive process the proponent will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Environment and Sustainability. A template for the funding deed can be downloaded at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf
Final Date for Completion of the Project	March 2012

1.2. *How will the Registration of Interest be assessed?*

Stage 1: Projects will be assessed against the criteria listed in these guidelines.

Eligible Projects need to meet, as a minimum, the following criteria:

- *Provide significant potable water savings*
- *Provide immediate and long-term environmental, economic and social improvements*
- *Demonstrate a new approach with a high degree of transferability (i.e. the opportunity for the solution to be more widely applied)*
- *Demonstrate cost-effectiveness.*

Stage 2: Project readiness will be assessed to develop a funding timetable.

- *On approval of the business case and the timetable the proponent will enter into a funding agreement with DSE.*

2

THE FUND

2.1. Background

The Victorian Government's **Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund** (*the Fund*) will support **demonstration projects** in cities and towns across the State and **demonstrate** the best stormwater and urban recycling solutions.

The Fund seeks out projects that will 'lead the way' for achieving significant savings in drinking water supplies across Victoria.

The Fund values projects that consider the total water cycle, focusing on conservation together with using stormwater and recycled water as a resource and improving the quality of water that ends up in our rivers and creeks.

Of particular interest to the fund are projects in the following areas:

- Buildings of the future – demonstration of innovation in integrating water use efficiency, stormwater capture and water reuse in housing and garden design and construction to minimise the demand for external water supplies.
- Precincts of the future – demonstration of innovation at a precinct or neighbourhood scale that endeavour to restore some of the natural hydrology in a way that uses stormwater to reduce the demand for external water sources for maintaining public open space, parks and gardens.
- Community engagement – projects that directly engage local communities in reshaping urban hydrology in a way that facilitates cultural and behavioural changes. For example, local community involvement in the establishment and management of kerbside raingardens that are being used to treat road run-off and enhance roadside environments.
- Institutional development – projects that facilitate the development of relationships within and between organisations to integrate programs and objectives to provide more valuable community outcomes. For example, projects that combines flood mitigation, urban development planning, recreational and amenity planning with urban biodiversity conservation.

The Victorian Government's funding contribution for demonstration projects recognises the value of the projects to the water industry in providing a lead in the management of localised stormwater and urban recycling. The funding of up to \$1 million on 1:1 is a contribution to:

- sharing the risk of adopting a new approach;
- the extra costs of design associated with being the first project of its type;
- the extra costs of working with new regulatory processes that in some cases will not have been used previously; and
- the costs of promoting the project to similar organisations.

2.2. Fund Objectives

The Key Objectives of the Fund are to continue the Victorian government's program of water management and saving initiatives outlined as part of *Our Water Our Future* www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf which are to :

- Reduce demand on drinking water (for uses other than drinking).
- Support the use of water that is fit-for-purpose while protecting public health and the environment.
- Significantly improve the integrated management of water resources.

2.3. Who can apply?

The Fund invites Registration of Interest from:

- Local Government
- Water Corporation
- Open space or recreational facilities managers
- Business & Industry
- Community

2.4. How will projects be funded?

Funding will be determined against criteria listed below.

Up to \$1 million will be available on a 1:1 basis.

A minimum capital contribution from the proponent/s that matches this funding is required.

The Fund will not contribute to:

- Cost over runs,
 - On going operational costs
- or
- Retrospective costs.

As a proponent you will need to demonstrate the viability of the proposal through a business case.

Funding will be released progressively subject to evidence of the successful completion of each milestone.

An upfront payment will be available on the signing of the funding agreement and will be subject to project readiness.

2.5. How ready does the project have to be?

If the level of planning is sufficient that the business case template can be completed with a reasonable level of confidence then the project is ready to be considered under the process.

The Technical Review Committee will obtain extra information in an interview if, on the first assessment, the project meets the criteria set out below.

A final decision on funding will be based on the business case and extra information may be requested.

2.6. *When does the project have to be completed?*

It is expected that all projects will be completed at latest by 30 March 2012 to allow final payments to be made by 30 May 2012.

2.7. *What type of projects will be funded?*

Projects will be funded that:

- Provide significant potable water savings.
- Provide immediate and long-term environmental, economic and social improvements.
- Demonstrate a high degree of transferability (i.e. the opportunity for the solution to be more widely applied).
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness.

Preference will be given to projects that address the following:

Increase Understanding

- Substantially add to the understanding of local stormwater harvesting and urban recycling through high quality monitoring and data collection.

Transferability

- That have the potential to be used more widely and successfully in Victoria to reduce reliance on drinking water supplies.
- Have the potential after the first implementation to be adopted by others without the need for outside funding.

Financial

- Have the potential to achieve the highest potable water supply substitution (ML) over the life of the project.
- That demonstrate the greatest cost efficiency.

Social

- That have a high value to the community.

Environmental

- That will lead to environmental enhancement outcomes.
- Promote a sustainable use of natural resources.
- Demonstrate efficient and effective water use.
- Have a strong commitment from the proponent for promoting the approach.

2.8. *What type of projects will not be funded?*

Projects will not be funded that:

- Are considered accepted practice in Victoria.
- Do not demonstrate matching funding arrangements as a minimum.
- That can not demonstrate that permit and license requirements have been met or can be met in the future.
- Request retrospective funding.
- Require ongoing funding from the State Government once completed.

- Are inconsistent with other Government policies
- Are short term or non-sustainable solutions.

2.9. What are the contractual and reporting requirements?

Successful proponents will be required to enter into a Funding Deed with DSE a copy of which can be downloaded at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf . The proponent will need to identify whether it is unable to comply or unwilling to accept a condition or clause contained within the Funding Agreement. Proponents should give reasons for non acceptance and set out any proposed amendments that would render the provision acceptable to the proponent.

As part of your funding commitment, the proponent will need to provide short monthly progress reports and a final project evaluation report. DSE will provide reporting templates.

3 LODGEMENT OF A REGISTRATION OF INTEREST.

3.1. How can a Business Case and Registration of Interest be lodged?

The Business Case template can be downloaded at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf

The Registration of Interest can be lodged **electronically** at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/surf

NB -The business case must be attached to the Registration of Interest.

The Registration of Interest will close at 5pm Thursday 19 August 2010.

NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please note that applications should be concise and supplementary information should be attached only where essential to support the application.

If you are unable to submit the application electronically please contact Ann Allworth (03) 96378202 to make alternative arrangements.

Privacy Statement

The information you provide in your Application or any other response to this registration will only be used for the purpose of the submission to the Stormwater and Urban Recycling Fund, and in this context by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE). DSE, and other technical expertise appointed by DSE, will use this information as part of the overall submission assessment process and for the preparation of a list of proponents with a brief description of the project as submitted by the proponent. All responses will be treated as public documents. All successful projects will be posted on the DSE website. Formal requests for confidentiality will be honoured; however, Freedom of Information and Auditor General access requirements will still apply to submissions treated as confidential. If you wish to access information in your submission once it is lodged with DSE you may make a request by contacting Ann Allworth (ann.allworth@dse.vic.gov.au).

Disclaimer:

This Application Pack may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the Application Pack is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and, therefore, disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this form.

4 CONTACTS

Advice regarding the Registration of Interest process may be sought from:

DSE: **Ann Allworth**
Project Manager
Phone: (03) 9637 8202

Email: ann.allworth@dse.vic.gov.au

If an electronic registration can not be made, please contact Ann.Allworth@dse.vic.gov.au to arrange an alternative method of submission.