

ARC/NWC Co-funded Centre for Groundwater Research and Training

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Only one Centre will be funded. Should all universities based in a single State present a single consolidated proposal or should a number of competitive proposals be submitted?

The ARC does not wish to be prescriptive. As with all other ARC schemes, the selection process is competitive. A single proposal may be submitted, with the best and most appropriate personnel from all interested organisations (including universities and organisations in other states) listed as participants. Alternatively, if selected universities consider that they can prepare a competitive proposal with an innovative research program and a tailored group of participants, more than one proposal can be submitted from each State. Please note that each university can be the lead organisation (Administering Organisation) on only one proposal.

What is the position of early career researchers (ECRs) in the Centre?

ECRs are encouraged to participate in the research program of the Centre, but there is no special allocation of funding within the overall budget for their participation.

How much additional support from Collaborating and Partner Organisations is needed?

The amount of financial support (either cash or in-kind) offered by Collaborating and Partner Organisations in the proposal will depend on the scope of the proposed research program and the facilities, personnel or other resources to be offered aimed at building the scale and focus of the Centre.

With projects in groundwater already underway, how will the Centre's research program interact or overlap with these?

The ARC will not fund projects that are, or are likely to be, met from other Commonwealth funding schemes. The Centre proposal should be innovative rather than focusing on current projects. Current projects could provide a starting point for future research within the Centre.

Should the Centre proposal focus on conducting research in a particular field/area of groundwater or a particular region of Australia?

The ARC does not wish to be prescriptive. The proposed research program should be prepared based on the expertise of the participants and the quality and innovative approach of the projects within the program. New research in fields with scope for growth, and building on current research, could be considered as elements of the Centre research program.

What is expected in the proposal in relation to training?

Applicants will need to consider the proposed research program and operations of the Centre and present the training aspect in the context of innovative research, balancing research training with skills training. The ARC does not provide funding to operate training courses, so any skills/vocational training or professional development courses will need to be funded from other sources.

Is there a role for other ARC-funded Centres in the research program of the Groundwater Centre?

Applicants are encouraged to recruit a range of Collaborating and Partner Organisations to participate in, and provide support to, the Groundwater Centre. Such organisations could include other universities, government departments and agencies, business/industry and other ARC-funded Centres. Researchers associated with other ARC-funded Centres can participate in the Groundwater Centre's research program, subject to appropriate time commitments being made.

If there are two strong proposals, will the Selection Advisory Committee recommend that they be combined?

As the selection of a successful proposal is a competitive process, applicants will not be advised to combine competing proposals during the selection process or as part of the funding negotiations. However, following the award of funding, the Centre can approach applicants on unsuccessful proposals to participate in the Centre's research program or vice versa. Any alterations to Centre participants, Collaborating or Partner Organisations or the research program are subject to ARC approval.

Can unsuccessful applicants for the Centre apply for funding in groundwater research through other ARC schemes?

Yes.