



LINKAGE- INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Selection report
for funding
commencing
in 2003

Linkage—Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Program Selection Report for funding commencing in 2003

Background

The objectives of the Linkage-Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) Program are to:

- encourage institutions to develop collaborative arrangements among themselves, across the higher education sector and with organisations outside the sector, in order to develop research infrastructure;
- support large-scale cooperative initiatives involving two or more institutions, thereby allowing expensive facilities to be shared;
- enhance support for areas of research strength; and
- ensure that researchers in fields of recognised research potential have access to the support necessary for development.

Selection process

Committee membership

The LIEF Advisory Committee comprised nine members of the ARC's Expert Advisory Committees.

Selection Meeting

The LIEF Committee discussed applications and formulated funding recommendations at a selection meeting in Canberra on 26 and 27 June 2002. The Committee strictly observed the ARC guidelines for potential conflict of interest.

Selection Criteria

The Committee's assessment of applications was based on the program's selection criteria:

- need and level of demand for the proposed equipment or facilities in Australia;
- excellence of the researchers and research activity to be supported;
- effectiveness of the cooperative arrangements between institutions, including access and resource sharing; and
- commitment of each collaborating institution.

Applications and funding

Applications submitted

A total of 121 LIEF applications were considered by the Committee. These applications sought \$51,237,553 in ARC funds.

Funded applications

A total of 67 applications (55% of applications) have been selected for funding (Attachment A). Funding for these applications totals \$25,213,076. This funding will support facilities and equipment worth \$40,843,172.

Uncompetitive applications

A total of 54 applications (45%) either did not meet the program guidelines or were considered uncompetitive and were not selected for funding.

Reserve applications

Several high quality projects have been placed on a ranked reserve list and may be funded if additional funds become available.

Statistical characteristics of funding

There are several possible approaches to reporting LIEF recommendations. A selection of statistical characteristics of LIEF outcomes recommendations follows.

Overall outcomes

Table 1 shows all applications and applications selected for funding, with details of requested and approved funds and partner contributions (cash contributions only). The funded applications in Table 1 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 1: Requested grant size and partner contributions

All Applications			Funded Applications					
Number applications	Requested \$	Partner Contribution \$	Number funded	Success rate	Requested \$	Partner Contribution \$	Allocated \$	% of requested funding
121	51,237,553	31,317,163	67	55 %	30,954,449	18,634,437	25,213,076	81%

Research library collections and databases

Table 2 provides information on applications classified as involving library or database projects. The funded applications in Table 2 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 2: Library or database projects

All Applications			Funded Applications					
Number applications	Requested \$	Partner Contribution \$	Number funded	Success rate	Requested \$	Partner Contribution \$	Allocated \$	% of requested funding
13	3,515,938	1,647,089	6	46%	2,343,147	1,168,464	1,631,000	69%

Applications by State

Table 3 provides the breakdown of LIEF applications and funding by State. The funded applications in Table 3 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 3: All and funded applications by State

State	Number of applications	Number recommended for funding	Success rate Percentage	Allocated \$	Percentage of recommended projects	Percentage of total funding
ACT	16	5	31.3	2,449,490	7.5	9.7
NSW	40	24	60.0	10,301,586	35.8	40.9
NT	1	1	100.0	195,000	1.5	.8
Qld	17	10	58.8	3,135,000	14.9	12.4
SA	13	8	61.5	2,365,000	11.9	9.4
Tas	2	2	100.0	960,000	3.0	3.8
Vic	23	11	47.8	2,925,000	16.4	11.6
WA	9	6	66.7	2,882,000	9.0	11.4
Total	121	67	54.9	25,213,076	100.0	100.0

Institutional outcomes

Table 4 (overleaf) shows funding requests and partner contributions for all applications and, for those applications selected for funding, by administering institution. The funded applications in Table 4 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 4: Funding requests and partner contributions by administering institution (HEFA order)

All Applications			Funded Applications				
Lead institution	Number submitted	Requested \$	Partner contribution \$	Number funded	Requested \$	Partner contribution \$	Allocated \$
Macquarie	5	1,833,145	1,105,000	3	1,572,027	980,000	1,418,000
UNE	3	530,000	186,000	3	530,000	186,000	450,000
UNSW	5	1,562,519	1,288,000	3	1,029,225	771,000	943,000
Newcastle	3	678,424	425,000	1	260,876	175,000	260,876
Sydney	14	9,170,179	4,665,876	9	7,152,825	3,530,876	6,104,710
UTS	4	1,283,280	1,044,900	1	435,040	410,000	375,000
UWS	2	432,629	176,000	1	154,500	76,000	130,000
Wollongong	3	847,208	577,000	2	442,142	347,000	380,000
Deakin	3	692,603	445,000	3	692,603	445,000	602,000
La Trobe	3	1,730,936	1,565,000	1	151,213	50,000	100,000
Monash	4	1,353,359	955,000	1	200,155	190,000	140,000
Swinburne	5	3,431,307	1,625,000	3	3,065,907	1,365,000	1,374,000
Melbourne	9	2,871,059	2,039,423	3	757,562	512,400	709,000
Griffith	1	197,000	208,000	0	0	0	0
James Cook	3	781,057	490,500	2	633,682	355,500	570,000
QUT	1	375,000	200,000	1	375,000	200,000	300,000
Queensland	12	5,163,892	4,590,485	7	2,977,941	2,307,000	2,265,000
Curtin	3	1,402,438	611,000	2	118,635	500,000	952,000
Edith Cowan	1	276,503	95,000	1	276,503	95,000	200,000
Murdoch	2	1,356,207	463,000	2	1,356,207	463,000	1,041,000
UWA	3	1,713,100	595,000	1	905,000	325,000	689,000
Flinders	3	1,999,365	789,000	2	1,287,152	476,500	498,000
Adelaide	6	1,987,898	1,124,500	4	1,639,150	924,000	1,477,000
South Australia	4	1,543,318	695,000	2	533,000	180,000	390,000
Tasmania	2	1,188,945	663,720	2	1,188,945	663,720	960,000
NTU	1	195,000	65,000	1	195,000	65,000	195,000
ANU	15	5,976,782	4,297,759	4	2,359,759	2,709,441	2,049,490
Canberra	1	424,400	172,000	1	424,400	172,000	400,000
AINSE	1	240,000	160,000	1	240,000	160,000	240,000
TOTAL		51,237,553	31,317,163		30,954,449	18,634,437	25,213,076

Single-institution applications

While LIEF emphasises collaboration, in some circumstances single institutions may apply for assistance to purchase a large item of equipment or major facility on a sole-use basis if justification is provided. Applications may include collaboration with an international university or other organisation, or an Australian industry or government organisation. In the current funding round a total of 20 applications were submitted by single institutions. Of these applications, seven were selected for funding. Four of the funded single-institution applications have partners from industry, government, or international sources.

Table 5 shows the success rate of single-institution applications under the former Research Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities (RIEF) scheme (1997-2001) and LIEF (2002 and 2003). The funded applications in Table 5 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 5: Infrastructure funding 1997-2003

Year	Total Number of Applications	Number of Single Institution Applications	Percentage of Total Applications %	Funded Single Applications as percentage of total funded
1997	182	45	24.7	13.0
1998	202	70	34.7	9.0
1999	179	14	7.8	16.8
2000	144	9	6.3	1.4
2001	136	20	14.7	12.0
2002	129	15	11.6	6.6
2003	121	20	16.5	5.7

Collaboration

Table 6 categorises project applications and project funding by the number of organisations participating in the project and gives the corresponding success rate for 2003. The term "organisation" includes both universities and industry or other partners. The funded applications in Table 6 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 6: Project applications, funded projects, and success rates by no. of participating organisations for 2003

Number of organisations involved	Project applications	Funded Projects	Success Rate %
1	6	3	50
2	34	16	47
3	27	13	48
4	26	15	58
5	16	10	62
6	2	1	50
7	4	4	100
8	1	1	100
9	1	1	100
10	1	1	100
11+	3	2	66

Chart 1 illustrates the incidence of collaboration in LIEF in 2003.

Chart 1: Incidence of Collaboration in LIEF Program 2003

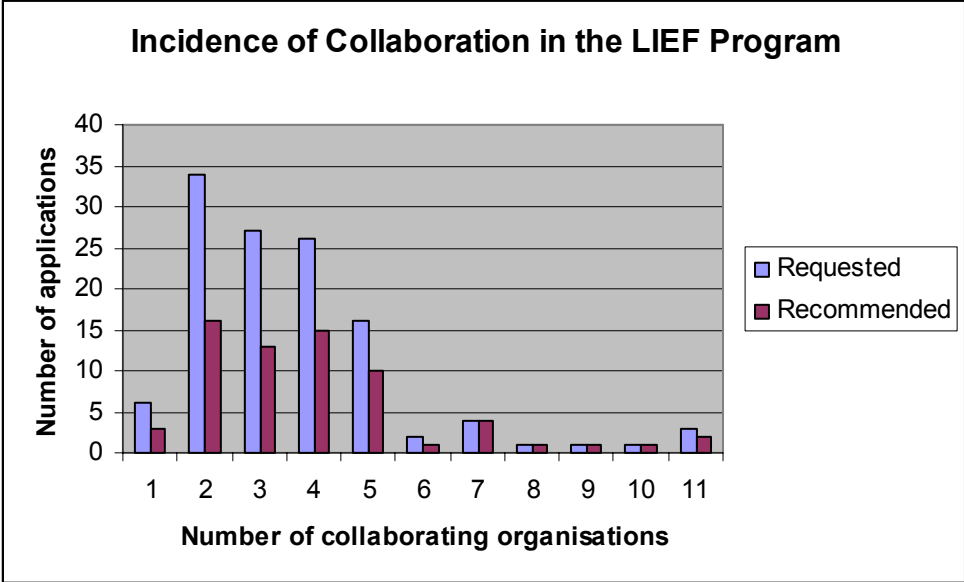


Table 7 illustrates the high degree of collaboration that occurs in the LIEF Program. A total of 34 universities and 92 other organisations have participated in applications. The recommended applications in Table 7 do not include applications in the ranked reserve list.

Table 7: Incidence of collaboration in LIEF Program - 2003

Organisation	Number of partnered applications	Aggregate funding offered \$	Number of recommended applications	Aggregate funding committed \$
Australian Catholic University	1	5,000	0	0
Macquarie University	13	628,000	7	480,000
The University of New England	6	226,000	6	226,000
The University of New South Wales	23	1,865,000	14	1,310,000
The University of Newcastle	12	840,000	7	565,000
The University of Sydney	35	3,824,559	24	2,564,559
University of Technology, Sydney	9	435,000	4	145,000
University of Western Sydney	8	236,000	5	131,000
University of Wollongong	12	813,000	6	495,000
University of Ballarat	2	51,250	2	51,250
Deakin University	8	420,000	6	385,000
La Trobe University	9	1,257,500	3	232,500
Monash University	14	1,468,841	8	635,000
RMIT University	10	846,385	5	310,900
Swinburne University of Technology	11	668,750	6	358,750
The University of Melbourne	22	1,827,323	13	811,982
Victoria University of Technology	2	40,000	0	0
Griffith University	7	422,500	6	242,500
James Cook University	3	450,000	2	320,000
Queensland University of Technology	8	500,000	6	340,000
Central Queensland University	2	105,000	1	5,000
University of Southern Queensland	1	5,000	1	5,000
The University of Queensland	17	3,710,000	11	2,072,000
Curtin University of Technology	10	386,000	6	260,000
Edith Cowan University	3	80,000	2	70,000
Murdoch University	6	260,500	4	245,000
The University of Western Australia	15	851,341	9	552,500
The Flinders University of South Australia	9	485,250	7	325,000
The University of Adelaide	11	1,146,250	7	1,027,000
University of South Australia	11	630,000	7	185,000
University of Tasmania	5	481,500	2	446,000
Northern Territory University	2	51,000	2	51,000
The Australian National University	29	3,144,643	12	1,940,825
University of Canberra	4	30,000	3	22,000
Universities total	340	28,191,592	204	16,810,766
Other organisations (88)	106	3,125,571	53	2,086,951
All organisations total		31,317,163		18,897,717