



Department
of Industry

NSW RESEARCH ATTRACTION AND ACCELERATION PROGRAM

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

**NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (NCRIS)**

NSW CO-INVESTMENT SUPPORT 2017/18

1.0 Program purpose

- 1.1 The Commonwealth's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) delivers world-class research facilities so that Australian researchers can solve complex problems both domestically and internationally. NCRIS provides strategic funding support for national-scale research infrastructure – driving collaboration to bring economic, environmental, health and social benefits for Australia. NCRIS facilitates strong partnerships between the research sector, business, industry and government to actively support world-class research.
- 1.2 The NSW Government – through the NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program (RAAP), administered by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer (OCSE) – will provide co-investment support for NSW-based NCRIS facilities and all NCRIS-derived facilities on a competitive basis.
- 1.3 The NSW Government recognises the vital role NCRIS facilities play in supporting the state's research and development sector. A strong research and development capability is a critical driver for innovation in the State's economy.
- 1.4 RAAP co-investment support will enable NSW-based facilities to continue operation, and build capacity and capability – ensuring thousands of NSW researchers have continued access to the critical infrastructure they need to undertake their important work.

2.0 Support available

- 2.1 The total quantum of funding available is \$5,000,000 to be paid out in 2017/18. The funding awarded to each successful applicant will depend on the overall quality and quantity of applications received.
- 2.2 Funding will be prioritised for NSW-based NCRIS facilities that demonstrate significant potential economic, environmental and social benefits to the State of New South Wales, and a clear contribution to NSW Government priorities, as articulated in the NSW 2021 State Plan. OCSE will also give priority funding to facilities which demonstrate that funds will be used towards significant purchases and investments (including equipment) which have the potential to leverage future funding.

3.0 Use of grant funds

- 3.1 Funding from the RAAP will take the form of a cash contribution following the execution of a Funding Deed between the applicant and the Department.
- 3.2 The grant monies must only be used on activities undertaken within NSW, and on staff, students or equipment to be located in NSW. Priority will be given to applications which enhance existing capabilities through the acquisition of equipment and major systems and/or the retention of key expertise and personnel with the aim of lifting the competitiveness of NSW facilities. Grant funds might be used to:
 - fund employment of technical staff at the NSW nodes
 - support or top-up scholarships or fellowships of students or post-doctoral researchers to be located within NSW
 - purchase or lease instrumentation or plant equipment that will be located in NSW

4.0 Eligibility criteria

- 4.1 Funding is available for facilities which are currently or have previously been funded under the Commonwealth's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), and all NCRIS-derived facilities.
- 4.2 The RAAP grant application process will be open to organisations which have:
 - a. their headquarters and/or a major research presence located in NSW;
 - i. for the purposes of this grant, headquarters are defined as the main administrative office of the facility; and location of the CEO. Headquarters must remain in NSW for the period of the RAAP Agreement; and
 - ii. those with a major research presence in NSW i.e. those that retain approximately 40% (or more) of their researchers (total staff and students) in NSW for the period of the RAAP agreement.
- 4.3 Applicants who have not received extension funding in the most recent Commonwealth Government NCRIS grant (for the period 2017-2019) are eligible to apply for RAAP funding.

5.0 Selection criteria

- 5.1 Applications will be ranked and preference given according to the criteria outlined below. The RAAP application form seeks responses to criteria such as:
 - a. proposed research to be undertaken and value added by the research;
 - b. economic, environmental and social benefits of the research program for NSW, and alignment with the Premier's State Priorities document;
 - c. track record of current facilities/projects;
 - d. explanation of how the applicant will apply the research outcomes into practice in NSW;
 - e. NSW industry, Government agency and end-user linkages;
 - f. impact on NSW skills, advanced education and training; and
 - g. use and value-add of RAAP support.
- 5.2 The responses to these criteria will be used by the Department to determine whether to recommend funding to the applicant, and how much funding to recommend.
- 5.3 The Department will make recommendations regarding funding allocations to applicants.
- 5.4 The Department, in its discretion, may choose not to award or recommend funding under this program.

6.0 Application process

- 6.1 **NCRIS – NSW CO-INVESTMENT SUPPORT 2017/18 applications close at 5PM AEDT on Friday 8 December 2017**
- 6.2 Submit an electronic copy of the completed Application Form to:

raap.grants@industry.nsw.gov.au

- 6.3 All eligible applicants will be assessed on merit against the selection criteria. However the Department, in its discretion, may choose not to provide funding to applicants.
- 6.4 All questions must be answered. If they are not applicable, please indicate.
- 6.5 Applicants should clearly identify in their application (including attachments) any information that the applicant requests be treated as confidential.
- 6.6 The application must be signed by at least one of the core participants (by the head of the organisation or their authorised delegate). Where not all core participants' representatives have signed the application, the signatories must acknowledge that the application is made with the knowledge and on behalf of all core participants.
- 6.7 Short extensions to the deadlines may be given only in extenuating circumstances. A request for an extension, explaining the need for and length of the extension, should be submitted in writing **NO LATER THAN 5PM AEDT on Monday 4 December 2017** to:

Mr Troy Deighton
Senior Manager – Communications, Grants & Events
Office of Science and Research
troy.deighton@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

7.0 Selection process

- 7.1 The role of the Department is to administer the RAAP, including:
 - a. assessing the RAAP applications;
 - b. making a recommendation on the successful applicants and the level of funding;
 - c. entering into funding deeds with successful applicants;
 - d. making grant payments; and
 - e. monitoring grant recipients' use of funds. Grant recipients will be required to provide the Department information on how the funding was utilised (*Further details of this are shown at 8.1 below, and will be outlined in the RAAP Funding Deed*).
- 7.2 a RAAP expert panel will:
 - a. assess and rank grant applications according to the RAAP's eligibility and selection criteria; and
 - b. make recommendations on which applicants, if any, should receive grants and the amount of those grants.
- 7.3 The RAAP expert panel will assess each application on a competitive basis relative to the criteria and other applications.
- 7.4 All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the decision on their applications, whether or not they are successful.

7.5 The timetable for the selection process is as follows:

Friday 27 October 2017	RAAP applications open.
Friday 8 December 2017	RAAP applications close.
TBA	Applicants are informed of the outcome.

8.0 Funding Agreements & Reporting Requirements

- 8.1 All applicants who are successful under the RAAP and who accept the offer of a grant will be required to enter into a formal Funding Deed with the Department relating to the grant. The Deed will specify obligations that relate primarily to the recipient's accountability for the grant, including using the grant for activities occurring in NSW, the return of unspent grant funds and reporting on the use of the grant for the duration of the terms.
- 8.2 The reporting will inform the Department's release of payments in each financial year, which will be held in Trust until the Department approves the expenditure.
- 8.3 The Funding Deed must be signed by at least one core participant in the facility, or the CEO of the facility.