

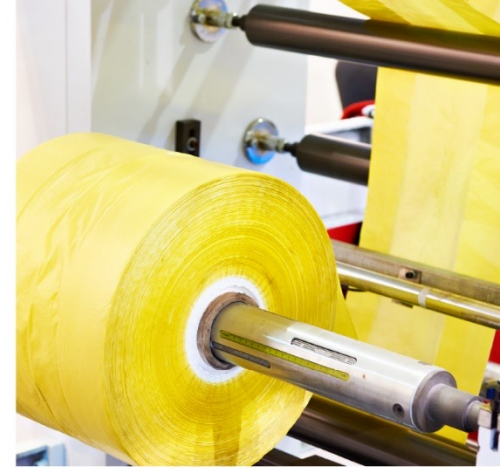


**Solving Plastic Waste**  
Cooperative Research Centre

*Growing the circular economy for plastics*

CRC Program 24<sup>th</sup> selection round:  
Experience and lessons from the  
bidding process

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# Key lessons: prior to writing the application

## 1. Alignment with Government priorities

- A compelling reason to fund your CRC, when there are already other sources of R&D funding/competing initiatives

### 24th CRC Program Selection Round announcement

These CRCs align with the National Reconstruction Fund's priority areas, as well as the Government's broader ambitions to achieve net zero by 2050 and tackle plastic waste.

Government priorities are always considered as part of the assessment criteria in CRC selection rounds.

### Quotes attributable to the Hon Ed Husic, Minister for Industry and Science:

"We need to mobilise Australian industry to play its role in the transition to net zero now. But we also need to think about the next big steps, which is why it is important to get Australian science and industry working together on this.

"There are very few challenges more crucial than achieving net zero emissions and tackling plastic pollution.

# Key lessons: prior to writing the application

**2. Have strong commitment from a key partner to resource the bid**

**3. Recruit strong advisory groups as appropriate for each stage**

**4. Partner and project selection for impact**

- Must be end-user driven by committed partners
- Assemble the best research teams that are internationally competitive
- Use impact tool logic to identify the best projects and then plan them in detail

**5. Integrated programs and making connections across the sector**

- Could not be achieved by a collection of CRC-Ps
- Involves key stakeholders from across the value chain
- Clarity on scope, research projects and paths to utilisation and impact



# Key lessons: Stage 1 & 2 written applications

## **6. Comprehensively address the selection criteria**

- Every question needs a strong well considered response
- Show you have clarity on all aspects of the proposal: research, utilisation, education & training, governance & management
- Derisk the decision for the CRC Advisory Committee

## **7. Have competitive leverage for the CRC Program investment and a realistic impact tool ratio**

## **8. Have the best leadership team with the skills, commitment and cohesion to deliver the outcomes and impacts**

- The leadership team needs to own the application and the impact tool information
- Those who drive the bid and build the partnership need to have long-term commitments to the CRC

## **9. Provide well-considered and concise responses to the questions and feedback provided**

- Critical that rebids address the feedback and make changes
- Vital to dispel reservations raised by the Stage 1 response in the Stage 2 written application

# Key lessons: interview

## 10. Prepare well for interview

- Presentation must provide clarity on the bid while addressing the stage 2 questions
- Balance of genders and end users to research providers critical
- Must be a well-functioning team
- Chair best to direct questions and ensure all team members contribute
- Practice just to the stage of peaking
- Answer the questions concisely, don't provide memorised answers to related possible questions
- Pay attention to body language and engagement