

Expressions of Interest

Collie Industrial Transition Fund

Background

The Western Australian Government is calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from companies looking to establish industry in the Collie region.

The new Collie Industrial Transition Fund (the 'Fund') is a Western Australian program to support large-scale industrial projects that can provide long-term, sustainable jobs as Collie transitions to new forms of industry and power generation.

For over 100 years, the town of Collie in Western Australia's South-West has been an industrial hub specialising in energy and coal mining. Over this time, Collie has built up an agile, highly-skilled workforce with the technical expertise needed to supply the State's coal and power generation needs.

The Western Australian Government has invested heavily in Collie to ensure the town continues to thrive during the global transition to new, clean industries and renewable energy generation.

On 14 June 2022, the Western Australian Government announced the closure of the Government's final two coal-fired power stations in Collie by 2029. To support this transition, a package of funding has been committed to support the attraction of new industry to Collie. This funding is in addition to funding already provided through the Collie Futures Funds.

Objectives

The Fund has been established to expand Collie's economy and provide new job opportunities, particularly for coal and energy-sector workers.

Successful projects should demonstrate how they will contribute to a significant increase in the:

- number and diversity of job opportunities;
- productivity of business and industries; and
- scale and diversity of Collie's economic base.

Process

To express your interest, please submit a maximum five-page pitch using the Fund's webpage. The pitch should address the eligibility criteria outlined in these guidelines. It should be concise and provide only relevant information.

Projects should have a total project value of at least \$4 million. All funding must be matched by a minimum co-contribution of \$1 for every \$1 funded by the Fund. It is expected that funded activities



will have commenced within 12 months of funding approval, however it is acknowledged that this will depend on the scale and complexity of eligible proposals.

Should your pitch demonstrate strong alignment to the objectives of the Fund, you will be invited to discuss your project in more detail with the WA Government. Suitable applicants will be invited to formally apply for funding, through a two stage application process.

Submission of an EOI pitch does not constitute a Stage 1 application. Should you be invited to Stage 1, you will be provided with detailed guidelines and access to a secure online application portal. A formal application will usually be a two-stage process, to allow Government to seek additional information following assessment of Stage 1 applications.

Applications may be submitted at any time and will be assessed as they are received. The Fund will remain open until such a time as funding is exhausted or the objectives of the Fund have been met. Interested proponents are encouraged to contact the team ahead of submitting a pitch by emailing collie@dpc.wa.gov.au.

Eligibility Requirements

The Fund is targeting projects within the following sectors identified in the [Collie Investment Prospectus](#):

- Green manufacturing or minerals processing
- Energy intensive industry
- Future clean energy

Proposals from other industries may be considered where they demonstrate alignment to the one or more of the objectives of the Fund.

Pitches submitted in response to the EOI should:

- include a high level summary project plan, including:
 - o high-level project outcomes and deliverables,
 - o scale of opportunity,
 - o indicative timeline (NB. funded activities are expected to have commenced within 12 months of funding approval),
 - o summary of the project budget including plans for capital raising where required,
 - o outline of organisational capability; and
 - o workforce requirements.
- projects should have a total value of at least \$4 million and be seeking a minimum of \$2 million funding. Projects must include a funding contribution from the applicant that is a minimum, secured cash co-contribution¹ of \$1 for every \$1 funded by the Fund; and

¹ Contributions and funding secured from non-Government sources will be viewed favourably. Other State or Commonwealth programs may be counted towards the matching co-contribution.



be made by a valid legal entity that can enter into a funding agreement with the Western Australian Government. The legal entity must be in place at the point of application.

Successful projects will demonstrate clear economic benefits to the community through direct and indirect sustainable jobs, and will articulate the project's connection to decarbonisation and green industries, such as manufacturing and minerals processing.

Assessment Criteria

Projects will be invited to formally apply to submit a Stage 1 application based on their ability to address the following criteria:

- Strength of alignment with the objectives of the Fund;
- Strength of alignment to one or more of the priority sectors;
- Demonstration of business and technology readiness;
- Ability to utilise transitioning workforce; and
- Evidence of co-funding capacity.

Alignment to the objectives of the Fund

The Fund has been established to deliver the following outcomes for Collie:

- increase in the number and diversity of job opportunities;
- enhanced productivity of business and industries; and
- increase in the scale and diversity of Collie's economic base.

Proposals will be assessed based on the strength of alignment to one or more of the Fund's objectives.

Alignment to one or more of the priority sectors

The [Collie Investment Prospectus](#) was released in October 2021. The Prospectus contains substantial background and information on Collie, including priority sectors, existing workforce skills and availability of industrial land.

The Fund is focussed on three key areas of opportunity for Collie:

- Green manufacturing or minerals processing
- Energy intensive industry
- Future clean energy

Proposals will be assessed based on alignment to one or more of the priority sectors. Proposals are also welcome from industries outside of these priority sectors, in which case the assessment will be based on the strength of alignment to these objectives as well as the economic feasibility and scale of the opportunity.



Business and Technical Readiness

Projects must demonstrate the ability to create long-term, sustainable jobs. The Fund is targeting proposals with strong economic potential and a feasible pathway to reach a Final Investment Decision (FID) by 2025-26, and will look favourably on projects that can commence operations by end of 2027.

In order to be invited to Stage 1, pitches should demonstrate:

- Substantial business opportunity, including high-level market analysis;
- Tangible deliverables and organisational capability to deliver the proposal;
- Sound technical basis and an implementation strategy;
- Evidence of access to capital for the project and future operating costs, or demonstration of capacity to raise funding.

Assessment will be based on strength of evidence supporting the above criteria.

Ability to utilise transitioning workforce

Collie is a vibrant town with a well-established resident workforce and social infrastructure. The Fund is targeted at industries that can demonstrate the ability to capitalise on the skills of the local workforce either through direct transfer of skills or re-training and development.

In order to be successful, pitches must demonstrate:

- Evidenced and realistic job estimates.
 - o Job estimates can be staged.
 - o Should a project plan to scale and/or require feasibility studies before operations can commence, it must be clear how many jobs will be established at each stage of the project.
 - o It must be clear how many of the estimated jobs will be located in the town of Collie and/or within a 50km journey to work from the town centre.
 - o It must be clear how many jobs are direct ongoing jobs; indirect ongoing jobs; constructions jobs; and contract (including length of duration).
 - o Evidence that the estimated jobs align to the skills of the Collie workforce as outlined in the Collie Investment Prospectus. Some of the skills to be found in Collie include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Manufacturing, including but not limited to fabrication, welding, mechanical fitting;
 - Mining operations;
 - Process and plant operations;
 - Diesel and automotive technicians;
 - Engineering, including civil, mechanical, and electrical;
 - Freight and logistics.



There is funding available to support training and workforce development, as well as a close working relationship with both public and private training providers in the region. Opportunities to broaden or retrain the workforce are welcome.

Assessment will be based on the number of long-term, sustainable full-time equivalent jobs created; how well those estimates are supported by evidence; and strength of alignment to the skills of the existing Collie workforce.

Evidence of co-funding capacity

Projects should have a project value of at least \$4 million, and must include a funding contribution that is a minimum, secured cash co-contribution of \$1 for every \$1 funded by the Fund.

Proposals should clearly articulate the source of co-contribution funding and the funding model for the project, including the capital funding pathway to operations. Evidence should be provided to demonstrate the availability of capital for the project and future operating costs and/or appropriate demonstration of capacity to raise funding for the project.

Proposals will be assessed based on demonstration of the above.

Business Model

Applications will be primarily considered from private sector businesses with a valid Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN). Applications will also be considered from groups of businesses, the Shire of Collie and Government Trading Enterprises.

Scope of activities considered for funding

Support will be provided for activities which develop new industries or expand existing industries and increase productivity and employment opportunities in the Collie region.

Support will be flexible and tailored to specific project proposals and may include, for example:

- Support to develop common-user infrastructure, and which address local infrastructure challenges that impact on industry establishment, productivity or expansion, for example water, energy, or transport infrastructure.
- Support for development and commercialisation of new industry and business opportunities that demonstrate strong potential for jobs in green manufacturing, green minerals processing, energy intensive industry or renewable energy.
- Support for specific infrastructure, plant or equipment that supports development of new businesses, particularly green manufacturing, green minerals processing, energy intensive industry or renewable energy project/s, or a substantial expansion, and/or significant innovation and productivity improvements of existing businesses.



Excluded Activities

The following will not be considered for funding:

- Projects that do not demonstrate a significant sustained increase in local employment and economic activity;
- Recurrent costs (e.g., operating, maintenance and office costs such as rent, insurance, telephone etc.);
- Ongoing salaries/employment of new or existing staff;
- Requests for retrospective funding where projects have been substantially commenced prior to receiving funding approval;
- GST payments (this applies to GST registered originations only);
- Purchase of land;
- Activities that would be undertaken in the normal course of business such as maintenance and upgrade;
- Routine replacement or upgrades of plant and equipment using standard technologies; or
- Projects that will require ongoing assistance from the Western Australian government.



EOI Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria will be used to determine whether a pitch will be invited to present to the assessment panel. Pitches will be assessed using the following criteria:

Criterion	Projects that demonstrate
Alignment with the objectives of the Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alignment to one or more of the Fund objectives with evidence to support the claims made.
Alignment to one or more of the priority sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alignment to one or more of the priority sectors OR demonstration of a substantial new opportunity for the Collie economy that still aligns to the Fund's objectives.
Demonstration of business and technology readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Substantial business opportunity, including market analysis and demonstrated need for the project outcomes.- Tangible deliverables and organisational capability to deliver proposal.- Sound technical basis, and an implementation strategy.
Ability to utilise transitioning workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidenced and realistic job estimates.- Demonstrates long-term sustainable job opportunities for Collie's transitioning workforce
Evidence of co-funding capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidence of access to capital for the project and future operating costs, or demonstration of capacity to raise funding.- Proposed project funding jointly shared between the proponent and the Fund.

Confidentiality

DPC and JTSI will treat all information provided as confidential and commercial-in-confidence, where relevant. Applicants should note information provided to the State is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act (1992)*. Further information is available from the Office of the Information Commissioner website: <https://www.oic.wa.gov.au/en-au/>.

Personal information and disclosure

DPC may collect personal information for the purposes of administration and evaluation of an application. If the relevant information is not provided by applicants, the DPC will be unable to assess the application for funding.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Western Australian Government agencies and may be published on the DPC website, provided disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, including the *Privacy Act (1988)*. Personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles.





During the assessment process, information submitted will be subject to investigation and review by subject matter experts from key government agencies. Subject matter experts are third party specialists directly involved with the evaluation of the proposal in accordance with subclause 6.2 of the Australian Privacy Principles.

The DPC Privacy Policy is available on the DPC website.

For enquiries or feedback about the use of personal information, applicants should contact the DPC by emailing collie@dpc.wa.gov.au.

Program Evaluation

The outcomes of the Fund will be monitored and evaluated throughout the program implementation and amendments may be made to these guidelines to improve the effectiveness of the program.

Contact

If you have any questions about the program please contact:

Website: [Department of the Premier and Cabinet \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

Contact: Email: collie@dpc.wa.gov.au

Telephone: 08 9734 2322

Additional References

[Collie Investment Prospectus](#)

Information on the Just Transition process in Collie can be found online: [Collie Just Transition \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

