



Department of
**Energy and Economic
Diversification**

Made in WA Energy Affordability Investment Program (MEAIP)

Program Guidelines



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1. Overview

1.1. Background

The Made in WA Energy Affordability Investment Program

Advanced Manufacturing is a cross-sector enabler of Western Australia's (WA) *Diversify WA Economic Development Framework*. Manufacturing supports high-value jobs, local supply chains, increased local production, regional development and making more things here in WA.

Access to affordable reliable energy is critical to profitability, investment and competitiveness, particularly for energy-intensive manufacturers where energy costs can be a significant production input. Supporting manufacturers to reduce energy costs, use energy more efficiently and invest in modern production technologies is therefore critical to improving productivity, strengthening resilience and enabling the sector to grow and compete in domestic and international markets.

These Guidelines relate to the *Made in WA Energy Affordability Investment Program* (the Program), a \$153.3 million initiative providing competitive, low interest loans to eligible WA manufacturers investing in energy efficient infrastructure, renewable energy, energy storage and advanced manufacturing technologies. By supporting investment in lower-cost energy and more energy efficient production technologies, the Program aims to improve energy cost competitiveness of WA manufacturers, reduce total energy production costs and exposure to peak energy price periods. The Program aligns with the WA Government's commitment to developing the State's manufacturing sector to make more things locally, diversify the economy and deliver on WA's clean energy future.

The Program provides financial assistance under the *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998* (WA) (ITD Act), supporting the growth, efficiency, diversification and competitiveness of State industry, and will be administered by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) on behalf of the Minister for State Development (Minister).

1.2. Funding Streams

The Program includes the following funding streams. Applicants may only submit one application under the funding stream that best aligns with their proposed project, subject to meeting the relevant eligibility criterion.

1. Stream 1: Energy Efficiency

Stream 1 Loans will support projects that deliver measurable improvements in energy efficiency or energy cost competitiveness. Eligible projects may include investment in renewable energy systems, energy storage, electrification, energy-management systems and energy efficient equipment or processes.

2. Stream 2: Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing

Stream 2 loans will support integrated projects that combine investment in energy efficiency technologies with advanced manufacturing equipment, technology or processes. Eligible projects may combine activities supported under Stream 1: Energy Efficiency with investments in automation, robotics, smart production systems or other eligible advanced manufacturing technologies. Projects must deliver an energy cost competitiveness benefit alongside an improvement in manufacturing capability, capacity or productivity.

These Guidelines establish the eligibility requirements, assessment criteria, application process and funding conditions of the Program. They are intended to assist applicants in determining eligibility, understanding the types of projects and expenditure the Program supports, and explain how loan applications will be assessed and administered.

Applications will open on Tuesday 27 October 2026, and close on Tuesday 23 February 2027 at 5pm AWST or at the discretion of the State. Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis in accordance with these Guidelines.

These Program Guidelines should be read in conjunction with [Appendix 1: Technical Requirements](#), which forms part of the Guidelines, as well as the Program Application Form, the Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and the example Deed of Loan.

1.3. Objectives

The objectives of the Program, consistent with the objects of the ITD Act, are to:

- improve the competitiveness of Western Australian manufacturers through investments in energy efficiency technologies; and
- Move Western Australian manufacturers up the value chain and accelerate productivity through investments in manufacturing technologies and processes that improve products and production methods whilst ensuring energy competitiveness.

1.4. Target Sectors

The Program is available to eligible Manufacturers that are located in Western Australia and operate within, or supply manufactured products to, one or more of the following Target Sectors. Refer to section [8. \(Definitions\)](#):

- Clean energy manufacturing.
- Critical minerals manufacturing.
- Defence and space industries manufacturing.
- Food and beverage manufacturing.
- Health and medical life sciences manufacturing.

For the purposes of these Guidelines, a manufacturer is defined as an entity mainly engaged in the physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances or components into new

products, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics under ANZSIC Division C (Manufacturing). Refer to section [8. \(Definitions\)](#).

2. Loan Details

2.1. Loan Amount and Categories

The Program is delivered through two funding streams and two loan categories.

The funding stream is based on the nature of the proposed project:

Stream 1: Energy Efficiency.

Stream 2: Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing.

The Business Category is based on the applicant's annual revenue and requested loan amount.

The minimum loan amount is **\$300,000** and the maximum loan amount is **\$15 million** subject to individual Business Category criteria.

Applicants should refer to the below table to determine the Business Category most appropriate to their circumstances and eligibility.

Description	Business Category 1	Business Category 2
Annual Revenue	Businesses generating \$10 million or less in annual revenue .	Businesses generating more than \$10 million in annual revenue .
Loan Amount	\$300,000 to \$2 million.	More than \$2 million and up to \$15 million.
Funding Allocation	Up to \$60 million	Up to \$93.3 million
Repayment-Free	No principal or interest repayments are required during the first 12 months of the loan.	No principal or interest repayments are required during the first 12 months of the loan.

The Minister for State Development reserves the right to determine the number of loans approved under each Funding Stream and Business Category, and to reallocate funding between streams or categories at the Minister's discretion, having regard to the Program objectives, available funding and the overall assessment outcomes.

2.2. Loan Terms

Term	Details
Loan Term	The maximum loan term is seven years, inclusive of the repayment-free period and calculated on a 365-day basis.
Interest Rate	3 per cent per annum interest rate for all loans under this Program.
Repayment Free Period	Business Category 1 loans: No principal or interest repayments are required during the first 12 months of the loan. Business Category 2 loans: No principal or interest repayments are required during the first 12 months of the loan.
Repayments	Monthly repayments commence following the repayment-free period.
Early Repayments	Permitted without penalty. Amounts repaid cannot be redrawn.

Repayments

Repayments will be due and payable on the first day of each month. If a payment is due on a day which is not a business day in Western Australia, the due date for that payment is the next business day. Payments must be made by direct debit from an Australian bank account nominated by the Borrower.

Early Repayments

Borrowers may repay all or part of the loan at any time without penalty. Any partial repayment will reduce the outstanding principal balance. Borrowers must notify DEED 5 days in advance of any intended additional repayment.

Amounts repaid cannot be redrawn under any circumstances.

2.3. End of Term Obligations

At the end of the loan term, the Borrowers must repay or refinance (through commercial finance) any remaining loan balance.

Any outstanding balance remaining after the loan term is immediately due and payable unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Minister.

If Borrowers fail to repay or refinance any remaining loan balance at the end of their loan, the Minister may take enforcement action including enforcing security held against the loan.

2.4. Drawdowns

Loan funds will be made available through one or more drawdowns, subject to the achievement of agreed milestones and satisfaction of any conditions specified in the Deed of Loan. Milestones will be linked to the implementation of the approved project or other agreed activities.

Prior to each drawdown, Borrowers must provide evidence satisfactory to the Minister that:

- relevant milestones have been achieved; and
- funds will be used for approved purposes.

Loan drawdowns will be deposited into the Australian bank account nominated in the Deed of Loan.

The Minister may withhold, delay or vary a drawdown where milestone requirements or other obligations under the Deed of Loan have not been met.

2.5. Loan Serviceability

As part of the assessment process, DEED will assess an applicant's capacity to repay the loan and maintain a financially sustainable business throughout the loan term. This assessment will consider the applicant's financial position, cash flow, existing debt obligations and other factors relevant to the protection of public funds and the objectives of the Program.

2.6. Loan Security

Borrowers must provide loan security acceptable to the WA Government to protect the State's financial interests and ensure repayment obligations are met. Loan funds will not be released until all required security documentation has been executed.

The type and level of security required will be determined on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the loan amount, project risk, financial position of the borrower and any existing financing arrangements. Security may include:

- a General Security Agreement (GSA) over the borrower's business assets;
- security over assets funded through the Program, including plant, equipment and other project assets;
- fixed or specific security interests over identified business or project assets;
- a registered mortgage over real property, where appropriate; and
- other forms of security acceptable to the WA Government.

Security interests will be registered on the Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) or other relevant public registers.

The Minister retains sole discretion to determine the type and level of security required for each loan.

2.7. Co-Contribution

Program loans may fund up to 80 per cent of Total Eligible Project Expenditure (see Section 8. Definitions). Applicants must contribute at least 20 per cent of Total Eligible Project Expenditure from other funding sources.

As the minimum loan amount is \$300,000, the minimum eligible expenditure associated with the proposed activity is \$375,000. This comprises a program loan of \$300,000 and a minimum applicant co-contribution of \$75,000.

DEED will require evidence of the applicant's contribution, including bank statements, financial statements, accountant certifications, or other documentation demonstrating the availability and commitment of funds.

For eligible solar PV and battery projects, applicants should identify whether the Australian Government's renewable energy incentives, including small-scale technology certificates or other certificate-based incentives, are expected to apply and whether these have been included in the project budget, supplier quote or energy cost benefit estimate. This includes any relevant changes to the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme, noting that eligible systems may be able to create small-scale technology certificates that reduce upfront project costs.

The applicant contribution must comprise cash resources controlled by the applicant and must not be sourced from related asset secured debt facilities, loans, finance leases, or other government funding programs, unless otherwise approved by the Minister. Applicants must disclose any Commonwealth renewable energy incentives, including certificate-based incentives, included in the project budget or supplier quote.

3. Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

3.1. Eligible Applicants

An applicant may submit one application only under the Program and must select the Funding Stream and Business Category that best aligns with the proposed project and the Program's eligibility requirements. If DEED receives more than one application from the same applicant, DEED will require the applicant to nominate which application will proceed to assessment.

To be eligible to be considered for financial support, Applicants must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Be a legal entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN), an Australian Company Number (ACN) or an Indigenous Corporation Number (ICN).

2. Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST).
3. Be solvent and able to demonstrate the capacity to service and repay the loan.
4. Actively operate a commercial scale manufacturing operation in WA in one of the Target Sectors listed in section 1.4.
5. Have no outstanding debts to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) or unpaid superannuation obligations.
6. Have the legal right to undertake the project at the nominated premises, including any landowner or landlord approvals where the applicant does not own the premises.
7. Hold, and/or demonstrate a credible pathway to obtaining, all licences, permits, approvals and regulatory authorisations required to undertake the proposed activity in accordance with applicable laws and regulatory requirements and in line with Technical Appendix 1.
8. Be able to provide security acceptable to the State in accordance with section 2.6 (Loan Security of these Guidelines).
9. Be capable of entering into a legally binding Deed of Loan with the Minister.
10. Declare whether the applicant has received, applied for, or expects to receive any other government funding, rebate, incentive or financial support for the same project expenditure, including grants, loans, subsidies, rebates or certificate-based incentives. Applicants must disclose any Commonwealth renewable energy incentives included in the project budget, supplier quote or business case.
11. Demonstrate that the project is financially viable and capable of being completed within the proposed timeframe.
12. Submit a complete application via SmartyGrants by the application closing date and time, with all required documentation as outlined in these Guidelines.

Applicants who do not meet all the above criteria will be deemed ineligible for funding under the Program and will not progress to the assessment stage.

3.2. Eligible Expenditure and Activities

Loan funds must be used for activities that directly support the energy efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of the applicant's commercial-scale manufacturing operation in WA.

All funded activities must contribute to the Program's objectives and align with the intended outcomes of the relevant Funding Stream. All activities and expenditure are subject to approval by the Minister.

Funding Stream 1: Energy Efficiency

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

- **Renewable energy generation and storage:** procurement and installation of solar photovoltaic, inverters, and battery energy storage systems (BESS) or other renewable energy systems at the manufacturer's facilities, where the project improves energy cost competitiveness.
- **Energy efficient equipment and electrification:** upgrade, replacement, or electrification of manufacturing equipment that improves energy efficiency and reduces energy cost per unit or operating costs or reduces reliance on higher cost fuels.
- **Energy management and control systems:** installation of energy management systems, monitoring software, metering, controls demand management technologies or other equipment that optimise energy use, reduces energy costs, reduces peak demand on the grid, or enables load-shifting to lower cost or off-peak periods.
- **Building and facility upgrades:** upgrade of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), insulation, refrigeration, thermal performance and/or other building-envelope infrastructure to reduce heating and cooling energy requirements where temperature control is necessary for the manufacturing process.
- **Lower-cost energy use and load shifting** installation of equipment, controls, storage or systems that enable the manufacturing operation to shift energy use to lower-cost or off-peak periods, reduce exposure to peak prices, reduce peak demand from the grid, or make better use of onsite generation.
- **Electrical infrastructure and network connection works:** electrical infrastructure upgrades, network connection works, augmentation, approvals or other enabling works that are directly required to connect, install, commission or operate an eligible Energy Efficiency project, where the works are directly attributable to the project and the applicant has demonstrated knowledge of the relevant approval, connection and regulatory process.
- **Other eligible activities:** other activities approved by the Minister that are consistent with the objectives of the Program, where they are directly related to the funding stream's outcomes.

Funding Stream 2: Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing

Funding Stream 2 supports integrated projects that combine eligible energy efficiency activities under Funding Stream 1 with investment in advanced manufacturing technologies.

To be eligible, projects under the Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing Stream must include both an advanced manufacturing component and an energy efficiency or energy cost competitiveness component. The overall project must demonstrate how these components will be integrated and support improved energy cost competitiveness for the applicant's manufacturing operations. A project that only increases manufacturing capability, capacity or productivity, without delivering an energy efficiency or energy cost competitiveness benefit, will not be eligible under the Program.

A project that increases overall energy consumption will only be considered where the business can demonstrate that, due to the accompanying energy efficiency measures, the energy cost increase is acceptable to the business by the anticipated uplift in revenue or productivity gains.

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

- **Automation, robotics and smart equipment:** introduction or upgrade of automated, robotic or digitally enabled manufacturing equipment to improve productivity, quality, safety or efficiency.
- **Advanced fabrication and additive manufacturing:** new or improved manufacturing methods, including 3D printing, advanced fabrication, and technologies that help produce more complex or higher value products.
- **Precision machining and advanced processing equipment:** advanced machinery or equipment upgrades that improve the accuracy, speed, flexibility, or consistency of manufacturing processes.
- **Digital manufacturing systems:** software, sensors, data platforms, artificial intelligence, simulation, predictive maintenance, monitoring systems or connected technologies that improve manufacturing operations.
- **Project implementation and technical costs:** installation, commissioning, system integration, engineering and technical studies, design, project management, minor enabling works, direct project related cyber security requirements, and external training required to operate, integrate or maintain the approved equipment, technology or system for the length of the loan.
- **Other eligible activities:** other activities approved by the State consistent with the objectives of the Program and directly related to the funding stream's outcomes.

The examples above are indicative only. A project will only be eligible where it meets the eligibility requirements, is directly connected to the applicant's manufacturing operations, and demonstrates an energy cost competitiveness benefit.

Eligible Expenditure Requirements

To be considered eligible, all expenditure must be supported by written quotations from suitably qualified suppliers for all proposed expenditure items and satisfy the following:

- Be a direct and reasonable cost of the proposed project;
- Be directly associated with an operation based in WA;
- Be incurred by the applicant. Expenditure incurred by third parties will not be supported;
- Be incurred during the project period specified in the Deed of Loan;
- Not be incurred before execution of the Deed of Loan;
- Declare whether the applicant has received, applied for, or expects to receive any other government funding, rebate, incentive or financial support for the same project expenditure, including grants, loans, subsidies, rebates or certificate-based incentives; and
- Any project funded through the Program must comply with all applicable Australian Standards, regulatory requirements, safety obligations and manufacturer specifications relevant to its installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.

3.3. Ineligible Applicants and Expenditure

Ineligible Applicants

Applicants must meet all the eligibility criteria in section 3.1 (Eligible Applicants) or will be deemed ineligible.

Specific ineligible entities include:

- Individuals, charities and not-for-profit organisations applying as the sole or lead applicant (excluding Aboriginal businesses).
- Government entities, including local governments, statutory authorities, State and Commonwealth agencies, and government trading enterprises.
- Entities proposing to sell, or actively planning to sell, the business during the Project period.

Ineligible Expenditure

Under the Program, the loan cannot be used for any of the following purposes:

- Activities not directly aligned with Program objectives or the outcomes of the relevant Funding Stream.
- Expenditure relating to operations outside WA.
- Loan refinancing, debt consolidation or repayments of existing loans.
- Dividends, bonuses or other financial distributions to shareholders or related parties.

- Construction or development of new facilities, buildings or plants (excluding approved essential building works or minor upgrades that are fundamental to an eligible Project).
- Business-as-usual operating costs, working capital, internal labour and overhead costs, including salaries, wages, utilities, administration expenses and routine operating costs.
- Maintenance, general improvements, or replacement of equipment or business as usual IT systems/software that are not directly related to the Project.
- Acquisition or leasing of land, buildings or vehicles, including relocation costs.
- Marketing, advertising or promotional activities.
- Energy efficiency activities that do not deliver a measurable improvement in energy performance, including fleet based or road registered vehicles and associated EV charging infrastructure, or activities that extend the life of gas-powered assets without demonstrating a reduction in energy usage and costs.
- Expenditure incurred before execution of the Deed of Loan.
- Second hand equipment.
- General infrastructure expenditure or upgrades not directly attributable to the Project.
- Goods or services procured from related parties will not be eligible unless the transaction is conducted at arm's length, on normal commercial terms, and supported by appropriate evidence.
- Works undertaken without the required licences, permits, approvals or certifications.
- Fines, penalties, legal settlements or costs arising from non-compliance with legal or regulatory requirements.
- Research and development activities.
- Stand-alone training or workforce development initiatives.
- Travel costs.
- Any expenditure prohibited under the Deed of Loan or otherwise determined by the Minister to be inconsistent with the objectives of the Program.

3.4. Assessment Criteria

The same assessment criteria apply to both Funding Streams. Applicants should demonstrate how the Project improves manufacturing competitiveness, productivity, resilience, capability, capacity or participation in Target Sector supply chains.

Eligible applications received by the application closing time will ordinarily be assessed against the following weighted criteria. In assessing applications, the State may also consider value for money, including cost effectiveness and broader industry and economic benefits. The State may have regard to any other matter it considers relevant, including the overall mix of recommended projects and the distribution of projects across metropolitan and regional WA.

Satisfaction of the eligibility criteria or assessment criteria does not guarantee that an application will be approved or that financial support will be provided.

The selection of successful applicants and all decisions relating to the Program are at the absolute discretion of the Minister for State Development.

Assessment Criterion	How it will be assessed	Weighting
1. Energy Cost and Energy Performance Impact	Key question: What is the energy benefit? The assessment will consider whether the Project is likely to reduce or better manage energy costs for the applicant's manufacturing operation. Applicants should explain the current energy issue, the proposed solution, and the expected energy cost competitiveness benefit quantitatively and qualitatively. Assessment will consider whether the Project will: • reduce total energy costs; • reduce energy cost per unit of production; • reduce energy consumption or peak demand; • increase use of renewable or lower-cost energy sources; • reduce reliance on grid electricity, or other high-cost fuels; or • improve energy reliability or resilience.	40%
2. Manufacturing Competitiveness	Key question: How does the Project improve the manufacturing operation? The assessment will consider whether the Project strengthens the applicant's manufacturing operation in Western Australia. Applicants should also demonstrate how the Project improves manufacturing competitiveness, productivity, resilience, capability or participation in Target Sector supply chains. Assessment may consider whether the Project will: • reduce operating cost pressure; • improve production or efficiency; • increase capability or capacity; • improve product quality and consistency; • support higher-value or specialised production • strengthen participation in Target Sector supply chains. • support WA jobs, skills development or manufacturing workforce capability; Assessment may consider the extent to which the Project supports local industry participation, including	35%

	the use of WA-based suppliers, contractors, installers, service providers or technical advisers, where possible and practical.	
3. Project Deliverability and Value for Money	<i>Key question: Can the Project be delivered successfully and are the anticipated outcomes proportionate to the loan sought?</i> The assessment will consider whether the Project is ready, realistic and capable of being delivered. Applicants should show that the Project has a clear scope, realistic budget, credible delivery pathway, appropriate suppliers, identified approvals process and manageable risks. Applicants will also need to demonstrate the ability to repay the loan within the required timeframe. Assessment may consider whether the Project and the proposal outlines the following: • project readiness; • project budget and cost assumptions; • implementation approach; • supplier quotes or procurement evidence; • technical specifications; • Outline of relevant licenses, permits, approvals or network connection requirements and timeframes; • risks and mitigation strategies; • co-contribution; • loan serviceability; and • the anticipated outcomes represent value for money relative to the loan amount sought.	25%

4. How to Apply

All applications must be lodged online through the SmartyGrants portal. The official receipt date and time will be recorded by the system at the point of full submission.

Applicants are responsible for allowing sufficient time for electronic transmission. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications should be complete at the time of submission. Applicants will not be permitted to materially amend, expand, improve or otherwise enhance their application after the application closing date.

DEED can provide high-level guidance on application requirements. DEED cannot provide advice on the merits of an application. Enquiries must be made via email at: industryinvestment@deed.wa.gov.au

4.1. Evidence Required

To be considered for financial assistance, the applicant must provide all the documents listed below in unredacted, PDF format or where indicated in Excel. PNG, JPGs and word documents will not be accepted. Documentation provided should clearly evidence and support any claims made in the Proposal.

Please note, all information submitted will be used to conduct financial, legal, probity and other due diligence as part of assessments. DEED may request additional information at any stage of the assessment process.

- A detailed Proposal prepared in accordance with section 4.2 (Proposal).
- Copies of or evidence demonstrating the required approval pathways and progress towards obtaining, all licences, permits, approvals and regulatory authorisations required for the proposed Project, including network connection requirements, technical approvals and any relevant regulatory approvals where applicable to the project.
- Product specifications, supplier information, certifications, approvals or other evidence reasonably required by DEED to demonstrate compliance with applicable Australian standards, regulatory requirements, and environmental and safety obligations, including installer or supplier information and evidence relevant to the proposed equipment, system or infrastructure. Refer to **Appendix 1: Technical Requirements** at the end of this document.
- Financial statements for FY2023-24, FY2024-25 and FY2025-26, including audited financial statements where available. Where audited financial statements are not available, applicants must provide financial statements supported by a certified accountant, registered tax agent or other suitably qualified independent adviser. Evidence of annual turnover should also be provided to support the selected Funding Stream, Business Category and requested loan amount.
- Evidence of the applicant's capacity to service and repay the loan, including cash flow forecasts and a proposed repayment strategy, together with evidence of the applicant's required co-contribution, including the source and status of funds; provided in a format acceptable to DEED. DEED may request any additional financial, corporate, ownership, security, governance or related-party information reasonably required to complete due diligence activities.
- Details of the applicant's funding structure, including debt, equity and any other financial support arrangements, including any proposed or confirmed funding sources for the applicant's co-contribution.

- Details of any security proposed in support of the loan application, in accordance with section 2.6 (Security).
- Details of any previous or current government funding or financial assistance received by the applicant, including grants, loans, subsidies or other support, and the purpose and value of that assistance.
- Energy evidence, including current energy bills, energy consumption data, demand data, energy cost information and energy cost per unit of production where available. Applicants should also provide evidence supporting forecast energy or cost benefits, such as modelling, metering data, supplier specifications, engineering advice, feasibility studies or other documented assumptions.
- Project cost evidence, including written supplier quotes, cost estimates, procurement evidence, technical specifications or other information supporting the project budget.
- Evidence of Target Sector participation, such as customer contracts, purchase orders, letters of intent, product information, revenue information or other supply chain participation evidence.
- Evidence of local content, where relevant, such as WA-based suppliers, contractors, installers, service providers or technical advisers proposed for the Project, and expected WA jobs, skills development or workforce capability benefits.
- A screenshot of the applicant's ATO online portal demonstrating any outstanding balance as at the date of application.
- A screenshot of the applicant's Superannuation online portal demonstrating any unpaid superannuation obligations.
- Any unsatisfied Statutory Demand Notices, Debt Collection Warning Letters or ATO Director Penalty Notices, supplemented by a letter providing an overview and explanation.
- Details of any material legal proceedings, disputes, liabilities or compliance matters that may impact the applicant's ability to deliver the proposed activities or meet its obligations under the Program.
- Where an applicant does not own its premises, a copy of all approvals required for the proposed activities and evidence of a lease term (including any options to extend) sufficient to support the proposed Project and loan term.
- A copy of the Trust Deed and any amendments, where the applicant is a trust.

4.2. Proposal

Applicants must complete the Project Proposal section of the application form. The information provided will be used to assess the merits of the application, including the extent to which the proposed Project aligns with the Program's objectives and outcomes, and how the requested loan will support its delivery. Applicants should refer to section 3.4 for the Assessment Criteria and their respective weightings.

The Proposal should address the following components:

Proposal Component	Description
Business and Project Overview	Provide an overview of the business and proposed project, including: • description of the applicant's manufacturing operation; • type(s) of products produced and their place in the Target Sector supply chain; • location of the manufacturing operation; • current production capacity and key business activities; • key operational challenges or opportunities the Project seeks to address; • selected Funding Stream and Business Category; • summary of the proposed Project, including the key equipment, infrastructure, systems or technologies to be acquired or installed; • details of current contracts and/or customers; and • Where relevant, confirm whether the Project has capability to participate in demand response, virtual power plant (VPP), load management or other energy market opportunities.
Energy Cost and Energy Performance Impact	Describe the expected energy-related outcomes of the Project, including: • current annual energy consumption (kWh or MWh) over the previous 12 months; • current annual energy costs and, where possible, energy costs as a proportion of operating costs; • current energy cost per unit of production, where available; • baseline energy performance and the issue being addressed;

Proposal Component	Description
	• expected reduction in energy consumption and/or peak demand; • expected reduction in energy costs per unit of production, where available; • expected improvement in energy competitiveness; • any increased use of renewable or lower-cost energy sources; and • source of assumptions used to calculate forecast benefits, such as energy bills, modelling, supplier specifications, metering data or engineering advice. For Stream 1: Energy Efficiency projects, applicants should demonstrate measurable energy benefits from the proposed investment resulting in energy competitiveness improvements. For Stream 2: Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing projects, applicants should demonstrate how the Project delivers measurable energy cost competitiveness benefits while also improving manufacturing capability, productivity or competitiveness.
Manufacturing Competitiveness	Describe how the Project will improve the manufacturing operation, including competitiveness, productivity, capability, capacity and resilience outcomes, including: • expected productivity and efficiency improvements; • impacts on manufacturing capability or capacity; • adoption of new technologies, equipment or processes; • contribution to higher-value products, services or markets (where applicable); • benefits to the Target Sector supply chain; • support for WA jobs, skills development or manufacturing workforce capability; • how energy-related benefits support the manufacturing operation, including reduced operating cost pressure, improved resilience or improved production; and • broader economic, industry, regional or employment benefits. For Stream 1: Energy Efficiency projects, applicants should explain how the energy-related benefits support the manufacturing operation, such as by improving production economics, business resilience, margins, continuity of operations or capacity to invest back into manufacturing operations.

Proposal Component	Description
	For Stream 2: Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing projects, applicants should explain how the advanced manufacturing component improves productivity, capability, capacity, quality, higher value production or supply chain participation, while demonstrating how the overall integrated Project also improves energy cost competitiveness.
Project Delivery	Describe how the Project will be delivered, including: • implementation approach; • project schedule, including key milestones and completion dates; • procurement approach and key suppliers (where known); • sequence of all required approvals, permits or network connection requirements; • status of required approvals or the applicant's plan to obtain them; • key delivery, technical, financial and compliance risks; • proposed mitigation measures; and • major project dependencies. For Stream 1: Energy Efficiency projects, explain how the energy efficiency solution will be installed, commissioned and operated. For Stream 2: Energy Efficiency and Advanced Manufacturing projects, explain how the energy efficiency and advanced manufacturing components will be integrated and delivered together, including any integration, commissioning, operational disruption or workforce training requirements.
Project Budget	Applicants should explain why the loan amount sought is proportionate to the expected energy, manufacturing and business outcomes of the Project, and provide: • breakdown of total project costs; • amount of loan funding sought; • details of applicant co-contribution (including source and status of funds); • evidence supporting project costs, including written quotations where available, and identification of whether key suppliers, contractors, installers or service providers are WA-based; and • proposed repayment strategy or explanation of how the applicant will service the loan.

Proposal Component	Description
	Where an applicant seeks funding for only part of a larger eligible project, the applicant must provide evidence of the total costs required to complete, commission and operate the overall project. This must include any network connection, augmentation, enabling works and associated costs. The applicant must also demonstrate that sufficient funding is available to meet all project costs not covered by the requested loan.
Organisational Capability	Provide: • key personnel responsible for project delivery, including the primary point of contact; • details of proposed external providers (e.g. contractors, consultants, technical advisors); • relevant experience delivering projects of similar scale or complexity; and • internal capability to operate, maintain and sustain the funded equipment, technology or system.

5. Assessment Process

5.1. Assessment Stages

The assessment process will be overseen by a probity advisor to ensure transparency, integrity, and appropriate management of any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest.

Stages	Description
Applications open	Applications submitted via the SmartyGrants portal. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
Assessment Process	The assessment process comprises the following activities: Eligibility screening DEED will review applications against the eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the requirements will not proceed further. Due Diligence and Loan Assessment Eligible applications may be referred to independent advisers to undertake financial, commercial, legal and probity due diligence, as well as technical advice. The assessment will consider the applicant's financial capacity, loan serviceability, proposed security arrangements, compliance history and other matters relevant to the loan and the protection of public funds. Technical Advice Applications may be referred to technical specialists to assess technical feasibility, deliverability, assumptions underpinning projected energy and manufacturing outcomes, approval pathways and other project-specific considerations. Technical advice informs, but does not determine, assessment outcomes. Panel Assessment A panel of officers from WA Government agencies will assess applications in line with the Guidelines and prepare assessment reports for consideration for funding.

	Approval Funding recommendations will be reviewed in line with the Program’s governance arrangements and will be provided for Ministerial approval under the ITD Act. Notification and Announcement Applicants will be notified of outcomes. The WA Government may publicly announce successful projects.
Agreements	Negotiation and Execution of Deed of Loans to enable project commencement.

6. Funding Conditions

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Deed of Loan with the Minister for State Development. The Deed of Loan must be executed within 90 days of the funding offer; if not finalised within this timeframe, the offer may be withdrawn. Agreement to the terms of the financial assistance at the absolute discretion of the Minister. Applicants must demonstrate that all relevant approval and compliance requirements have been identified and that the required pathways are progressing.

The Deed of Loan may require specified approvals, licences, permits, certifications or other compliance requirements to be satisfied as a condition of the relevant drawdown or before the related project activity commences. See **Appendix 1: Technical Requirements**.

Loan funds cannot be released until the Deed of Loan is executed by both parties, any conditions of the funding offer have been met, and all required security arrangements have been agreed, documented, and satisfied.

All payments will be made electronically to the Applicant’s nominated Australian bank account.

6.1. Reporting

Recipients will be required to provide the following reports throughout the loan term in a form approved by DEED, including:

- a Baseline Evaluation Report prior to, or at the commencement of, the Project;
- six monthly Progress Reports during Project delivery;
- annual Performance Reports following Project completion; and
- a Final Report at the completion of the Project and any other requirements specified in the Deed of Loan.

Reports must demonstrate progress towards, and achievement of, the Project outcomes and any milestones agreed with the State.

DEED may require additional information or supporting evidence at any time to verify Project delivery, expenditure, loan compliance, or achievement of outcomes and progress of approval pathways relevant to the project.

Failure to comply with reporting requirements or other obligations under the Deed of Loan may result in the suspension of loan drawdowns, recovery of funds, or other enforcement action, including recall of the Loan.

6.2. Information Management, Privacy and Disclosure

DEED is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA), which provides a general right of access to records held by Western Australian State and Local Government agencies. Additional information on the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* is available on the Department's website.

Information relating to the receipt of State Government financial support may also be required to be tabled in the Western Australian Parliament. This may include recipient names, funding amounts, project titles, and short project descriptions, and could result in further details being released publicly. DEED may also collect and disclose applicant information, which may include personal information, for the purposes of administering, assessing, and evaluating applications. This includes any additional information requested by the State during the assessment process. Information may be provided confidentially to third parties engaged to assist DEED in the assessment process. Recipients may be publicly identified in Ministerial media releases, on the DEED website, and on social media platforms.

All personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (WA) and DEED's [privacy policy](#). Failure to supply required information may result in an application not being assessed.

By submitting an application to this Program, the Applicant understands that DEED will be collecting, storing and disclosing the personal information collected for the purposes outlined above.

6.3. Contact

For enquiries, please contact industryinvestment@deed.wa.gov.au

7. Terms and Conditions

1. By submitting its application, the Applicant agrees to comply with these Terms and Conditions.
2. The Applicant may withdraw their application at any time by email to industryinvestment@deed.wa.gov.au
3. Applicants must supply copies of certificates, permits, or compliance documents as requested during the application process.
4. The Applicant must submit a complete application electronically on or before the application Closing Time, for the State to assess its application.
5. Receipt of the application will be determined by the date and time shown that the complete application is electronically submitted.
6. If an application is incomplete, DEED may but is not obliged to, notify the applicant and request the information. Applicants will be able to resubmit their application with the complete information.
7. Lodgement of electronic files may take time and the applicant must make their own assessment of the time required for full transmission of their application.
8. No State Party will be responsible in any way for any loss, damage or corruption of the electronic copy of the Application.
9. The applicant must inform DEED of any changes in the status or circumstances of the Application between the time of its submission and its assessment, by email to industryinvestment@deed.wa.gov.au or as otherwise specified in the Guidelines.
10. Applicants must keep all dealings with the State, including DEED, confidential. However, disclosures may be made to advisors under obligations of confidence or if required by law.
11. DEED may reject any application at any time and for any reason, including if the application is incomplete, inaccurate or does not satisfy the eligibility criteria.
12. The Minister is not obliged to approve any application or provide any financial assistance under the Program, regardless of whether an applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria or assessment criteria.
13. Successful applicants may be required to execute a Deed of Loan in a form determined by the State. The Minister is under no obligation to enter into a Deed of Loan with any applicant.
14. Borrowers must agree to operational reviews and provide access to any necessary documentation and financial information as part of the application process.

15. The Minister may, but is not obliged to, consider any application submitted under the Program and may assess applications in such manner as the Minister determines in his or her absolute discretion
16. During the assessment process, DEED may review the application and supporting documents provided by the Applicant to determine whether on the face of it they are complete, correct and accurate, but is not obliged to seek clarification or further information. No State Party accepts any responsibility for ensuring that the application and supporting documents provided by the applicant are complete, correct and accurate and no State Party is obliged to request further information.
17. Borrowers acknowledge that the financial assistance provided may be publicly disclosed.
18. The State, including DEED, reserves the right to consult third parties if necessary to assist in assessing an application.
19. The Applicant consents to the reproduction of the application and any information or document submitted in respect of the application for the purposes of administration of the loan and represents that it has obtained all copyright and intellectual property permissions as required to do so (if any).
20. The Applicant or their representative must not directly or indirectly approach or communicate with any officer or employee of the State having any connection or involvement with the Program, with respect to an offer of employment or availability of employment with the applicant or any related entity.
21. The Applicant must not directly or indirectly offer a bribe, gift or inducement to any officer or employee of the State in connection with the Program.
22. The Applicant or their representative must not engage in lobbying activities aimed at influencing the outcome of their application for the Program. Any such lobbying efforts may be deemed as attempting to unduly influence the decision-making process and could result in adverse consequences for the application, including potential rejection or disqualification from consideration.
23. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Western Australia.
24. Each Applicant must comply with all laws in respect of their application and the Program.
25. To the extent permitted by law, the Applicant:
 - a. will have no right of recovery against any State Party in respect of any matter or thing in relation to the Program, including without limitation, any aspect of the assessment of the application or the disclosure of its application and information or documents; and

- b. releases each State Party from all liability for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expense arising in connection with any matter or thing in relation to the Program. Any provision of, or the application of any provision of, these Terms and Conditions which is illegal, void or unenforceable, is ineffective to the extent of the illegality, avoidance or unenforceability.
- 26. If any part of these Terms and Conditions is or becomes illegal, void or unenforceable, that part is or will be severed from these Terms and Conditions so that all parts that are not, or do not become, illegal, void or unenforceable remain in full force and effect and are unaffected by that severance. The State may amend, replace or withdraw the Guidelines, application requirements, assessment criteria or Program at any time.
- 27. No State Party will be liable for any costs incurred in preparing, submitting or participating in the application process.
- 28. Unless expressly stated otherwise, all decisions relating to the Program are at the absolute discretion of the Minister.
- 29. These Guidelines are subject to the ITD Act and regulations and nothing in them limits section 11(4) of the ITD Act.
- 30. By submitting an application, an Applicant acknowledges and agrees that:
 - (a) neither these Terms and Conditions, the Guidelines nor the application process give rise to any process contract between the Applicant and any State Party;
 - (b) no State Party is obliged to consider, assess, accept or approve any application;
 - (c) no State Party makes any representation that any application will proceed to assessment, be shortlisted, be successful or result in financial assistance being provided;
 - (d) the State may suspend, vary, terminate or abandon the Program, assessment process or any application at any time and for any reason; and
 - (e) no binding agreement arises unless and until a Deed of Loan is executed by all parties, and within the timeframes stipulated in the funding offer.

8. Definitions

Term	Definition
Advanced Manufacturing	Manufacturing that uses modern technologies, automation, digitisation, or other advanced production methods to improve productivity, quality, capability, efficiency or competitiveness.
Commercial-scale Manufacturing Facility	A facility located in Western Australia that is actively engaged in manufacturing products for sale into a commercial market and generating revenue from manufacturing activities. The facility must not operate solely for research, development, demonstration, prototype or pilot-scale production purposes.
DEED	The Department of Energy and Economic Diversification.
Energy Cost Competitiveness	Means reducing the impact of energy costs on a manufacturing business's operating costs, margins and investment decisions.
Energy Efficiency	Projects that improve energy cost competitiveness by reducing total energy costs, reducing energy cost per unit of production, reducing exposure to peak or volatile energy prices, reducing reliance on grid electricity or high-cost fuels, increasing use of lower-cost energy sources, improving energy reliability or resilience, or increasing production while lowering energy cost per unit.
Financial Support	Financial support as defined in section 9 of the ITD Act.
Guidelines	These Guidelines as provided for under section 10 of the ITD Act.
ITD Act	<i>Industry and Technology Development Act 1998 (WA)</i> .
Manufacturer	Means an entity mainly engaged in the physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances or components into new products, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics under ANZSIC Division C (Manufacturing).
Minister	Minister for State Development.
Target Sector: Clean Energy Manufacturing	To be considered under the clean energy manufacturing target sector, applicants must operate within one of the following supply chains: batteries; biofuels; carbon capture; utilisation and storage (CCUS); renewable hydrogen, solar; and wind.
Target Sector: Food and Beverage Manufacturing	To be considered under the food and beverage manufacturing target sector, applicants must manufacture, process or transform agricultural, food or beverage inputs into food, beverage or food-grade products. This includes the production of ingredients and intermediate products used in food and beverage manufacturing.
Target Sector: Health and Medical Lifesciences Manufacturing	To be considered under the health and medical life sciences manufacturing target sector, applicants must manufacture products used in the health and medical life sciences sector. This includes digital health, medical devices, pharmaceutical and biotechnology, and precision health.

Term	Definition
Target Sector: Critical Minerals Manufacturing	To be considered under the critical minerals manufacturing target sector, applicants must manufacture products containing critical minerals as a primary output. The critical mineral/s must be included on <i>Australia's Critical Minerals List and Strategic Materials List</i> at the time of applying: <u>Australia's Critical Minerals List and Strategic Materials List Department of Industry Science and Resources</u> .
Target Sector: Defence and Space Industries Manufacturing	To be considered under the defence manufacturing target sector, applicants must manufacture products for defence industries and their supply chains. This includes supporting Australia's defence capabilities, including naval shipbuilding, aerospace components, military vehicles, specialised equipment, and systems. To be considered under the space manufacturing target sector, applicants must manufacture products for space industries and their supply chains.
Total Eligible Project Expenditure	Means the total costs of the Project that DEED determines are eligible for funding under the Program, calculated in accordance with section 3.2 of these Guidelines.
Program	Made in WA Energy Affordability Investment Program
State	The Crown in right of the State of Western Australia acting through the Department and includes any department, agency or instrumentality of the State of Western Australia and any Minister whether body corporate or otherwise.

9. Appendix 1

9.1. Appendix 1 – Technical Requirements

This Appendix forms part of the Program Guidelines and should be read together with the Eligible Expenditure and Activities, Evidence Required, Proposal, Assessment Criteria, Drawdowns, Funding Conditions, Program Application Form, FAQs and example Deed of Loan.

Solar and battery systems equipment requirements

All solar PV and battery systems must utilise components that meet Australian regulatory and industry standard requirements. Applicants must ensure that:

- Solar PV modules (panels), inverters and battery systems are listed on the CEC Approved Product Lists (where applicable).
- Use of non-approved or non-compliant products may result in a project being deemed ineligible for funding.

9.2. Solar and battery systems installer and contractor requirements

All solar PV and battery system installations funded under this program must:

- Be installed and commissioned by an installer accredited by SAA (formerly Clean Energy Council (CEC)).
- Be installed by a contractor holding a valid Western Australian electrical licence.
 - Comply with all relevant Australian Standards, including (but not limited to): AS/NZS 4777.1 (Grid connection of energy systems via inverters -part 1 Installation requirements) and all relevant subsidiary standards.
- Comply with all applicable technical, connection, safety and performance standards and requirements of the relevant electricity network operator, including those resulting from any negotiated outcomes as part of the connection application process.

9.3. Installers and retailers must comply with the following requirements, as applicable

Functionality Requirements and Installation Handbook; Western Power's technical requirements, including:

- Western Power's Basic Embedded Generation Connection Technical Requirements (link [here](#)) and WEM Procedure for Standard Small User Facilities (link [here](#))
- Western Power's Technical Rules – (link [here](#))
- WA Electrical Requirements (WAER; link [here](#))
- WA Service and Installation Requirements (WASIR; link [here](#))

Horizon Power's Technical Requirements for Non-Interconnected Systems (outside of the SWIS and the NWIS) and the North-West Interconnected System (NWIS), including:

- Horizon Power's Basic Embedded Generation Connection Technical Requirements and Low Voltage Embedded Generation Connection Technical Requirements for connections less than 1kV and up to a capacity of 1000kVA – ([link to Renewable Energy Connection - Technical Requirements | Horizon Power](#))
- Horizon Power's Technical Rules for connections greater than 1kV or above a capacity of 1000kVA – ([link to Horizon Power Technical Rules](#))
- Pilbara Harmonised Technical Rules – ([link to Pilbara Networks Rules](#))
- Horizon Power's standards and manuals – ([link to Manuals, standards & metering | Horizon Power](#))
- WA Electrical Requirements (WAER) – ([link to WAER](#))
- WA Service and Installation Requirements (WASIR) – ([link to WASIR](#))
- Additional information for switching to renewables – ([link to Switching to renewables](#))
- Apply to connect or modify a renewable energy system – ([link to Apply to connect or modify a renewable energy system | Horizon Power](#))
- Community Wave is Horizon Power's Virtual Power Plant (VPP), which helps customers get more value out of their solar and battery energy systems. More details, including the process for joining Community Wave, are available at: <https://www.horizonpower.com.au/utilities/campaigns/communitywave/>

Future opportunities (referred here as being Virtual Power Plants (VPP) ready)

Benefits of being VPP ready

While participation in future VPP programs is voluntary for Western Power customers, it may provide a range of benefits, including:

- Access to revenue related to network support service opportunities.
- Increased ability for customer batteries and flexible loads to earn revenues by supporting the electricity system.
- Greater choice and flexibility as new products and services become available.

VPPs can add significant value to WA's energy system and can be in the long-term interests of both the customers participating in the relevant programmes and the wider electricity market.

Minimum requirements for VPP readiness

To maximise future participation opportunities, customers are encouraged to consider DER equipment that:

- Complies with applicable Australian Standards.
- Supports remote communications and control functionality.
- Is capable of integration with aggregation platforms.
- Supports modern industry communication standards if available.

Additional future proofing considerations

Customers seeking to maximise future VPP participation opportunities should consider:

- Battery systems with remote monitoring and dispatch capability.
- Equipment that can receive firmware updates to support the provision of future services.
- Installations designed to support integration with home energy management systems, electric vehicles and other controllable devices as these services mature.

Solar and battery inverters that support Common Smart Inverter Profile (CSIP-AUS) or equivalent future interoperability standards would achieve the above participation requirements.

9.4. Other energy efficiency project requirements

For projects involving energy efficiency improvements, electrification, energy management systems, monitoring technologies, building upgrades, or manufacturing equipment upgrades, applicants must ensure that:

- Equipment, systems and infrastructure are supplied and installed by appropriately qualified and experienced providers, where applicable;
- Installation and associated works comply with relevant Australian standards, building codes, electrical, gas, communications and data requirements, where applicable;
- Equipment, systems and infrastructure are fit-for-purpose and compatible with existing manufacturing operations and site infrastructure;
- Any software, monitoring systems, analytics platforms or demand management technologies can deliver the intended operational and energy performance outcomes;
- Building upgrades, including insulation and thermal performance improvements, are designed and installed to support manufacturing processes and reduce energy consumption where temperature control is required; and
- Upgraded or replacement equipment, including electrified technologies, is intended to improve energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and/or peak demand, or support lower emissions manufacturing operations.

Staged technical evidence requirements

- The Program uses a staged approach to technical evidence. Requirements and timing applicable to each project will be determined through assessment, negotiation and the Deed of Loan.
- Technical evidence requirements may vary between projects depending on size, complexity, technology type, network requirements, project risk and milestone structure.
- At application stage, applicants should demonstrate that the project is technically credible, has a realistic pathway to required approvals, connection, installation and commissioning, and supports the proposed energy cost competitiveness outcomes.
- At execution of the Deed of Loan, or as a condition of drawdown as specified in the Deed of Loan, applicants may be required to demonstrate that relevant approval, connection, engineering and compliance processes have commenced and are progressing appropriately.
- Before commissioning, project completion, final drawdown or another milestone specified in the Deed of Loan, applicants will be required to provide evidence that required approvals and compliance requirements have been obtained or satisfied.

Further information

- Please note, DEED is not the technical or safety regulator, network operator, certifier or approval body for any electrical works.
- DEED relies on approvals, certifications and compliance documents issued by the relevant network operator or the relevant authorities. Responsibility for technical

compliance remains with the applicant, including any relevant qualified professionals engaged by the applicant.