



## Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre: Overview

This information should be read before completing an expression of interest along with the other documentation available on the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (FFW CRC) website at <https://fightfoodwastecrc.com.au/project/sme/>

This fund aims to:

- Test new and novel processing, packaging and agricultural technologies to REDUCE food and agricultural waste.
- Identify valuable products in food and agricultural waste streams and TRANSFORM them into new commercial opportunities.
- ENGAGE experts from the FFW CRC industry and research participants to identify technology opportunities and processes to enhance food and agricultural waste reduction.

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>The Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre ('the Fund') is an industry-led initiative from the FFW CRC and comprises a \$200K grant program to assist Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) invest in R&amp;D solutions to their food waste challenges. This unique program will recommend the best research solutions to SME applicants and offer matching cash funds to a maximum of \$50K, as well as provide access to Australia's best food waste researchers and the international connections of the FFW CRC, and industry and research participants.</p>
<p><b>Application Steps</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicant submits the <b>SME Expression of Interest</b> (EOI) detailing the problem and why it needs to be solved</li> <li>2. FFW CRC researcher participants are invited to offer solutions by completing the <b>Researcher Response to SME Food Waste Challenge</b></li> <li>3. Expressions of interest and researcher responses are assessed by the Fund Selection Panel who determine whether the application is feasible and should proceed to step 4.</li> <li>4. The applicant is invited to select from researcher responses received (having received a recommendation from the Fund Selection Panel).</li> <li>5. Finally, a <b>Research Project Agreement</b> is negotiated and entered between the successful applicant, research organisation and FFW CRC.</li> </ol> <p><i>The Fund Coordinator will have an active role in managing all steps described above.</i></p>
<p><b>Eligibility</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Only Australian Registered SMEs can apply. SME is defined as a business with less than 200 employees and annual turnover less than \$20 million.</li> <li>▪ SMEs must have an ABN / ACN registered longer than 12 months.</li> <li>▪ Only areas related to agri-food waste management will be considered as appropriate focus areas for grant and research support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grant Details</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants up to a maximum of \$50K may be requested</li> <li>▪ Applicant must provide cash funding <math>\geq</math> the grant funding requested.</li> <li>▪ Applicant cash contributions are to be made to FFW CRC, to be pooled with the grant funds and paid to the selected research organisation. Applicant cash contribution will be payable upon execution of the research project agreement.</li> <li>▪ Grant funds cannot be used for the purchase of capital items but may be used for rental/lease of equipment for R&amp;D purposes.</li> <li>▪ Grant funds may be used for any other reasonable purposes including salaries, consumables, travel and training.</li> </ul>



<b>Dates &amp; Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Fund will be open for submissions from 5 August 2019 and will remain open until funds are fully allocated (\$200K total) or at any such earlier time as determined by FFW CRC.</li> <li>▪ Projects are to be no more than 12 months in duration.</li> </ul>
<b>Reporting</b>	<p>Successful applicants will be required to submit a final report (confidential) and a one-page case study (for public release), in a format to be prescribed by FFW CRC within 4-weeks of the conclusion of the project. The final report will include details of project learnings and outcomes.</p> <p>Successful applicants will also be required to submit an annual report on the anniversary of project completion, in a format to be prescribed by FFW CRC, for up to four years post project completion. This will be in order to monitor progress of commercialisation and market uptake/impacts.</p>
<b>Intellectual property (IP)</b>	<p>Project IP generated by Projects will be owned by the successful applicant. Successful applicants will have 3 years from the date of signing a project agreement to commercialise the project IP otherwise it will be assigned to Food Innovation Australia Ltd (FIAL) who may then deal with that IP at their absolute discretion.</p> <p>Pre-existing material/Background IP contributed by the successful applicant will continue to be owned and controlled by the successful applicant.</p> <p>If the applicant is willing, FIAL would like permission to use and share the IP for the benefit of the industry. However, FIAL accepts that it may be appropriate, for commercial reasons, that the applicant does not grant FIAL IP permissions.</p>
<b>Selection Process</b>	<p>A Selection Panel of four experienced professionals, representing FFW CRC, FIAL and State of Queensland acting through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), will convene electronically and consider applications as they are submitted. The Selection Panel, at its absolute discretion, will determine which applications are successful.</p>

**Contacts**

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