



Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre

The challenge

Australia has two million-plus small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that contribute over 50% of Australia's GDP. SMEs have many challenges given their size, one of which is tackling food waste. This program provides access to funding, skills and expertise to find the best food waste solutions for SMEs to assist in their efficiency and sustainability.

“ These grants offer matching cash funds to a maximum of \$50k, as well as access to Australia's best food waste researchers and the international connections of the Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre. ”

Our plan

The aim of the national Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre is to provide dollar-for-dollar support to successful applicants to use researchers in the Fight Food Waste CRC to conduct short-term research that will find a solution to their agri-food waste problems.

The Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre aims to:

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



FIGHT FOOD WASTE
Cooperative Research Centre
REDUCE - TRANSFORM - ENGAGE



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Program

Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre

Example

You are Onions Pty Ltd, an agri-food SME producer and food packager from regional Australia who has been growing onions for over 25 years. Over 10 percent of your crop goes to waste because it does not make the current buyer standard and they have been graded out at the packhouse. You estimate that between 250 and 1000 mt of onions are wasted annually from your farm alone.

You go to the Fight Food Waste CRC website to read about the Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre and their \$1:\$1 cash offer to a maximum of \$50k for 12-month projects. There is a selection panel that assesses the project viability and links the food waste challenges with national and international leaders in food waste research.

In completing your Expression of Interest, you detail your agri-food waste problem and why it needs to be solved.

The Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre Coordinator will review the application, ask a few questions, and provide any suggestions in order to best outline the food waste challenge. The 10 Fight Food Waste CRC research institutions across Australia are given the opportunity to submit costed solutions to this agri-food waste challenge. The Selection Panel will determine the viability of the research solutions presented and if Onions Pty Ltd will be offered grant funding.

If you are offered funding, you will be able to discuss the recommendations of the Selection Panel with the Fight Food Waste SME Solutions Centre Coordinator and decide whether to accept, decline or vary the research solutions.

In accepting the solution 'Converting onions into stabilised prebiotic materials', you will finalise the contract through the FFW CRC's Chief Financial Officer and the successful research institution.

Towards the end of your project, the researchers will deliver the necessary findings and training that will turn the solutions into a new business line. You will also receive a confidential report on how the solution will work as well as a one page case study to share the learning from this project.

The intellectual property developed during the project belongs to you and because you successfully commercialised the new business line within two years of completion of the project, and provided annual reports to the Fight Food Waste CRC, you met all your funding obligations and made a real impact on food waste reduction.

Timeline

August 2019 - January 2021

Project leader

Ross Naidoo

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Partners



FIAL
FOOD INNOVATION AUSTRALIA LIMITED



**Queensland
Government**

Fight Food Waste CRC Research Institutions



Primary Industries
and Regions SA



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE



university
AUSTRALIA



Curtin University



**Queensland
Government**



**RMIT
UNIVERSITY**



SWINBURNE
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SWINBURNE
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
QUEENSLAND



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www.fightfoodwastecrc.com.au/sme