

## Purpose

This document provides guidance to explorers to lodge an Invitation to Apply (application form) for round four of the New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling grants program.

Applications are encouraged from a wide range of active NSW exploration companies holding an appropriate title in NSW.

You must be a legal entity to be eligible for funding.

## Background

The New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling grants program (the program), managed by Department of Regional NSW (the Department) is part of a NSW Government initiative to drive mining investment in NSW.

The program is intended to support the long-term sustainability of the NSW resources sector by encouraging:

- mineral exploration and discovery, particularly in greenfield areas in the state
- exploration drilling that will test new geological ideas and models, and/or drilling in regions with significant cover
- stronger relationships between government and industry.

The program will provide grants to successful applicants for exploration drilling programs (Group 1, 6 and 10 minerals only) which demonstrate strong prospectivity, sound financial planning and a proven technical base.

## The application

Applications must be completed via the [Invitation to Apply Grant Application Form](#). The Application requires details of the applicant, the project and the drilling plan, and completion of the technical assessment criteria.

Explorers may make multiple applications for funding through the Program, based on different drilling projects in your exploration programs. Prospects within the same exploration licence or that are clearly for the same target may be considered as single projects and will be considered as one project for grant purposes.

## Timetable

The timetable for application and assessment is shown below. Dates are subject to change. However, the opening and closing dates for applications and the final date for submission of invoices will not change.

1 July 2021	Invitation to Apply open
31 August 2021	Applications close
October 2021	Notification and announcement of successful applicants
31 December 2022	Final date for submission of invoices

## Funding

The NSW Government will allocate \$2.2 million in round four of the Cooperative Drilling Program. The Program provides co-funding of 50 per cent of per metre drilling costs.

The maximum grant to any individual project is \$200,000. Single applicants may submit separate applications for multiple projects.

## Claimable activity

The proposed drilling program for the target described in the application process is the only activities eligible for grant funding.

The Department recognises that exploration is a dynamic and iterative process, so variations to drill hole collar locations, orientations and target depths will be permitted, subject to written approval from the Department.

Funding is only for direct costs of drill metre-rates as charged by the drilling contractor as described in drilling invoices, but excluding indirect costs such as mobilisation, travel, assays, drilling consumables and personnel.

Drilling cost estimates and the claims from successful applicants must be GST exclusive.

Payments to the successful applicants will be made only after drilling is completed and compulsory reporting is submitted to the Department, as described in the Funding Deed. Successful applicant must submit a correctly rendered invoice to the Department, which will be paid on 30 day terms.

## The assessment panel

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising:

- three departmental representatives
- a minimum of two independent geoscientists appointed through an open expression of interest process
- a secretariat (the Project Manager)

Departmental approval of panel preferred applicants will be required.

The assessment process will be overseen by an independent probity advisor.

Panel members will exclude themselves from assessment of any applications which create a conflict of interest, either actual or perceived.

## The assessment

Assessment will be carried out using a weighted assessment schedule using the technical assessment criteria in the [Application Form](#).

Each of the four criteria has a different weighting (stated as a percentage). Each criterion will be scored out of 10. The score given for each criterion will be multiplied by the weighting and ranked.

You must address the criteria specifically. All decisions made by the Department will be final.

## Successful applicants

Successful applicants will be informed by email and must sign a Funding Deed with the Department. All Funding Deeds must be completed within eight weeks of receipt, otherwise the funds may be offered to other projects.

Quarterly project logistical reporting is described in the Funding Deed, and a template is included in the deed. Reporting requirements in the Funding Deed must be completed before grant funds will be paid.

Selected details of the successful applicant's projects (including the prospect location and description, company name and the amount of funding awarded) may be published on the Department's website as part of legislative reporting obligations. Prior to publication, the Department will consult applicants about information that may be confidential.

The NSW Government requires you to have full, appropriate insurance cover, as described in the Application Form before commencing your Cooperative Drilling project.

## Checklist for applicants

Item	Completed
Completed the Application form	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attached organisation type information if required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attached map and project information (if not included on application)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attached Public Liability Insurance, Workers Compensation and Comprehensive Motor Vehicle certificates	<input type="checkbox"/>
Declaration signed on the Application Form	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Fees

There are no fees for the submission or assessment of the application.

## How to submit your application form

Completed grant application forms must be received before **5pm AEST on 31 August 2021**.

Email: [cooperative.drilling@geoscience.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cooperative.drilling@geoscience.nsw.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of receipt of applications will be made by email.

## More information

Contact: Michael Hallett, Executive Officer, Geological Survey of NSW.

Email: [cooperative.drilling@geoscience.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cooperative.drilling@geoscience.nsw.gov.au)

Phone: +61 2 4063 6718

## Note

- any reference to the 'Department' in this form, refers to **Regional NSW**

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW. ABN: 19 948 325 463

This publication is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material providing that the wording is reproduced exactly, the source is acknowledged, and the copyright, update address and disclaimer notice are retained.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2021). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.

### Privacy statement

This information is collected by the Department for the purposes of assessing this application.

Except for purposes required by law, your personal information will not be disclosed to third parties unless the disclosure is directly related to the purpose for which the information was collected, and the Department has no reason to believe you would object to the disclosure, or you are reasonably likely to have been aware, or have been made aware, that information of that kind is usually disclosed to that other person or body, or the Department believes on reasonable grounds that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the life or health of the individual concerned or another person.

You may apply to the Department to access and correct any personal information the Department holds about you if that information is inaccurate, incomplete, not relevant or out of date.