

New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling Round Four Assessment Panel - Expressions of Interest invited

On 3 May 2021, the NSW Government announced a further \$2.2 million in grants for exploration projects across the state as part of the fourth round of the New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling grants program.

Grants will be available to reimburse successful explorers for 50 per cent of per metre drilling costs, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

An assessment panel will be established to assess grant applications for eligibility and merit and the Department of Regional NSW is now seeking expressions of interest from appropriately qualified geologists to be involved.

The panel will be comprised of six members, with three independent members of the public and three departmental representatives.

The assessment process

The New Frontiers Cooperative Drilling assessment panel will independently assess applications for grants submitted by exploration companies.

Cooperative Drilling round three received 63 applications and a similar response is expected for round four. Assessment of the applications is expected to take each assessment panel member approximately one to two weeks.

The role of the assessment panel is not to discuss issues relating to industry regulation, or other Departmental activities, nor is it a decision-making body.

The assessments will be managed through a rigorous probity process, supervised by a Probity Advisor.

Time commitment:

Prior to expressing interest, it is important to ensure you have adequate capacity to undertake the duties of an independent panel member.

Any independent panel member must be available (with reasonable notice) from the date of appointment until the 26 November 2021.

Qualifications:

Each panel member must possess, at a minimum:

- Degree qualification in a Geology, Earth Sciences, Engineering or similar discipline
- 10 years' experience in the mineral exploration industry

Remuneration

Independent panel members will be offered the same level of remuneration. The remuneration will be based on a set fee for each application assessed and attendance at meetings of the Assessment Panel. Independent panel members will be paid \$340 (ex. GST) to assess each

application, using a rate of \$170/hr (ex GST) and a notional time of two hours to assess each application. The hourly rate will be used for attendance at meetings required during the appointment.

Applying to sit on the panel

To express interest to be an Independent Member for the Assessment Panel please provide your contact details and a summary of your relevant experience via email to:

cooperative.drilling@geoscience.nsw.gov.au

Due By:

Expression of interest for independent panel members closes at **5pm (AEST) 30 July 2021**.

More information

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

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