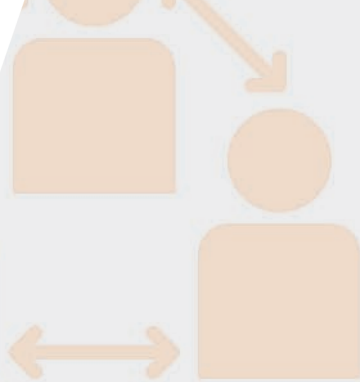
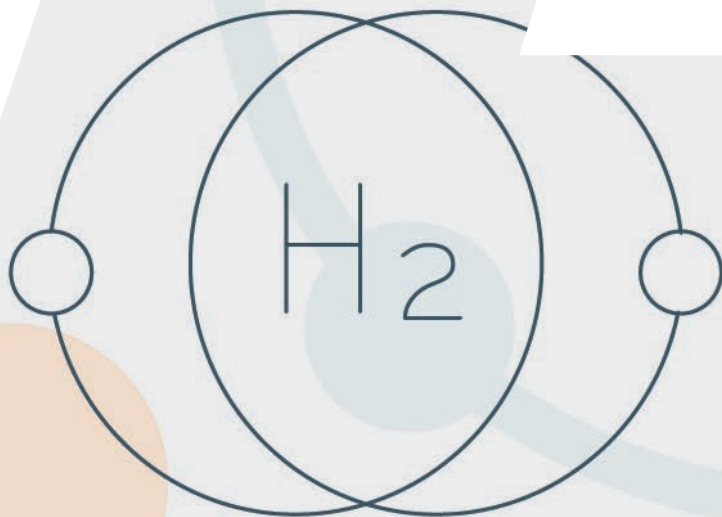


ARENA

# RENEWABLE HYDROGEN DEPLOYMENT FUNDING ROUND FAQ

15 APRIL 2020

UPDATED: 19 MAY 2020



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# 1.0 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

*This document contains frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round (referred to as the Funding Round). ARENA will update this FAQ list as the Funding Round progresses.*

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## WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS?

ARENA uses a two-stage assessment process (Expression of Interest and Full Application). Further details on the assessment process and timetable are set out in the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round - [Funding Announcement](#) and [ARENA Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#).

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## HOW CAN I APPLY?

Expressions of Interest must be submitted using ARENA's Grants Management System, ARENANet. From 15 April 2020, Applicants can commence an online Expression of Interest application by going to [ARENANet](#), via ARENA's website and selecting the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round. Each section of the application contains instructions on the information required and any word limits that may apply. Applicants can save their application at any time before submitting to ARENA before 5.00 pm (AEST) Tuesday 26 May 2020.

Only Applicants successful at the Expression of Interest stage will be invited to submit a Full Application.

Please refer to the Funding Announcement for further guidance on information requirements at each stage.

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## CAN AN ORGANISATION OR INDIVIDUAL SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION OR BE A MEMBER OF MORE THAN ONE PROJECT TEAM?

Yes, there is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an individual or organisation. However, if you or an organisation intend to be part of more than one application you must be able to justify that you will have, or be able to allocate, sufficient time and resources to all of the projects should they be successful. Each application must meet the requirements set out in the [Funding Announcement](#) and the [ARENA Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#).

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## WILL YOU ACCEPT A REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO THE APPLICATION DUE DATE?

Any requests for extension to the due date (either Expression of Interest or Full Application) should be made via email to [hydrogen@arena.gov.au](mailto:hydrogen@arena.gov.au). Your request should specify the reasons why an extension is required and a proposed extension date. ARENA retains the right to not accept an Expression of Interest or a Full Application submitted after the respective due dates. If an extension of time is granted, ARENA reserves the right to extend the timeframe for all Applicants.

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## WILL ARENA CONSIDER EXTENDING THE DUE DATES OF THE FUNDING ROUND DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SITUATION?

ARENA expects Applicants to comply with the required timeframes, as set out in the Funding Announcement. ARENA will however monitor the COVID-19 situation as the Funding Round progresses. If ARENA, at its discretion considers it beneficial to achieving the objectives of the Funding Round, ARENA may extend or change the timetable for the Funding Round. Any such extension will apply to all Applicants and will be notified on the [Funding Round webpage](#).

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## HOW DO I ASK QUESTIONS IN RELATION TO THE FUNDING ROUND? CAN ARENA ASSIST ME WITH MY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION?

Applicants can submit questions relating to the Funding Round by emailing [hydrogen@arena.gov.au](mailto:hydrogen@arena.gov.au). Questions should be of clarificatory nature only. ARENA is unable to work with applicants during the Expression of Interest stage of the Funding Round. Any questions regarding the assessment process, information requirements and timetable may be submitted via the email to [hydrogen@arena.gov.au](mailto:hydrogen@arena.gov.au). ARENA reserves the right to publish any such questions and answers in this FAQ document.

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## WHY IS THIS ROUND ONLY SUPPORTING DEPLOYMENT? WHY NOT FEASIBILITY STUDIES? OR SMALLER PROJECTS (I.E. < 5 MW)?

The focus of the Funding Round is on deployment at scale (i.e. single site deployments of a minimum 5MW, with a preference for 10 MW and above). ARENA may consider projects or activities that don't align with the objectives of the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round as part of ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program, which is continuously open. If you would like to discuss a project for funding under ARENA's Advancing Renewables Program please email [proposals@arena.gov.au](mailto:proposals@arena.gov.au).

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## IF I DON'T MEET THE ROUND OBJECTIVES, CAN I APPLY UNDER THE ADVANCING RENEWABLES PROGRAM?

Yes, Accelerating Hydrogen is an ARENA investment priority. Please contact ARENA via [proposals@arena.gov.au](mailto:proposals@arena.gov.au) to discuss further. Please read the [ARENA Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) (Guidelines) to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements. Please note that only applications that meet the requirements in the Guidelines and are assessed as high merit against the merit criteria will be considered for funding.

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## IF I CAN'T MEET YOUR DEADLINES CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDING OUTSIDE OF THE ROUND?

Yes, the Advancing Renewables Program is continuously open; however, ARENA takes a portfolio approach to funding as stipulated in our ARP Guidelines (Clauses 4.23 and 4.24). This may result in ARENA not funding an otherwise meritorious project if the objectives or outcomes of the project are similar to a project ARENA has already funded.

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## HOW DO YOU DEFINE RENEWABLE HYDROGEN?

For projects funded by ARENA as part of the Funding Round, the hydrogen production must be 100 per cent powered by either:

- > on-site renewable electricity generation
- > retirement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or equivalent certificates
- > contracted electricity derived from a renewable Power Purchase Agreement (PPA); or
- > a combination of the above.

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## CAN ARENA PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAIL REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES AND HOW SUCH CERTIFICATES WILL NEED TO BE TREATED?

As outlined in the Renewable Hydrogen Production Funding Round - Funding Announcement hydrogen production must be 100 per cent powered by either:

- > on-site renewable electricity generation
- > retirement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or equivalent certificates

- > contracted electricity derived from a renewable Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)
- > or a combination of the above.

Where an Applicant is proposing to use contracted electricity derived from a renewable PPA, the Applicant must voluntarily surrender/retire the associated certificates. That is, such certificates cannot be applied for other purposes not associated with the Project (for example, extinguishing a certificate liability or on-selling the certificates). This is also the case for any certificates generated by on-site renewable electricity generation.

An arrangement to confirm such surrender/retirement will be outlined in any ARENA Funding Agreement.

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## DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR THE HYDROGEN END-USE?

No. The Funding Round requires Applicants to have a defined and viable commercial use (or offtake) for the hydrogen. ARENA does not specify the end-use.

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## DO YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR THE TYPE OF ELECTROLYSER (I.E. PEM VS ALKALINE)?

No. ARENA has no preference for the type of electrolyser used for the project. Applicants are required to ensure that all requirements of the Funding Announcement are addressed in the Expression of Interest submission.

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## IS THERE ANY LIMIT ON OVERSEAS EXPENDITURE?

Any ARENA-funded expenditure incurred by you outside of Australia, other than for equipment or materials, must be limited to no more than 10 per cent of the total amount of ARENA funds, except in exceptional circumstances that must be justified by you and agreed to in writing by ARENA before submission of a Proposal. Please refer to the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) for further details.

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## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING UNDER THE RENEWABLE HYDROGEN DEPLOYMENT FUNDING ROUND?

Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria outlined in section 2.2 and 2.10 of the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) for all details regarding eligibility. Please also read the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round - [Funding Announcement](#) to ensure your project fits the Scope of Activity as defined in the Funding Announcement.

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## HOW WILL ARENA ASSESS APPLICATIONS?

ARENA will score applications against the Merit Criteria outlined in the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) and the [Funding Announcement](#) and rank applications based on their score. ARENA may engage members of the ARENA Advisory Panel to undertake this process.

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## DOES THE PROJECT NEED TO BE BASED IN AUSTRALIA?

Yes. The project needs to primarily take place in Australia and there are limits on overseas eligible expenditure. Please refer to Eligibility Criteria C in the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#).

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## HOW MANY PROJECTS DOES ARENA EXPECT TO SUPPORT THROUGH THE FUNDING ROUND?

ARENA intends to provide grant funding for two (2) or more projects as part of the Funding Round, subject to these projects being of high merit.

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## WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FUNDING I CAN APPLY FOR?

ARENA has allocated \$70 million (Total Funding Allocation) for the Funding Round. ARENA intends to provide grant funding for at least two projects as part of the Funding Round.

Applicants should clearly articulate the quantum and justification of the ARENA grant ask. ARENA will assess the cost competitiveness of the project against other applications received in accordance with Merit Criteria A as set out in the Funding Announcement.

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## HOW SHOULD APPLICANTS DEFINE TOTAL PROJECT COSTS?

Applicants should clearly outline all costs associated with delivering their project. This should include the electrolyser, balance of plant and any other associated project-related costs.

ARENA funding is intended to support the electrolyser and balance of plant components of the project. The components of both the electrolyser and balance of plant cost should be clearly articulated in a Proposal. ARENA will assess the cost competitiveness of the project against other applications received in accordance with Merit Criteria A as set out in the Funding Announcement.

Applicants should review Appendix B of the ARENA [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) to ensure they comply with all eligible expenditure requirements.

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## HOW DOES ARENA CONSIDER THE INCLUSION OF OTHER GRANT FUNDING OR CONCESSIONAL FUNDING?

ARENA will consider the total amount of concessional funding that an Applicant has applied or received for the project in assessing projects. This includes both ARENA funding and other grant funding a project may receive from State or Commonwealth Government initiatives. ARENA will also assess any project arrangements that may not be considered to be on commercial or arms length terms (such as land supply, electricity supply and water supply) in its consideration of concessional funding. ARENA retains discretion on any classification adopted.

Consideration of concessional funding specifically excludes finance that may be obtained from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) or the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF).

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## IS ARENA ENGAGING WITH THE CLEAN ENERGY FINANCE CORPORATION (CEFC) ON ITS FUNDING FOR HYDROGEN SUPPORT AT ALL?

ARENA encourages projects to engage with the CEFC to discuss hydrogen funding opportunities.

The CEFC will be offering concessional finance alongside a potential ARENA grant to successful projects. The type of CEFC financing will be dependent on each individual project and may be in the form of equity, concessional debt or subordinated debt funding. Any equity funding will need to be structured to ensure CEFC consolidation requirements are not triggered (i.e. CEFC equity ownership less than 50%) and will likely need to be on *pari passu* terms with other equity participants to appropriately share risks. Appropriate credit support and financial covenants will apply as relevant. If you have any further questions regarding CEFC financing, please contact Rupert Maloney, Head of Hydrogen at CEFC at [rupert.maloney@cefc.com.au](mailto:rupert.maloney@cefc.com.au) or on (07) 3188 1646.

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## HOW WILL KNOWLEDGE BE SHARED FROM THE FUNDING ROUND?

ARENA intends to publish aggregated and non-identifiable data from the applications received at the conclusion of the Expression of Interest and Full Application stages of the Round in order to provide a high level of transparency to stakeholders on the range of applications received around key data points.

ARENA has also provided a template [Knowledge Sharing Plan](#) for the Funding Round. ARENA expects Applicants to have reviewed and to agree to comply with the plan. Any proposed non-compliance with the proposed Knowledge Sharing Plan needs to be identified in the application. ARENA will be unlikely to accept subsequent proposed amendments that have not been raised in the Applicant's Expression of Interest. The application should include any additional knowledge sharing deliverables proposed.

ARENA may update the proposed Knowledge Sharing Plan at the Full Application stage based on Applicants responses from Expression of Interest applications.

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## ARE YOU TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WATER USAGE IN YOUR DECISION MAKING?

Yes. Details on water usage, source of water, cost of water and securing relevant approvals will be a key Expression of Interest and Full Application information requirement. Please refer to the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round - [Funding Announcement](#) for more details.

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## CAN I APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE RENEWABLE HYDROGEN DEPLOYMENT FUNDING ROUND IF MY PROJECT PRODUCES HYDROGEN USING AN ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY OTHER THAN ELECTROLYSIS?

No. The Hydrogen Funding Round will only consider projects that involve the deployment of an electrolyser, as defined in the Scope of Activity in the Funding Announcement. However, alternative technologies for the production of renewable hydrogen may be eligible for ARENA funding under the Advancing Renewables Program. Please read the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements. If you are eligible, contact ARENA via [proposals@arena.gov.au](mailto:proposals@arena.gov.au) to discuss further.

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## WILL ARENA ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT OF SMALL-SCALE TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATES (STCS) AS PART OF THE RENEWABLE HYDROGEN DEPLOYMENT FUNDING ROUND?

As outlined in the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round - [Funding Announcement](#), hydrogen production must be 100 per cent powered by either:

- > on-site renewable electricity generation
- > retirement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or equivalent certificates
- > contracted electricity derived from a renewable Power Purchase Agreements (PPA);
- > or a combination of the above.

Where an Applicant is proposing to use contracted electricity derived from a renewable PPA, the Applicant must voluntarily surrender/retire the associated certificates. That is, such certificates cannot be applied for other purposes not associated with the Project (for example, extinguishing a certificate liability or on-selling the certificates). This is also the case for any certificates generated by on-site renewable electricity generation.

ARENA will only accept Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs) to the extent that they have not been utilised or applied against any other target or application. Applicants are required to consult with the Clean Energy Regulator in the event that they wish to utilise STCs as their method and include the outcome of such correspondence in their Application.



An arrangement to confirm such surrender/retirement will be outlined in any ARENA Funding Agreement.

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### **IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE HYDROGEN USE CASES BEING CONSIDERED, IS IT PREFERABLE TO SUBMIT A SINGLE APPLICATION FOR ALL OPTIONS OR MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS?**

Applicant's should put forward an application for a project that aligns with the requirements of the [Funding Announcement](#). This should include all proposed offtake arrangements relating to the project within that proposal. The Applicant is required to outline the level of firmness for such offtake agreements, including whether it is binding or agreed. Appendix A of the Hydrogen Funding Round Announcement indicates that:

*At the Expression of Interest stage, Applicants must provide MOUs with a third party for offtake or hydrogen use. The MOU should specify timing, volume, price and any specific conditions. In the case of self-consumption, Applicants should provide comprehensive detail on the use case for the hydrogen.*

To the extent you are considering multiple hydrogen projects (i.e. in different locations, with different partners and end uses), this should be submitted separately. There is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an individual or organisation. However, if you or another organisation intend to be part of more than one application you must be able to justify that you will have, or will be able to allocate, sufficient time and resources to all the projects should they be successful.

---

### **HOW DO YOU DEFINE BALANCE OF PLANT COSTS?**

Applicants are required to clearly outline and articulate the components of both the electrolyser and balance of plant costs. Balance of plant costs should include all equipment and auxiliary systems required to produce hydrogen at the required pressure as stipulated in the offtake agreement or as required for use within an existing process. Balance of plant should not include the electrolyser itself. Applicants are required to specify what equipment has been included and excluded in calculating the balance of plant costs.

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### **WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ELECTROLYSER COSTS?**

Electrolyser plant costs should include only costs associated with the electrolyser hardware. Any other associated plant to deliver the hydrogen at the required pressure for offtake or for the defined end use should be included within the balance of plant costs.

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### **WHAT IS THE PREFERRED BASIS FOR EXPRESSING THE ELECTROLYSER CAPACITY?**

As defined in the Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding Round - [Funding Announcement](#), Electrolyser Capacity is the electrolyser stack capacity warranted by the equipment provider at the Commissioning Date. This should be specified as direct current (DC) unless otherwise specified by the equipment supplier.

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### **IF A PROJECT INCLUDES MULTIPLE CONSORTIUM MEMBERS DOES EACH CONSORTIUM MEMBER NEED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?**

No, only one Applicant should submit an application for a single project. In general, the lead or key organisation would generally be expected to be the Applicant. Any application should note all key project partners including respective roles, responsibilities, capability (including previous experience), capacity and any financial contributions (cash vs in-kind). Relevant material to support this position should be provided. Any proposed governance frameworks of the project consortium should also be noted.

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## **IF A PROJECT WILL BE FUNDED FROM THE BALANCE SHEET, CAN A STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD PROPONENT BE SUBMITTED IN PLACE OF THE REQUESTED EQUITY MOU?**

If there is no external equity required for the project, a formal statement from the lead project proponent should be provided noting the internal approval process completed and required for the project, any internal hurdle rates of return and any key conditions or terms to self-funding the project. The Application should contain any other information relevant to support the financing approach proposed.

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## **WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AT THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST APPLICATION STAGE FOR THE “FINANCING PLAN” REFERRED TO AT APPENDIX A (C)?**

At the Expression of Interest stage, Applicants should note all required sources of funds for the project in the financing plan as noted in Appendix A of the [Funding Announcement](#). The financing plan should note the proposed source of funds including proposed financing party, level of commitment, status of negotiations or discussions, proposed timing to binding commitments and any key terms or conditions of funding.

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## **WHAT BUDGET LINE ITEMS SHOULD BE INCLUDED WHEN CALCULATING THE KEY METRIC ‘FUNDING % REQUIRED’? SHOULD THIS CALCULATION INCLUDE INELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE?**

Applicants should have consideration for both the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) and the [Funding Announcement](#). It is noted that Merit Criteria A outlines how ARENA will have consideration of the cost competitiveness and efficiency of the project under the Funding Round.

Applicants should clearly outline all costs associated with delivering the project. This should include the electrolyser, balance of plant and any other associated project - related costs. ARENA funding is intended to support the electrolyser and balance of plant components of the project. The components of both the electrolyser and balance of plant cost should be clearly articulated in a Proposal. ARENA will assess the cost competitiveness of the project against other applications received in accordance with Merit Criteria A as set out in the Funding Announcement.

Applicants should review Appendix B of the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#) to ensure they comply with all eligible expenditure guidelines.

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## **IS THERE A TEMPLATE THAT APPLICANTS SHOULD USE TO STRUCTURE THEIR APPLICATION, OR CAN APPLICANTS CHOOSE THEIR OWN FORMAT?**

Applicants should follow the instructions on ARENANet when completing the online application form. Applicants are required to attach further documentation as set out in the Additional Information Requirements at Appendix A of the [Funding Announcement](#) and the ARP Guidelines. ARENA has not provided a template for the Additional Information Requirements.

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## **SHOULD THE PROJECT BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MODELS INCLUDE RISK CONTINGENCY COMPONENTS OR SHOULD THEY BE REMOVED FROM THE CAPITAL ESTIMATE?**

The [Funding Announcement](#) notes that at the EOI stage, high merit proposals should include evidence of a total project estimate to a confidence interval of +/- 30% (excluding contingency costs) or firmer, noting the key assumptions. Please note that the exclusion of contingency applies to this information provision requirement only. Each Applicant is required to form their own view regarding risk and

contingency, including with regard to the financial model that supports the ARENA funding request. All assumptions should be clearly set out and supported.

Applicants should clearly outline all costs associated with delivering their project, including contingency, in both their Project Plan document and financial model. Applicants should ensure they submit documentation addressing all information requirements outlined in Appendix A of the Funding Announcement, including details on how the Applicant will manage contingency costs and cost overruns.

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### **WILL ALL DELIVERABLES LISTED IN THE KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLAN BE DISSEMINATED PUBLICLY?**

Yes, ARENA intends to publish Knowledge Sharing Plan deliverables unless explicitly stated otherwise. The Knowledge Sharing deliverables should be prepared considering the stakeholders, as set out in the Audience column in the Knowledge Sharing Plan.

Any limitations identified where applicants do not agree to the Knowledge Sharing Plan must be clearly raised in the Knowledge Sharing Plan document and attached to the application.

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### **WILL THE INFORMATION (INCLUDING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SUCH AS MOUS WITH OFFTAKE PARTIES) THAT ARE PROVIDED IN AN APPLICATION BE DISCLOSED BY ARENA TO EXTERNAL PARTIES OUTSIDE OF ARENA?**

All information provided as part of an Application will be treated as confidential in accordance with section 6.1-6.3 of the [Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines](#). Once a Funding Agreement is executed between the successful Applicants, Confidential Information will be managed in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

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### **THE ARENET PORTAL WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO ENTER A PROJECT COMPLETION DATE BEYOND 30 JUNE 2022. IF MY PROJECT COMPLETION DATE IS BEYOND 30 JUNE 2022, CAN I STILL APPLY FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE FUNDING ROUND?**

ARENA's online application system (ARENANet) has limitations and does not allow a completion date beyond 30 June 2022. Please enter a completion date of June 2022 at this data entry field and clearly highlight the actual project schedule and completion date in your accompanying application documents.

ARENA will evaluate your application based on the actual project schedule highlighted in your Project Plan attachment.

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### **CAN ARENA FUNDING BE USED TO FUND UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM COMPONENTS SUCH AS HYDROGEN REFUELLING STATIONS, FUEL CELLS, ETC.?**

Eligible projects for the Hydrogen Funding Round may include upstream and downstream processing activities; however, ARENA funding is intended to support the electrolyser and balance of plant components of the project. The components, as defined by the Applicant, of both the electrolyser and balance of plant cost should be clearly articulated in the Proposal. ARENA will assess the cost competitiveness of the project against other applications received in accordance with Merit Criteria A as set out in the [Funding Announcement](#).

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Further information is available at  
arena.gov.au

Australian Renewable Energy Agency

To discuss potential for funding:  
Phone +61 1800 804 847  
Email [proposals@arena.gov.au](mailto:proposals@arena.gov.au)

*Postal Address*  
GPO Box 643  
Canberra ACT 2601

*Location*  
2 Phillip Law Street New Acton ACT 2601

*Engage with us*

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