



Australian Government

Fisheries Research and  
Development Corporation

## FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (FRDC) TACTICAL RESEARCH FUND (TRF)

### INTRODUCTION

The Tactical Research Fund (TRF) has been created as part of the FRDC's continual improvement processes. The aim of the TRF is to allow the FRDC to fast track important stakeholder issues to take advantage of opportunities, avert threats, or manage unforeseen events, as they arise.

The TRF has been created primarily for stakeholder issues where the FRDC's traditional Annual Open Call round would fail to deliver benefits to the stakeholder in a timely manner. A TRF project may be of an urgent 'break-the-glass' type; or, it could also be a project that is used to overcome significant hurdles in, or to significantly fast track, important stakeholder processes, including production.

### INVESTMENT CRITERIA

The FRDC's investment criteria specifically for the Tactical Research Fund are:

- The project should be a high priority and driven by the relevant stakeholders. The project proposal must formally demonstrate that the stakeholder supports the proposed project as a high priority, aimed at achieving a specific outcome or responding to an unforeseen event.
- The project's outputs should be immediately adoptable by the stakeholder in order to achieve the specific outcome;
- FRDC investment (including any industry cash contributions) must not exceed \$75,000 (this is not inclusive of in-kind contributions);
- The project must be completed within 18 months.

These criteria should be viewed against the background of the standard FRDC investment criteria: Refer the FRDC evaluation process and criteria available at: <http://www.frdc.com.au/research/applicants/evaluation.htm>

The FRDC will not invest in proposals that do not perform satisfactorily against the investment and evaluation criteria.

In summary, the standard FRDC evaluation criteria are:

<b>Attractiveness:</b>	<b>Feasibility:</b>
Relevance to FRDC challenge	Likelihood of success
Stakeholder support	Well defined planned outcomes
Likelihood of adoption	Outputs clearly defined & linked to planned outcomes
Value for money	Objectives clear
Level of impact	Methodology sound
Linkages and collaboration	Capacity to deliver

In addition TRF investment will not normally be available for:

- Filling gaps in existing research projects, FRDC funded or sourced from other funding agencies;
- Undertaking activities deemed to be the core business of the applying agency;
- the costs of purchasing fish or other seafood used in projects;
- inputs into FRAB R&D priority setting processes which are already funded by FRDC;
- ‘close to market projects’ where the industry’s contribution is not commensurate with the potential proportionate benefits that will be received;
- venture capital;
- projects where restrictions on intellectual property could create unnecessary impediments to industry uptake, e.g., through additional industry costs; and
- projects where the applicant is seeking inappropriate or unreasonable royalties from potential IP

### **DEVELOPING AN APPLICATION**

Applications must be developed in consultation with the relevant stakeholder (which includes Fisheries Research Advisory Bodies – FRABs). FRABs themselves may commission the development of an application, based on the needs outlined by stakeholders, or to address priorities in their strategic plans. A proposal should:

- demonstrate that the project proponent is aware of the specific target industry, FRAB and government R&D plans/priorities and how this TRF proposal is linked to these or, if it is not linked, why it is still important to fund;
- be formally endorsed/supported by industry and/or stakeholders that are the beneficiaries of the outputs;
- show clear and immediate pathways to adoption;
- have close stakeholder involvement in the delivery of the research, and;
- have a cash contribution if at all possible. Where a cash contribution is not possible, high regard will be given to stakeholder support in the form of significant in-kind contributions.

The following list of hints may be helpful in developing an application:

- be aware of industry, FRAB and government R&D plans and priorities. The current R&D Plans are available at [www.frdc.com.au/research/strategy/index.html](http://www.frdc.com.au/research/strategy/index.html). (If the applicant identifies a priority that is not included in the relevant R&D plan(s) he/she should consider becoming involved in the review processes relating to that plan(s), and seek to have it adopted more broadly in the industry);
- demonstrate in the proposal that the proposed research addresses priorities that are broadly agreed to by the relevant industry sectors;
- search all appropriate media to ensure a thorough understanding of existing R&D relevant to the proposal (including international sources). Some relevant R&D databases can be accessed from the FRDC web site at [www.frdc.com.au](http://www.frdc.com.au);
- A project that is 'close to market' (i.e. potential will often exist for the applicant to achieve a direct benefit if the project is successful) the FRDC expects that applications will include an industry cash contribution commensurate with the proportion of the potential benefit that will be received. As a general rule, the 'closer to market' the project is, the higher cash contribution is expected from the potential beneficiaries, and;
- if the TRF project is being used to overcome significant hurdles or to significantly fast track an important stakeholder processes, including production, it must demonstrate that without FRDC funding the adoption and benefits will be significantly delayed.

### **SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION**

An application for TRF investment must be submitted using FishNet (the FRDC's electronic application submission system).

FishNet can be accessed from the FRDC's home page at <http://www.frdc.com.au/> or at <http://www.fishnet.gov.au/fishnet/>

FishNet offers two types of application templates.

For applications requesting:

- \$15,000 or less - the minor Tactical Research Fund application template should be used
- \$15,000 – \$75,000 - the full Tactical Research Fund application template should be used.

Applications will be considered by the FRDC...

The closing dates for applications to be received by the FRDC are:

- 1 February
- 1 June
- 1 October

### **EVALUATING TACTICAL RESEARCH FUND APPLICATIONS**

Applications will be evaluated by the FRDC with advice from the FRABs (and other experts as required). It is important that potential applicants contact the appropriate FRAB, to ensure that applications are submitted to align with FRAB meeting dates. These dates can also be found on the FRDC website at [www.frdc.com.au](http://www.frdc.com.au)

## **NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION**

Applicants will normally be notified of the results of the evaluation within six weeks of the relevant FRDC closing date.

## **THE PROJECT AGREEMENT**

The applicant will have 20 working days to respond to the FRDC approval letter. Failure to do so will result in the application approval being withdrawn. It is expected that from the time the applicant receives the approval letter to exchange on contract will be 30 business days.

## **REPORTING**

All project reporting will be consistent with current FRDC procedures and templates.

For further information contact FRDC on (02) 62850400, or [FRDC@FRDC.com.au](mailto:FRDC@FRDC.com.au)