Business Grants Hub

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Grant Opportunity Guidelines

Australian Biological Resources Study - National Taxonomy Research Grant Program 2026-27

Opening date:	**3 February 2026**
Closing date and time:	5:00PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time on 17 March 2026 Please take account of time zone differences when submitting your application.
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Administering entity:	Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact us on 13 28 46.
Date guidelines released:	8 December 2025
Type of grant opportunity:	Targeted competitive

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1. Australian Biological Resources Study - National Taxonomy Research Grant Program 2026-27 processes

The Australian Biological Resources Study - National Taxonomy Research Grant Program (NTRGP) 2026-27 is designed to achieve Australian Government objectives
This grant opportunity is part of the above grant program which contributes to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) Outcome 2, program 2.1: to conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment through a nature positive approach; DCCEEW works with stakeholders to plan and design the grant program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs).*

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The grant opportunity opens
We publish the grant guidelines on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

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You complete and submit a grant application
You complete the application form, addressing all the eligibility and assessment criteria in order for your application to be considered.

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We assess all grant applications
We assess the applications against eligibility criteria and notify you if you are not eligible. The committee assess eligible applications against the assessment criteria including an overall consideration of value with money and compare it to other eligible applications.

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We make grant recommendations
The committee provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.

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Grant decisions are made
The decision maker decides which applications are successful.

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We notify you of the outcome
We advise you of the outcome of your application. We may not notify unsuccessful applicants until grant agreements have been executed with successful applicants.

↓

We enter into a grant agreement
We will enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.

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Delivery of grant
You complete the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.

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Evaluation of the NTRGP 2026-27
DCCEEW will evaluate the specific grant activity and the NTRGP as a whole. We base this on information you provide to us and that we collect from various sources.

1.1. Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the Australian Biological Resources Study - National Taxonomy Research Grant Program (NTRGP) 2026-27 grant opportunity, which is part of the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) (the program).

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant program/grant opportunity
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how we consider and assess grant applications
- how we notify applicants and enter into grant agreements with grantees
- how we monitor and evaluate grantees' performance
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the opportunity.

This grant opportunity and process will be administered by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the department/DISR) on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

We have defined key terms used in these guidelines in the glossary at section 14.

You should read this document carefully before you fill out an application.

2. About the grant program

The ABRS contributes to DCCEEW's Program 2.1: to conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment through a nature positive approach; and the broader Australian National Science Statement (2017).

The ABRS is the national focal point for taxonomy and systematics - the science of discovering, naming, and classifying Australia's living organisms. The ABRS facilitates taxonomic research and disseminates authoritative taxonomic information. Through these activities, the ABRS supports the science and decision-making essential for biodiversity conservation.

We administer the program according to the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)*[1].

2.1. About the NTRGP 2026-27 grant opportunity

The NTRGP 2026-27 grant opportunity provides grants for taxonomy and systematics research (taxonomy), training and recruitment of taxonomists.

Grants will support projects with the primary aim of undertaking research into the taxonomy of the Australian biota. The ABRS has three Priority Areas for Research:

- Biodiversity, Conservation and Vulnerable and Endangered Species
- Public, Plant, Animal and Environmental Health

[1] https://www.finance.gov.au/government/commonwealth-grants/commonwealth-grants-rules-and-principles-2024

- Building Taxonomic Capacity.

Seven grant streams are available to applicants to support research projects of differing levels of complexity and at different stages of their career. Four of these seven grant streams do not require co-funding (i.e. the projects can be fully paid for by the grant). The four grant streams that do not require co-funding are:

- Honours Scholarship - Honours student hosted by an appropriate institution
- Masters Scholarship - Masters student hosted by an appropriate institution
- PhD Scholarship Support Grant - PhD student with a Research Training Program Scholarship that commenced in 2025 hosted by an appropriate institution
- Non-salaried Researcher Grant - A retired or unemployed person, or someone who is currently employed in a non-taxonomy capacity, for whom taxonomic research is an auxiliary, non-funded activity.

The three remaining grant streams support researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and early career researchers, and require co-funding of a minimum of 50 per cent of the total amount of grant funding sought. The three grant streams are:

- Research Grant - Researcher employed or hosted by an appropriate institution
- Early Career Research Grant - Early career researcher employed or hosted by an appropriate institution
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant - Researcher who has had their PhD thesis accepted and is employed or hosted by an appropriate institution.

The objectives of the grant opportunity are:

- to support research into taxonomy
- to increase funding for taxonomy through enhanced co-funding opportunities**.**

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- to support and improve knowledge of the Australian biota through targeted taxonomic research grants aligned to the ABRS's three Priority Areas for Research (listed in Appendix A)
- to build Australia's taxonomic capacity by supporting tertiary research training, early career researchers and facilitating knowledge transfer
- to contribute to enhancing the ABRS information products and resources, including the Australian National Species List, Australian Faunal Directory, Flora of Australia, publications, identification keys and any other taxonomic communication tools
- to positively contribute to the fields of taxonomy and systematics.

3. Grant amount and grant period

The Australian Government has committed ongoing funding of approximately $2.03 million per year for the program. Up to approximately $2.03 million is available for this grant opportunity.

Refer to Appendix B to ensure that any application is consistent with grant eligibility requirements, especially annual budget limits.

3.1. Grants available

- The minimum grant amount for Honours, Masters Scholarship and Non-salaried Researcher Grants is $5,000.
- The minimum grant amount for all other grant streams is $10,000.

The maximum grant amounts for the grant streams that do not require co-funding are:

- $10,000 for Honours, Masters Scholarship and Non-salaried Researcher Grants
- $20,000 for PhD Scholarship Support Grants.

The maximum grant amounts for the three grant streams that require co-funding of at least 50 per cent of the grant amount requested are:

- $20,000 for Early Career Research Grants
- $300,000 for Research Grants
- $375,000 for Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants.

You are responsible for the remaining eligible and ineligible project costs.

You cannot use co-funding from other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government grants to fund the balance of project expenditure not covered by the grant, with the exception of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant's salary component, or the salary component of another ARC grant.

See section 3.1.1 for more information on the co-funding requirement of the Research Grants, Early Career Researcher Grants and Postdoctoral Grants.

3.1.1. Co-funding requirements

- require co-funding of at least 50 per cent of the total grant amount requested
- in-kind support is encouraged but cannot be used as co-funding
- you must provide letters of support from each financial partner confirming cash and salary co-funding contributions, which must match the total co-funding support values given in the project budget template. The letters should include any limitations to funding required by any other granting agencies
- if you have been awarded an ARC research grant, which includes a salary component, you can nominate this amount as salary co-funding in your application
- funding from previously awarded concurrent NTRGP grants cannot be used as cash co-funding contributions
- all cash co-funding contributions should be listed in the application form, budget template and co-funding support letters, in Australian dollars. Contributions from overseas institutions, via joint investigators, are accepted.

Honours and Masters Scholarship, PhD Scholarship Support Grant and Non-salaried Researcher Grants do not have a co-funding requirement, although co-funding is encouraged.

You may refer to the Research Streams table in Appendix B for a summary of the requirements for each of the seven grant streams.

3.2. Project period

The project period for each research stream varies.

The project period for each research stream is:

- Research Grant: 3 years
- Early Career Research Grant: 1 or 2 years (i.e. the project can either be 1 or 2 years duration)
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant: 3 years
- Honours Scholarship: 1 year (or 2 years part-time)
- Masters Scholarship: 1 year (or 2 years part-time)
- PhD Scholarship Support Grant: 2 years
- Non-salaried Researcher Grant: 1 year.

You cannot commence your project before 1 July 2026 and all projects must be completed by 30 June 2029.

4. Eligibility criteria

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria relevant to the grant stream you are applying for.

4.1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible you must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN)
- be an appropriate host institution (see Glossary: Section 14) submitting an application on behalf of a Principal Investigator, scholarship student or a non-salaried researcher

and be one of the following entities:

- an entity, incorporated in Australia (this includes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)*
- a co-operative
- a publicly funded research organisation (PFRO)
- an Australian local government agency or body
- an Australian State/Territory government agency or body
- an Australian Commonwealth government agency or body (excluding non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities)
- an incorporated association or not for profit organisation and you do not have an active state or territory incorporated association registration or ACNC registration at the time of

application, provide the Constitutional documents and/or Articles of Association that demonstrate the character of the organisation
- a partnership, provide a copy of your partnership agreement.

4.2. Additional eligibility requirements

We can only accept applications where:

- your project addresses at least one of the ABRS Priority Areas for Research listed in Appendix A
- you declare that there are no outstanding reports or material owed beyond agreed timeframes from previous grant rounds
- you provide a CV of no more than 4 pages for each Principal Investigator, Joint Investigator and Student Supervisor
- you provide all mandatory attachments as outlined in section 7.1
- you declare all lead researchers (principal and joint) and students are Australian citizens or permanent residents.

For the three grant streams where a co-contribution is required (Research, Early Career, Postdoctoral Fellowship) you must:

- meet your share of project costs and provide evidence of your cash contributions as outlined at section 3.1.1
- declare that the Principal Investigator has no more than two current NTRGP grants awarded
- declare that the workload of the Principal Investigator for NTRGP grants is not greater than 1.0 FTE across all grants currently awarded and applied for in this round.

For Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant and Early Career Research Grant streams the Principal Investigator must satisfy one of the following:

- have completed their postgraduate studies (degree awarded) no more than five years from the closing date of NTRGP application submissions or have received notification that their thesis has been accepted for examination prior to the closing date of application submissions. For Postdoctoral Fellows Grant, the degree must be a PhD
- have completed their postgraduate studies more than five years from the closing date of application but experienced an allowable career interruption (allowable career interruptions may be for medical reasons, carer responsibilities, primary care/parental leave, unemployment, or employment in an unrelated field: the period which can be claimed must be commensurate with the time frame for the interruption). Applicants seeking consideration of an allowable career interruption are required to contact the ABRS Grants team on ABRSgrants@dcceew.gov.au for pre-approval. Allow sufficient time for pre-approval review before lodging an application and include the approval in the application form along with an attached letter detailing the interruption. For Postdoctoral Fellows Grant, the degree must be a PhD.

For all student grant streams (Honours, Masters & PhD Scholarships):

- the proposed research must be undertaken at an appropriate Australian institution
- scholarships are allowed to start in the following calendar year (i.e. from 01 Jan 2027) to align with the beginning of the academic year

- PhD students must have secured a Research Training Program Scholarship that commenced in 2025

For the Non-salaried Researcher Grant stream, you must:

- declare that you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- be affiliated with an appropriate host institution who will provide a signed letter of support to confirm the arrangement
- declare that the Principal Investigator has no more than two current NTRGP grants awarded
- be retired, unemployed or employed in an area that is not commensurate with taxonomic research, and your own research is not conducted in work time
- declare that the workload of the Principal Investigator for NTRGP grants is not greater than 1.0 FTE across all grants currently awarded and applied for in this round.

If you are a Principal Investigator nominated in a grant application, you:

- have scientific and intellectual responsibility for the project
- are responsible for ensuring the proposed project is conducted in accordance with the grant agreement
- may be contacted for future involvement in the assessment of future grant rounds, or in public outreach activities run by the ABRS to promote taxonomy.

Refer to Appendix B to ensure that any application is consistent with grant eligibility requirements, especially annual budget limits.

A Principal Investigator without a current or specialist taxonomic background is required to demonstrate that they have the experience, expertise, and capacity to support and deliver the project activities under section 6.3 Assessment Criterion 3. Applications that do not provide evidence showing that a Principal Investigator has the required taxonomic knowledge and experience under Assessment Criterion 3 are unlikely to be supported.

4.3. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

You are not eligible to apply if you are:

- any organisation that does not meet the criteria in section 4.1
- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'
- an employer of 100 or more employees that has not complied with the *Workplace Gender Equality Act (2012)*
- an international entity (overseas institutions are not eligible to lead projects, but Joint Investigators from overseas institutions may contribute through a project led by an appropriate Australian host institution and can contribute co-funding to the project)
- an unincorporated association
- a non-Corporate Commonwealth entity
- an individual and/or institution that has outstanding reports or material owed from other existing or completed NTRGP grants.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1. Eligible grant activities

To be eligible your project must be aimed at undertaking research into at least one of the three Priority Areas for Research (Appendix A) listed in the ABRS.

5.2. Eligible expenditure

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be a direct cost associated with the research activity
- be incurred by you for required project audit activities.

You can only spend the grant on eligible expenditure you have incurred on an agreed project as defined in your grant agreement. Eligible expenditure items include:

- travel costs, both domestic and international, limited to the reasonable cost of accommodation and transportation required to conduct agreed project activities
- fieldwork expenses and miscellaneous consumables for students
- direct labour costs of employees you directly employ on the core elements of the project
  - we consider a person an employee when you pay them a regular salary or wage, out of which you make regular tax instalment deductions
- up to 28 per cent labour on costs to cover employer paid superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation insurance, and overheads such as office rent and the provision of computers for staff directly working on the project
- contract expenditure, defined as the cost of any agreed project activities that you contract to others
- equipment purchased directly for the completion of the project
- costs associated with loans of material from Museums, including for sequencing or other analyses
- staff training that directly supports the achievement of project outcomes
- costs you incur in order to obtain planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals during the project period, excluding any fees paid to Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments
- contingency costs up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the eligible project costs. Note that we make payments based on actual costs incurred salary for Postdoctoral Fellowship or Researcher grantees if the institution is not already paying their salary. Rates will vary from institution to institution and the appropriate rate is that which is designated by the administering institution
- the cost of an independent audit of project expenditure (where we request one) up to a maximum of 1 per cent of total eligible project expenditure.

Eligible air transportation is limited to the economy class fare for each leg of the journey travelled; where non-economy class air transport is used only the equivalent of an economy fare for that sector is eligible expenditure. Where non-economy class air transport is used, the grantee will require evidence showing what an economy air fare costs at the time of travel.

Refer to the table in Appendix B for a breakdown of limitations/allowances to eligible expenditure for Honours Scholarship, Masters Scholarship, Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant and PhD Scholarship Support Grant.

We may update the guidance on eligible and ineligible expenditure from time to time. If your application is successful, the version in place when you submitted your application applies to your project.

If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs. Not all expenditure on your project may be eligible for grant funding. The Program Delegate (who is a Manager within DCCEEW) makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance on eligible expenditure if required. You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible unless stated otherwise.

You must not commence your project before July 2026.

5.3. What the grant money cannot be used for

Expenditure items that are not eligible are:

- purchase of land
- major capital expenditure or general infrastructure costs (for example, lab upgrades, purchases of large equipment not specifically for the purpose of the research)
- retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- salaries of curatorial staff of collection institutions that are carrying out their normal collection-related duties
- subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent
- other costs not directly related to the proposed research project, including, but not limited to, professional membership fees, fees for patent application and holding, visas, relocation costs, costs of dependants, insurance, and/or mobile phones.
- stipends or living costs for students
- fees associated with obtaining planning, environmental or other regulatory approvals, paid to the Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments
- activities for which other Commonwealth, state, territory or local government bodies have primary responsibility.

6. The assessment criteria

You must address all assessment criteria in your application. The Committee will assess your application based on the weighting given to each criterion.

The application form asks questions that relate to the assessment criteria below. The amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide evidence to support your answers. The application form displays character limits for each response.

We will only award funding to applications that score at least 50 per cent against each assessment criterion.

6.1. Assessment criterion 1

Relevance of the project to ABRS and taxonomic science (50 points).

You must demonstrate this through identifying how your project:

a. addresses one or more of the ABRS Priority Areas for Research (see Appendix A)

b. has a clear scope and achievable taxonomic aims

c. has appropriate research activities to achieve the project aims

d. will produce research outputs and outcomes to advance the field of taxonomy and/or systematics research

e. will contribute to enhancing the ABRS resources and products.

6.2. Assessment criterion 2

Feasibility of proposed research project (30 points).

You must demonstrate this by describing the:

a. research methods you will use to achieve the aims and ensure the success of your project

b. detailed project budget, and administrative and/or supervision arrangements in place to ensure the budget is effectively managed

c. proposed timeframes for main activities and potential risks to the delivery of the project.

6.3. Assessment criterion 3

Capacity of researchers and/or institutions to deliver the project (20 points).

You must demonstrate this by describing:

a. your track record in undertaking similar projects, or experience and potential to deliver the project activities. Including, where relevant, your experience in facilitating knowledge transfer

b. access to an appropriate host institution, museum and/or herbaria collection/s to deliver the project activities.

To support your response to this criterion you must attach:

- a CV of no more than 4 pages in length for each Principal Investigator, Joint Investigator and Student Supervisor
- a copy of the most recent academic transcript for the student (if applying on behalf of a student).

7. How to apply

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines, the sample application form and the sample grant agreement published on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

Applicants should read all eligibility and assessment criteria closely and attach detailed evidence that supports the assessment criteria.

You will need to set up an account to access our online portal. You can only submit an application during a funding round.

To apply, you must:

- complete and submit the application through the online portal
- provide all the information requested
- address all eligibility and assessment criteria
- include all necessary attachments

You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and accurate. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995* If we consider that you have provided false or misleading information we may not progress your application. If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should call us immediately on 13 28 46.

After submitting your application, we may contact you for clarification if we find an error or any missing information, including evidence that supports your eligibility/merit. The acceptance of any additional information provided after the submission of your application is at the discretion of the Program Delegate. Additional information should not materially change your application at the time it was submitted and therefore may be refused if deemed to be purely supplementary.

You can view and print a copy of your submitted application on the portal for your own records.

If you need further guidance around the application process, or if you have any issues with the portal, contact us at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

7.1. Attachments to the application

You must provide the following documents with your application:

- signed support letters from each contributing Investigator's institution confirming cash and salary co-funding contributions (if applicable); for Non-salaried Researcher Grants, support letters are required from the hosting institution to confirm the affiliation
- a detailed project budget, including salaries and FTE of each staff member, costs of travel, fieldwork, molecular laboratory work, and administrative/supervision arrangements in place to ensure the budget is effectively managed. A budget template is available on business.gov.au
- curriculum vitae (CV) – applications must include a CV of no more than 4 pages in length for each:
  - Principal Investigator
  - Joint Investigator
  - Student Supervisor

- if applying on behalf of a student, a PDF copy of the student's most recent academic transcript
- if applying on behalf of a PhD Scholarship Support Grant student, a letter confirming the PhD student secured a Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship that commenced in 2025
- copy of notification confirming acceptance of PhD thesis for Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant (if applicable)
- a letter detailing the circumstances of an allowable career interruption (if applicable), and confirmation of approval for the circumstances by the ABRS
- if you are applying as an incorporated association or not for profit organisation and you do not have an active state or territory incorporated association registration or ACNC registration at the time of application, Constitutional documents and/or Articles of Association that demonstrate the character of the organisation
- if you are applying as a partnership, a copy of your partnership agreement
- trust deed (if applicable).

You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in line with the instructions provided within the form. You should only attach requested documents. The total of all attachments cannot exceed 50MB. We will not consider information in attachments that we do not request.

7.2. Timing of grant opportunity processes

You can only submit an application between the published opening and closing dates.

We may accept a late application where an applicant has experienced exceptional circumstances that prevent the submission of the application. Broadly, exceptional circumstances are events characterised by one or more of the following:

- reasonably unforeseeable
- beyond the applicant's control
- unable to be managed or resolved within the application period.

If you are successful, you cannot commence your project before 1 July 2026.

Table 1: Expected timing for this grant opportunity

Activity	Timeframe
Assessment of applications	8 weeks
Approval and announcement of successful applicants	2 weeks
Negotiations and award of grant agreements	5 weeks
Notification to unsuccessful applicants	2 weeks
Earliest start date of grant activity	July 2026
Earliest grant payment	July 2026
Project completion date	1-3 years after activity start date, depending on the type of grants, and no later than 30 June 2029
End date of grant commitment	September 2029

7.2.1. How to lodge a late application

Written requests to lodge a late application will only be accepted within three calendar days after the grant opportunity has closed. Written requests should be emailed to NTRGP@industry.gov.au.

The Program Delegate will determine whether a late application will be accepted. The decision of the delegate will be final and not be subject to a review or appeals process.

7.3. Questions during the application process

If you have any questions during the application period, contact us at business.gov.au or by calling 13 28 46.

8. The grant selection process

8.1. Assessment of grant applications

We first review your application against the eligibility criteria.

If eligible, your application will be assessed against the assessment criteria. Only eligible applications will proceed to the assessment stage.

The departmental assessment committee (the committee) consider your application on its merits, based on:

- how well it meets the criteria
- how it compares to other applications

- whether it provides value with relevant money.[2]

The committee will also consider the following factors:

- the track record of the Investigators and appropriate host institution across previous rounds of NTRGP
- any non-compliance in relation to previous grant activity, including outstanding reports or material owed
- the CV of each Principal Investigator, Joint Investigator and Student Supervisor relevant to the project
- the academic transcript of students.

When assessing the extent to which the application represents value with relevant money, the committee will have regard to:

- the overall objective/s of the grant opportunity
- the evidence provided to demonstrate how your project contributes to meeting those objectives
- the relative value of the grant sought.

If applications are scored the same, the committee will consider value with relevant money and alignment to the program objectives to recommend applications for funding.

To be recommended for funding a project must score highly against every assessment criterion. While we assess all eligible applications against the same assessment criteria, we will score your application relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested.

We also consider any national interest, financial, legal/regulatory, governance or other issue or risk that we identify during any due diligence process that we conduct in respect of the applicant. This includes its directors, officers, senior managers, key personnel, its related bodies corporate (as defined in the Corporations Act) or its application that could bring the Australian Government into disrepute if it were to fund the applicant. Such issues and risks include where we consider that funding the application under this grant opportunity is likely to directly conflict with Australian Government policy. Where possible3, we will provide you with an opportunity to comment on any material risks identified during this due diligence process prior to our determining the extent (if any) to which those issues or risks affect our assessment of the application and, if so, whether they are sufficient to warrant the exclusion of your application from the assessment process.

8.2. Who will assess applications?

We refer your application to the departmental assessment committee to assess eligible applications. The committee includes representatives from DCCEEW, ABRS and independent technical experts.

The committee will assess your application against the assessment criteria and compare it to other eligible applications before recommending which projects to fund. The committee,

[2] See glossary for an explanation of 'value with money'.

[3] Subject to national security and other considerations.

and any expert or advisor, will be required to perform their duties in accordance with the CGRPs.

8.3. Who will approve grants?

The Minister decides which grants to approve taking into account the application assessment, the recommendations of the committee and the availability of grant funds.

The Minister's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the grant approval
- the grant funding to be awarded
- any conditions attached to the offer of grant funding.

We cannot review decisions about the merits of your application.

The Minister will not approve funding if there are insufficient program funds available across relevant financial years for the program.

9. Notification of application outcomes

We will advise you of the outcome of your application in writing. If you are successful, we advise you of any specific conditions attached to the grant.

You can submit a new application for the same (or similar) project in any future funding rounds. You should include new or more information to address the weaknesses that prevented your previous application from being successful.

9.1. Feedback on your application

If you are unsuccessful, we will give you an opportunity to discuss the outcome with us.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1. The grant agreement

You must enter into a legally binding grant agreement with the Commonwealth. The grant agreement has general terms and conditions that cannot be changed. A sample grant agreement is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

We will manage the grant agreement through the online portal. This includes issuing and executing the grant agreement. Execute means both you and the Commonwealth have accepted the agreement. We are not responsible for any expenditure you incur and cannot make any payments until a grant agreement is executed.

Your grant may have specific conditions determined by the assessment process or other considerations made by the Program Delegate or Minister. We will identify these in the offer of grant funding.

If you enter an agreement under the NTRGP 2026-27, you cannot receive other grants for the same activities from other Commonwealth, state or territory granting programs.

The Commonwealth may recover grant funds if there is a breach of the grant agreement.

We will use a standard grant agreement.

You will have 30 days from the date of a written offer to execute this grant agreement with the Commonwealth. During this time, we will work with you to finalise details.

The offer may lapse if both parties do not sign the grant agreement within this time. Under certain circumstances, we may extend this period. We base the approval of your grant on the information you provide in your application. We will review any required changes to these details to ensure they do not impact the project as approved by the Minister.

10.2. Specific legislation, policies and industry standards

You must comply with all relevant laws, regulations and Australian Government sanctions in undertaking your project. You must also comply with the specific legislation/policies/industry standards that follow. It is a condition of the grant funding that you meet these requirements. We will include these requirements in your grant agreement.

10.2.1. Child safety requirements

You must comply with all relevant legislation relating to the employment or engagement of anyone working on the project that may interact with children, including all necessary working with children checks.

You must implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations[4] endorsed by the Commonwealth.

You will need to complete a risk assessment to identify the level of responsibility for children and the level of risk of harm or abuse, and put appropriate strategies in place to manage those risks. You must update this risk assessment at least annually.

You will also need to establish a training and compliance regime to ensure personnel are aware of, and comply with, the risk assessment requirements, relevant legislation including mandatory reporting requirements and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

You will be required to provide an annual statement of compliance with these requirements in relation to working with children.

10.2.2. Intellectual Property (IP)

Under the terms of the grant agreement, all intellectual property rights in any material created by the grant recipient for the purpose of the grant activity will be held by the appropriate host institution, student, or researcher.

[4] https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/national-principles-child-safe-organisations

10.2.3. Permits

All collecting activities carried out as part of research funded or otherwise supported by the ABRS must be undertaken in full compliance with the laws and regulations of the States and Territories of the Commonwealth of Australia. There are substantial fines for illegal collecting in most states and territories. A range of authorities in each of the states and territories are responsible for the issuing of permits for biological collection. Relevant information may be obtained from the leading wildlife management agency, museum or herbarium in each state or territory, which should be consulted, in any case, as part of the planning process.

Researchers proposing to make scientific collections from Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) as part of their project must first have permission from the relevant Traditional Owner (or their representatives) organisations. Researchers are encouraged take account of the Indigenous Partnership Principles for better practice Indigenous engagement. If access to an IPA is negotiated a letter of support or agreement from the relevant Traditional Owners must be provided prior to entering the grant agreement.

10.2.4. Genetic Resources

A permit is required to collect biological samples for genetic/biochemical research in Commonwealth areas (including Commonwealth marine waters and Commonwealth biological collections). There are similar requirements in Queensland and the Northern Territory, and other states are considering the introduction of such measures. Contact details for each of the state and territory management authorities can be found on the DCCEEW's website.[5]

10.2.5. Lodging of specimens and digital records

All specimens collected, and digital records created, in relation to NTRGP projects must be lodged with a recognised permanent collection such as a state or territory wildlife management agency, museum, or herbarium. Once a project commences, it is recommended this lodgement request be made as soon as possible.

10.2.6. Animal ethics

Where the activity involves the collection, use or care of any living non-human vertebrate and in some cases invertebrate animals or tissue for scientific purposes, the student/researcher must obtain approval for such scientific purposes and methods. Approval must be obtained from a recognised animal ethics committee operating under the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.[6] The student/researcher agrees to provide the department with a certificate of compliance with the appropriate guidelines prior to the commencement of any such scientific activities.

[5] http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/science-and-research/australias-biological-resources/access-biological-resources-states-and

[6] https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes

10.3. How we pay the grant

The grant agreement will state the:

- maximum grant amount we will pay
- proportion of eligible expenditure covered by the grant (grant percentage)
- any in-kind contributions you will make
- any financial contribution provided by you or a third party.

We will not exceed the maximum grant amount under any circumstances. If you incur extra costs, you must meet them yourself.

We will make payments according to an agreed schedule set out in the grant agreement. Payments are subject to satisfactory progress on the project.

10.4. Grant Payments and GST

If you are registered for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), where applicable we will add GST to your grant payment and provide you with a recipient created tax invoice. You are required to notify us if your GST registration status changes during the project period. GST does not apply to grant payments to government related entities[7].

Grants are assessable income for taxation purposes, unless exempted by a taxation law. We recommend you seek independent professional advice on your taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. We do not provide advice on tax.

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your grant will be listed on the GrantConnect website 21 calendar days after the date of execution.

We will publish non-sensitive details of successful projects on GrantConnect. We are required to do this by the *Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs).* Section 5.4. We may also publish this information on business.gov.au. This information may include:

- name of your organisation
- title of the project
- description of the project and its aims
- amount of grant funding awarded
- Australian Business Number
- business location
- your organisation's industry sector.

[7] See Australian Taxation Office ruling GSTR 2012/2 available at ato.gov.au

12. How we monitor your grant activity

12.1. Keeping us informed

You should let us know if anything is likely to affect your project or organisation.

We need to know of any key changes to your organisation or its business activities, particularly if they affect your ability to complete your project, carry on business and pay debts due.

You must also inform us of any changes to your:

- name
- addresses
- nominated contact details
- bank account details
- joint/consortia partners and related arrangements (if applicable).

If you become aware of a breach of terms and conditions under the grant agreement, you must contact us immediately.

You must notify us of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister or their representative to attend.

12.2. Reporting

You must submit reports annually in line with the grant agreement. We will provide the requirements for these reports as appendices in the grant agreement. We will remind you of your reporting obligations before a report is due. We will expect you to report on:

- progress against agreed project milestones and outcomes
- project expenditure, including expenditure of grant funds
- contributions of participants directly related to the project.

The amount of detail you provide in your reports should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount.

We will monitor the progress of your project by assessing reports you submit and may conduct site visits to confirm details of your reports if necessary. Occasionally we may need to re-examine claims, seek further information or request an independent audit of claims and payments.

12.2.1. Progress reports

Progress reports must:

- include details of your progress towards completion of agreed project activities
- show the total eligible expenditure incurred to date
- include evidence of expenditure
- be submitted by the report due date (you can submit reports ahead of time if you have completed relevant project activities).

We will only make grant payments when we receive satisfactory progress reports.

You must discuss any project or milestone reporting delays with us as soon as you become aware of them.

12.2.2. Ad-hoc reports

We may ask you for ad-hoc reports on your project. This may be to provide an update on progress, or any significant delays or difficulties in completing the project.

12.2.3. End of project report

When you complete the project, you must submit an end of project report.

End of project reports must:

- include the agreed evidence as specified in the grant agreement
- identify the total eligible expenditure incurred for the project
- include a declaration that the grant money was spent in accordance with the grant agreement and to report on any underspends of the grant money
- be submitted by the report due date.

12.3. Audited financial acquittal report

We may ask you to provide an independent audit report. An audit report will verify that you spent the grant in accordance with the grant agreement. The audit report requires you to prepare a statement of grant income and expenditure. The report template is available on business.gov.au and GrantConnect.

12.4. Grant agreement variations

We recognise that unexpected events may affect project progress. In these circumstances, you can request a variation to your grant agreement, including:

- changing project milestones
- extending the timeframe for completing the project but within the maximum timeframe for completing the project
- changing project activities.

The program does not allow for:

- an increase of grant funds.

If you want to propose changes to the grant agreement, you must put them in writing before the project end date. You can submit a variation request via our online portal.

If a delay in the project causes milestone achievement and payment dates to move to a different financial year, you will need a variation to the grant agreement. We can only move funds between financial years if there is enough program funding in the relevant year to allow for the revised payment schedule. If we cannot move the funds, you may lose some grant funding.

You should not assume that a variation request will be successful. We will consider your request based on factors such as:

- how it affects the project outcome

- consistency with the program policy objective, grant opportunity guidelines and any relevant policies of the department
- changes to the timing of grant payments
- availability of program funds.

12.5. Compliance visits

We may visit you during the project period to review your compliance with the grant agreement. We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement. We will provide you with reasonable notice of any compliance visit.

12.6. Record keeping

We may also inspect the records you are required to keep under the grant agreement.

12.7. Evaluation

DCCEEW will evaluate the grant opportunity to measure how well the outcomes and objectives have been achieved. We may use information from your application and project reports for this purpose. We may also interview you, or ask you for more information to help us understand how the grant impacted you and to evaluate how effective the program was in achieving its outcomes.

We may contact you up to two years after you finish your project for more information to assist with this evaluation.

12.8. Acknowledgement

If you make a public statement or publish scientific journal articles about a project funded under the program, including in a brochure or popular media article, you must acknowledge the grant by using the following:

'This project received funding from the Australian Government's Australian Biological Resources Study - National Taxonomy Research Grant Program.'

If you erect signage in relation to the project, the signage must contain an acknowledgement of the grant.

Scientific publications that fail to acknowledge the program will not be counted as research outputs for NTRGP project progress reports or final reports.

13. Probity

We will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, according to the published guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the CGRPs.

13.1. Enquiries and feedback

For further information or clarification, you can contact us on 13 28 46 or by web chat or through our online enquiry form on business.gov.au.

We may publish answers to your questions on our website as Frequently Asked Questions.

Our Customer Service Charter is available at business.gov.au. We use customer satisfaction surveys to improve our business operations and service.

If you have a complaint, call us on 13 28 46. We will refer your complaint to the appropriate manager.

If you are not satisfied with the way we handle your complaint, you can contact:

General Manager
External and Assurance Branch
Business Grants Hub
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
GPO Box 2013
CANBERRA ACT 2601
You can also contact the Commonwealth Ombudsman with your complaint (call 1300 362 072). There is no fee for making a complaint, and the Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation.

13.2. Conflicts of interest

Any conflicts of interest could affect the performance of the grant opportunity and/or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if our staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel:

- has a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who is able to influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer or member of an external panel
- has a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently, or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/grant opportunity.

As part of your application, we will ask you to declare any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or confirm that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform us in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff are handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7)) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

We publish our conflict of interest policy[8] on the department's website. The Commonwealth policy entity also publishes a conflict of interest policy on its website.

[8] https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/conflict-interest-policy

13.3. Privacy

Unless the information you provide to us is:

- confidential information as per below, or
- personal information as per below,

we may share the information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs
- for research
- to announce the awarding of grants.

We must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

We may give the personal information we collect from you to our employees and contractors, the committee, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can:

- manage the program
- research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

We, or the Minister, may:

- announce the names of successful applicants to the public
- publish personal information on the department's websites.

You may read our Privacy Policy[9] on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

13.4. Confidential information

Other than information available in the public domain, you agree not to disclose to any person, other than us, any confidential information relating to the grant application and/or agreement, without our prior written approval. The obligation will not be breached where you are required by law, Parliament or a stock exchange to disclose the relevant information or where the relevant information is publicly available (other than through breach of a confidentiality or non-disclosure obligation).

We may at any time, require you to arrange for you; or your employees, agents or subcontractors to give a written undertaking relating to nondisclosure of our confidential information in a form we consider acceptable.

[9] https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/privacy-policy

We will treat the information you give us as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets all of the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

We may disclose confidential information:

- to the committee and our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us manage the program effectively
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament.

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public.

13.5. Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the program, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

If someone requests a document under the FOI Act, we will release it (though we may need to consult with you and/or other parties first) unless it meets one of the exemptions set out in the FOI Act.

14. Glossary

Term	Definition
administering entity	When an entity that is not responsible for the policy, is responsible for the administration of part or all of the grant administration processes.
application form	The document issued by the Program Delegate that applicants use to apply for funding under the program.
appropriate host institution	All streams of the grant must be administered by an appropriate Australian host institution. An appropriate host institution includes Australian museums, herbaria, universities, and other government agencies that have some focus on the science of taxonomy and systematics. These institutions can provide access to basic library collections, office accommodation, basic computing facilities, standard reference materials or funds for abstracting services, and use of photocopiers, telephones, email. It does not include private organisations or consultants.
assessment criteria	The specified principles or standards, against which applications will be judged. These criteria are also used to assess the merits of proposals and, in the case of a competitive grant opportunity, to determine application ranking.
cash co-funding	Money provided only for the proposed project, either by the institution or an external source. If it is used to fund a salary, then that salary is dependent on the success of the application and the worker would not otherwise be employed.
committee	Consisting of representatives from ABRS, DCCEEW, and independent technical experts. Assesses applications and provides strategic oversight, advice, and recommendations to the decision maker.
Commonwealth entity	A department of state, or a parliamentary department, or a listed entity or a body corporate established by a law of the Commonwealth. See subsections 10(1) and (2) of the PGPA Act.

Term	Definition
Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles (CGRPs)	Establish the overarching Commonwealth grants policy framework and articulate the expectations for all non-corporate Commonwealth entities in relation to grants administration. Under this overarching framework, non-corporate Commonwealth entities undertake grants administration based on the mandatory requirements and key principles of grants administration.
completion date	The expected date that the grant activity must be completed and the grant spent by.
current/concurrent NTRGP Grants	Grants where the final report has not been submitted and accepted by ABRS.
date of effect	Can be the date on which a grant agreement is executed or a specified project start date.
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
decision maker	The Minister for the Environment and Water.
eligible activities	The activities undertaken by a grantee in relation to a project that are eligible for funding support as set out in 5.1.
eligible application	An application for grant funding under the program that the Program Delegate has determined is eligible for assessment in accordance with these guidelines.
eligibility criteria	Refer to the mandatory criteria which must be met to qualify for a grant. Assessment criteria may apply in addition to eligibility criteria.
eligible expenditure	The expenditure incurred by a grantee on a project and which is eligible for funding support as set out in 5.2.
FTE	Full time equivalent

Term	Definition
grant	For the purposes of the CGRPs, a 'grant' is an arrangement for the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth or on behalf of the Commonwealth: a. under which relevant money[10] or other Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) money[11] is to be paid to a grantee other than the Commonwealth; and b. which is intended to help address one or more of the Australian Government's policy outcomes while assisting the grantee achieve its objectives.
grant activity/activities	Refers to the project/tasks/services that the grantee is required to undertake
grant agreement	A legally binding contract that sets out the relationship between the Commonwealth and a grantee for the grant funding, and specifies the details of the grant.
grant funding or grant funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth to grantees under the program.
grant opportunity	Refers to the specific grant round or process where a Commonwealth grant is made available to potential grantees. Grant opportunities may be open or targeted, and will reflect the relevant grant selection process.
grant program	A 'program' carries its natural meaning and is intended to cover a potentially wide range of related activities aimed at achieving government policy outcomes. A grant program is a group of one or more grant opportunities under a single Portfolio Budget Statement Program.
GrantConnect	The Australian Government's whole-of-government grants information system, which centralises the publication and reporting of Commonwealth grants in accordance with the CGRPs.
grantee	The individual/organisation which has been selected to receive a grant

[10] Relevant money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 8, Dictionary.

[11] Other CRF money is defined in the PGPA Act. See section 105, Rules in relation to other CRF money.

Term	Definition
in-kind contributions	A contribution that is not a financial contribution. That is a part of a commitment to a research project, in the form of services, facilities or consumables. Examples of in-kind contributions include: ▪ curatorial support for collections ▪ research technician support ▪ IT support ▪ use of equipment, including sequencing machines ▪ access to libraries ▪ bench fees ▪ office space ▪ use of institution vehicles, field equipment, etc.
joint investigator	A researcher who will contribute substantially to the scientific and intellectual knowledge of the project.
Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Water.
non-income-tax-exempt	Not exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth) or under Division 1AB of Part III of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (Cth).
non-salaried researcher grant	A taxonomist who is retired, unemployed or employed in an area that is not commensurate with taxonomic research and their own research is not conducted in work time. Examples include researchers who are employed in jobs that have no relation to taxonomy or research, such as private sector, public service policy, administrative work, retail/hospitality etc.
permanent resident	An Australian permanent resident (permanent resident) is a non-citizen who holds an Australian permanent visa or is usually resident in Australia and holds a permanent visa.

Term	Definition
personal information	Has the same meaning as in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) which is: Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable: a. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and b. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.
Program delegate	A manager within DCCEEW with Policy responsibility for administering the program.
program funding or program funds	The funding made available by the Commonwealth for the program.
project	A project described in an application for grant funding under the program.
principal investigator	For the for the Research Grant, Early Career Research Grant, Postdoctoral Fellows Grant and Non-salaried Research Grant streams the researcher undertaking the project and who has scientific and intellectual responsibility for the conduct of the project. The Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring the proposed project is conducted in accordance with the project details, project budget and in line with the timeframe associated with the application. If successful, the principal investigator is also responsible for ensuring that reports are completed and provided to the appropriate host institution contact for signing.
publicly funded research organisation (PFRO)	All higher education providers listed at Table A and Table B of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (Cth) and corporate Commonwealth entities, and state and territory business enterprises which undertake publicly funded research.
researcher	The researcher undertaking the project.
retrospective costs	Expenditure incurred before the project start date in your agreement.

Term	Definition
salary co-funding	Wages or salary received by a researcher who is already employed, either part-time or full-time, by an institution and whose position is not dependent on the success of the grant application.
selection criteria	Comprises of eligibility criteria and assessment criteria.
taxon, plural taxa	Any unit used in the science of biological classification, or taxonomy. Taxa are arranged in a hierarchy from kingdom to subspecies, a given taxon ordinarily including several taxa of lower rank. In the classification of protists, plants, and animals, certain taxonomic categories are universally recognized; in descending order, these are kingdom, phylum (in plants, division), class, order, family, genus, species, and subspecies, or race.
value with money	Value with money in this document refers to 'value with relevant money' which is a judgement based on the grant proposal representing an efficient, effective, economical and ethical use of public resources and determined from a variety of considerations. When administering a grant opportunity, an official should consider the relevant financial and non-financial costs and benefits of each proposal including, but not limited to: ▪ the quality of the project proposal and activities; ▪ fitness for purpose of the proposal in contributing to government objectives; ▪ that the absence of a grant is likely to prevent the grantee and government's outcomes being achieved; and ▪ the potential grantee's relevant experience and performance history.

Appendix A. Priority Areas for Research

1. Biodiversity, Conservation and Vulnerable and Endangered Species

1.1 Documenting Australia's biodiversity

Studies that contribute to discovery and knowledge of Australia's biodiversity, through identification, revision and documentation of understudied taxonomic groups.

This may include, for example, studies of taxonomic groups in largely unexplored habitats or molecular projects that make genetic information publicly available.

1.2 Conservation

Taxonomic research that provides critical underpinning data on the response of biota to human-induced change, for conservation, for planning or for the rehabilitation of degraded environments.

This may include, for example, taxonomic or systematic research on a group likely to be effective as an indicator of climate change or focused taxonomic research on a region subject to major development.

1.3 Vulnerable and endangered species

Taxonomic research that contributes to a greater knowledge of Australia's vulnerable and endangered biological heritage, especially that listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)[12].

This may include, for example, a revision of a genus to clearly establish the taxonomic position and conservation status of a previously undescribed species, related to species currently listed under the EPBC Act.

The ABRS encourages NTRGP recipients to make preliminary assessments of the conservation status for new taxa that are expected to be vulnerable or endangered as they are described in taxonomic publications.

1.4 Identifying Australia's biodiversity

Tools and products that contribute to the identification of Australia's biodiversity. This may include, for example, an identification key for a taxonomic group at a national scale.

[12] https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2016C00777

2. Public, Plant, Animal and Environmental Health

This criterion focuses on a range of research activities relevant to protecting or benefiting Australians and Australia's natural resource industries and its environment from elements of the Australian biota.

2.1 Public, plant and animal health

Taxonomic research on native species that are, or have the potential to become, pests or agents of disease, or may be venomous or toxic and thereby threaten public, plant or animal health in Australia.

This may include the Australian component of a large taxonomic group that has non-Indigenous representatives constituting a significant biosecurity risk, where there is a need to be able to distinguish between native and exotic species.

2.2 Environmental health

Taxonomic studies that focus on Australian organisms that may aid in the rehabilitation, resilience or productivity of natural or cultivated environments.

This may include projects that identify and document beneficial species within natural ecosystems, crops, pastures or waterways, for example, soil crusts, algal colonies, nitrogen-fixing plants or invertebrates that play an ecosystem service.

3. Building Taxonomic Capacity

This criterion focuses on support for training and/or recruitment of taxonomists, especially for research on critical taxonomic groups.

3.1 Training of early career researchers

Taxonomic studies that include clearly specified opportunities for capture and passage of skills and information from professionals (employed, retired or unemployed) to younger colleagues, students or early career researchers.

This may include a project where there is a component that includes a clearly documented opportunity for passing knowledge from a more senior taxonomist to an early career researcher.

3.2 Knowledge management

Taxonomic studies that include clearly specified opportunities for capture and passage of skills and information from retired or unemployed professionals to former colleagues, students or the broader Australian public.

This may include the development of a peer reviewed book, diagnostic key or website that improves our understanding of a taxonomic group, collection history or other aspects of the Australian biota.

3.3 Exchange of international expertise

Projects that facilitate international exchange of research expertise and training in areas that will boost Australia's taxonomic capacity.

The lasting benefits to Australian taxonomy must be clearly specified and must include capacity building.

For example, building collaborations that involve knowledge exchange from international experts to support research capacity of early career researchers, or working on a taxon for which there are currently no Australian-based experts.

Appendix B. Research Streams Table

Research Stream	Duration	Grant amount (GST exclusive)		Co-funding requirements	Who is eligible to apply?	Eligible Expenditure - conditions
		Total (maximum)	Annual (maximum)			
Research Grant	3 years	$300,000	$100,000	Minimum 50 per cent of grant funding requested	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of a researcher.	Grant funding request must not exceed $100,000 per year. May use grant funding for PI salary if the institution is not already paying their salary. Rates will vary from institution to institution and the appropriate rate is that which is designated by the administering institution. Salary on-costs can be included up to a maximum of 28 per cent.
Early Career Research Grant	1 year or 2 years	$20,000	$20,000 ($10,000 per year if over 2 years)	Minimum 50 per cent of grant funding requested	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of an early career researcher.	
Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant	3 years	$375,000	$125,000	Minimum 50 per cent of grant funding requested	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of a researcher with an accepted PhD thesis.	Grant funding request must not exceed $125,000 per year. May use grant funding for own postdoctoral salary if the institution is not already paying their salary. Rates will vary from institution to institution and the appropriate rate is that which is designated by the administering institution. Salary on-costs can be included up to a maximum of 28 per cent.

Research Stream	Duration	Grant amount (GST exclusive)		Co-funding requirements	Who is eligible to apply?	Eligible Expenditure - conditions
		Total (maximum)	Annual (maximum)			
Honours Scholarship	1 year (or 2 part-time)	$10,000	$10,000 (or $5,000 per year if part-time)	Nil	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of an Honours student.	Must use grant funding to supplement research costs only. Funding from these grants cannot be used to supplement daily living costs but can, however, be used for accommodation, travel and meals related to fieldwork.
Masters Scholarship	1 year (or 2 part-time)	$10,000	$10,000 (or $5,000 per year if part-time)	Nil	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of a Masters student.	Must use grant funding to supplement research costs only. Funding from these grants cannot be used to supplement daily living costs but can, however, be used for accommodation, travel and meals related to fieldwork.
PhD Scholarship Support Grant	2 years	$20,000	$10,000	Nil	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of a PhD student with a Research Training Program Scholarship.	Must use grant funding to supplement research costs only. Funding from these grants cannot be used to supplement daily living costs but can, however, be used for accommodation, travel and meals related to fieldwork.
Non-salaried Researcher Grant	1 year	$10,000	$10,000	Nil	An appropriate host institution submitting an application on behalf of a Non-salaried researcher.	