

Demand Management Trials Program FAQs – 17 December 2018

Questions

1. What level of detail is required for the proposal's budget? 1
2. What if there are options to expand the scope of a trial?..... 1
3. How would a grant from another funding program be counted? 1
4. What are the implications of seeking funding from ARENA for the same project? 2
5. Is a trial proposal involving a South Australian Government agency eligible for funding? 2
6. What involvement will the South Australian Government have following the trial?..... 2
7. How is the Trials Program different to the Energy Productivity Program? 2

1. What level of detail is required for the proposal's budget?

The budget should clearly itemise all key revenue and expenditure items, and this information needs to be adequately detailed to support the evaluation of the proposal. The level of detail also should be commensurate with the nature and scale of the trial proposal being submitted and the quantum of grant funding being sought.

The project budget should include cashflows. Where possible, preference is for cashflows to be presented on a month-by-month basis; however, quarterly basis may be accepted.

2. What if there are options to expand the scope of a trial?

Applicants are encouraged to design and scope their trial proposal as they determine best meets the eligibility and evaluation criteria, including as to overall trial value and benefits and the applicant's capacity to deliver the trial.

Where there is a feasible option to expand the scope of the trial, applicants may wish to include this in their application. If so, applicants should aim to ensure that the 'core' trial proposal is clearly delineated so that it may be evaluated separately and, if awarded funding, is able to proceed independently of any optional elements presented in the application.

For any option included, the application should identify all components (including timetable, budget items and implications) and how these would be incorporated with the core trial; identify the expected benefits and value of the expanded trial (ie including the option); and identify any factors that would need to be satisfied to enable the take-up of the option.

3. How would a grant from another funding program be counted?

Generally, the requirement is for the applicant to contribute funds to *at least* match the value of the grant funding sought from the Trials Program. Grant funding from another program cannot be used to meet part or all of the applicant's contribution but can be used as 'other contribution' towards the project's total budget.

Where the applicant has been, or expects to be, awarded a grant from a funding program of another jurisdiction for the same trial, the applicant's matching contribution requirement still applies.

Where another South Australian Government grant or contribution is included, the applicant will be expected to match the sum of funding from the South Australian Government.

4. What are the implications of seeking funding from ARENA for the same project?

Where an applicant is also seeking public funds from another source, such as ARENA, if possible, the applicant should have submitted their application for those funds before or at the time they apply under this Program.

Any other public funds proposed for the trial, including where a decision is pending, should be clearly itemised in the project budget. Other public funds should be clearly identified under 'other contributions'.

Where other public funds have not yet been awarded, applicants are encouraged to clearly detail if and how the trial would proceed in the absence of those other public funds.

The Department may consult with the other funding agency in relation to the proposal as part of the assessment process.

The evaluation of, and any funding decision in relation to, a proposal submitted under this Program is independent of the evaluation and decision-making by another public agency under another funding program.

5. Is a trial proposal involving a South Australian Government agency eligible for funding?

A trial involving a South Australian Government agency in its delivery may be eligible for funding. However, it is expected that the South Australian Government entity would not be the lead applicant but would be involved in the trial delivery as a partner, co-contributor and/or participant.

Any financial contribution of the South Australian Government entity cannot be counted towards the applicant's matching funding contribution but may be counted as part of the proposal's 'other contributions'.

6. What involvement will the South Australian Government have following the trial?

The South Australian Government does not have any program announced or proposed at this time to support any subsequent implementation phases of projects supported under the Demand Management Trials Program.

7. How is the Trials Program different to the Energy Productivity Program?

The Energy Productivity Program (EPP) was a business support scheme to incentivise large electricity customers (greater than 160MWh per year) to invest in energy productivity measures in their business.

The EPP awarded grants directly to South Australian businesses to enable those businesses to have audits undertaken and recommended energy productivity measures implemented at their premises. The EPP has now closed.

The Demand Management Trials Program aims to advance commercial readiness by supporting demonstration of the proposed solutions in an operating environment, and to share knowledge generated by the trials for the benefit of the sector broadly. The Trials Program has a broader scope in terms of the range of objectives, activities and the types of customers who may be involved.