

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Invitation Title: Australian Industrial Hemp Five-year Program of Research

Date of Issue: 31 October 2022

Introduction

AgriFutures Australia is the trading name for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). We are an organisation that proudly focuses on the future of Australian agriculture. Our vision is to grow the long-term prosperity of Australian rural industries. In practical terms, this means:

- Initiatives that attract capable people into careers in agriculture, build the capability of future rural leaders, and support change makers and thought leaders
- Research and analysis to understand and address important issues on the horizon for Australian agriculture
- Research and development for established industries that do not have their own Research & Development Corporation (RDC), including the rice, chicken meat, honey bee and pollination, thoroughbred horse, pasture seeds, export fodder, ginger and tea tree oil industries
- Research and development to accelerate the establishment and expansion of new rural industries, such as coffee, industrial hemp, marron, seaweed and sesame.

Our approach

As a future-thinking organisation, AgriFutures Australia not only tackles the rural challenges and opportunities we face today but unearths the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

We place people at the centre of everything we do. We listen, connect and collaborate with emerging leaders in agriculture, industry bodies, other RDCs and government.

Our values



The Emerging Industries Program

The AgriFutures Emerging Industries Program helps grow up-and-coming rural industries for which there is a clear interest in their products but whose pathway for growth is uncharted. We do this through research that explores opportunities for growth and through skills development for industry leaders. Our goal is to sustainably grow developing rural industries and help them reach new markets.

The emerging industries supported by AgriFutures fall into one of three categories:

- **Emergent:** these little-known industries are characterised by a small number of producers or industries in their trial phase. The potential or feasibility of the industry needs to be explored and mapped.
- **Scaling:** these rural industries have successfully established themselves in markets, have addressed some industry issues and opportunities but face 'step change' and economies of scale challenges.
- **Growth:** these rural industries have overcome initial industry growth challenges and now need support to manage rapid growth and demand for their product.

Structure of the invitation

This Invitation comprises the following sections:

- **This invitation**
The Corporation invites expressions of interest for the provision of goods and services for a five-year Australian industrial hemp program of research.
- **Part A – The Expression of Interest**
Details of the opportunity.
- **Part B – Conditions of Participation**
Conditions of participation sets out the rules applying to the EOI process for the supply of services.
- **Part C – Terms of reference**
AgriFutures Australia uses standard form contracts and agreements for projects and research procured by AgriFutures Australia.

Part A – The Invitation

1	Organisation Name	AgriFutures Australia
2	EOI Title	Australian industrial hemp industry five-year program of research
3	Organisation Contact	Name: Dr Olivia Reynolds Position Title: Senior Manager, Emerging Industries Contact Details: programs@agrifutures.com.au
4	Closing Time	12noon AEDT – 14 November 2022
5	Lodgement Details	SmartyGrants online application form

Indicative Timetable

	Activity	Date
1	Invitation Issue	31 October 2022
2	End of period for questions or requests for information	12noon AEDT 10 November 2022
3	Closing time for invitees' response	12noon AEDT 14 November 2022
4	Intended completion date of evaluation of invitees' responses	23 November 2022
5	Intended date of notification of outcome for management research organisation, research organisation, seed suppliers and industry participants	w/c 5 December 2022
6	Intended date for face-to-face workshop	w/c 16 January 2023
7	Intended date for Full Research Proposals to be submitted in AgriFutures project management system (K2)	20 March 2023
8	Intended date to begin program of research (execution of contract between AgriFutures Australia and the managing research organisation)	28 April 2023
9	Intended end date of Hemp program of research	27 April 2028

Background

The AgriFutures Emerging Industries Program helps grow up-and-coming rural industries for which there is a clear interest in their products but whose pathway for growth is uncharted. This is done through research that explores opportunities for growth and through skills development for industry leaders. Our goal is to sustainably grow developing rural industries and help them reach new markets.

The Australian industrial hemp industry has been identified as an industry with high growth potential. AgriFutures Australia is looking to invest in a large collaborative five-year program of research in Australian industrial hemp.

AgriFutures Australia published the [Australian Industrial Hemp Strategic RD&E Plan \(2022-2027\)](#) in March 2022. The RD&E Plan is an industry endorsed plan that outlines the key RD&E priorities to assist the growth and development of the industry over the next five years.

The plan identified five key theme areas:

- Industrial hemp seed and varieties.
- Industrial hemp production.
- Industrial hemp products.
- Industrial hemp industry sustainability.
- The industrial hemp regulatory environment.

To maximise value for money and leverage the industry's growing engagement, the Emerging Industries Program and Rural Futures Program proposes to invest in a five-year program of research, that includes through the proposed Hemp CRC, for the benefit of the Australian Industrial hemp industry.

The Hemp CRC is currently at the bid stage and has no guarantee of being successfully funded. AgriFutures proposed program of research will be designed such that it can operate independently of the Hemp CRC, but permit a smooth assimilation and obtain the advantages and funding leverage of operating within the CRC, if the bid is successful. This means that potentially half the program of research will move across to sit within the Hemp CRC.

This collaborative program of research will bring together research organisations, industry participants and seed suppliers to carry out and amplify research in the Australian industrial hemp industry.

The specific program of work will be developed collaboratively with industry stakeholders, identified through this Expression of Interest, through a workshop and further planning with AgriFutures Australia and an independent facilitator.

Overview of requirements

AgriFutures Australia is currently seeking expressions of interest from interested managing research organisations, research organisations, industry participants and seed suppliers to be involved in the five-year program of research in the Australian industrial hemp industry. This program of research will be made up of multiple research projects.

The specific requirements for managing research organisations, research organisations, seed suppliers and industry participants are listed separately below. Subsequently there are three different application types. Please ensure you complete the relevant application form for your organisation. Research organisations interested in becoming the managing research

organisation must apply through the Research Organisation, ensuring this is nominated on the application form, and the section under ‘*Additional section for managing research organisations*’ is populated.

The program of research will have three major focus areas and one minor focus area aligned with the themes in the *Australian Industrial Hemp Strategic RD&E Plan (2022-2027)*. These also align well with our proposed investment areas in the Hemp CRC.

AgriFutures Hemp Program of Research	Hemp CRC Program Bid alignment
<i>Major focus areas</i>	
Theme 1: Industrial hemp seed and varieties.	
Theme 2: Industrial hemp production	Hemp Production
Theme 4: Industrial hemp industry sustainability	Hemp Futures
<i>Minor focus areas</i>	
Theme 3: Industrial hemp products.	

The program of work will be managed by one research organisation (the ‘*managing research organisation*’), who will be responsible for:

- coordinating all research projects across the major and minor focus areas and service providers within the program, including all sub-contracts, Participation Agreements and Material Transfer Agreements.
- all milestone reporting to AgriFutures Australia, including collating all trial results into singular reports that demonstrate the connectedness and collaboration of projects.
- maintenance of collaboration and connectedness of individuals and organisations within the program.
- ensuring regular engagement and communications with AgriFutures, acting as a conduit, ensuring adequate information exchange for decision-making.

An assessment panel will assess the applications according to the evaluation criteria outlined in this document. Appointment of the managing research organisation, research organisations, seed suppliers and industry participants will occur prior to a face-to-face workshop.

A face-to-face workshop will be held in South Australia during the week commencing 16 January 2023 with successful Expression of Interest (EOI) applicants required to have at least one informed and knowledgeable representative present. The focus of this workshop will be to gain an understanding of the four themes with regards to research currently being conducted on hemp in Australia, the current gaps/opportunities and what capability and experience is available within the group of participants. This workshop will be facilitated by an individual independent of AgriFutures Australia and the hemp industry. Following the workshop, AgriFutures Australia will work with the independent facilitator to identify the outcomes of the workshop and finalise a Statement of Requirements for the program of research.

The independent facilitator will work with all parties, including the management research organisation, to develop a formal full research proposal for the collaborative program of work.

Research organisation requirements

Research organisations will be required to demonstrate the following:

- a strong interest in the Australia industrial hemp industry, which could include through another research project/programs.
- skills and experience in the identified research interest areas within industrial hemp or other similar crops.
- willingness to collaborate with other research organisations, seed suppliers and industry participants. This could include examples of involvement in other collaborative programs of research.
- ability to deliver research projects successfully and on time.
- ability and willingness to provide cash and/or in-kind contributions to the program.

Managing research organisation requirements

In addition, the managing research organisation will also be required to demonstrate experience in the following:

- timely and successful management of a large program of research that includes the management of multiple service providers and sub-contracts.
- consolidating milestone reports from many researchers to create one cohesive overall report.
- managing participation, including ensuring appropriate oversight is provided for all trials, and Material Transfer Agreements.
- logistical management of seed distribution to multiple locations in a timely manner.
- efficient and effective communication capabilities with funding bodies.

It is anticipated that the managing research organisation will also be involved in research activities within the program.

Note: The managing research organisation will need to be willing to work with AgriFutures to merge half the program of research (including the entire carbon component) with the Hemp CRC, should this bid be successful. This may alter the structure of the program of research after inception.

Seed supplier requirements

Seed suppliers will be required to identify what seed they would be willing to contribute to the program.

All seed identified in the EOI must be available for distribution in Australia by July 2023 for year one of the program, and subsequently annually as required.

There may be an opportunity to add additional varieties to the program in following years.

Participating seed suppliers will retain all intellectual property in the varieties which they nominate for inclusion in the program, whilst AgriFutures Australia will own and publish the program results.

It is proposed that participating seed suppliers will sign a Participation Agreement with the managing research organisation and a Material Transfer Agreement with each research organisation to which they supply planting seed. The managing research organisation will draft and coordinate the execution of these Agreements.

Participation in the program is free of charge to seed suppliers. However, seed suppliers must bear the cost associated with the provision of high-quality planting seed, shipping/freight expenses and any indirect cost associated with their involvement in the program e.g., the time spent on communicating with the managing research organisation as well as with project leads and AgriFutures Australia, trial visits, and other program-related activities.

Industry participant requirements

Industry participants refer to those involved, or want to be involved, in the Australian industrial hemp supply chain. It is anticipated that industry participants may include: growers, harvesters, processors / users of harvested products (seed, forage and fibre), and value adders (e.g. hempcrete manufacturers).

Industry participants will be required to identify what contribution they would bring to the program in their EOI response. For example, a grower could be willing to provide their land for a trial site.

Evaluation Criteria

An invitee's response will be evaluated against:

- (a) The evaluation criteria identified in the table below; and
- (b) The overall proposition presented in the invitee's response.

Research organisation evaluation criteria

Mandatory Requirements	Complies
Demonstrates sound interest and/or previous experience and expertise in the industrial hemp industry.	Yes/No
Demonstrated experience in rigorous trial design, management and publication of applied research.	Yes/No
Willing to collaborate with other research organisations, seed suppliers and industry participants.	Yes/No

Willing and able to provide cash and/or in-kind co-contribution to the program.	Yes/No
Has the ability to begin trials in October 2023 if required.	Yes/No

Managing research organisation evaluation criteria

Additional Mandatory Requirements	Complies
Has demonstrated timely and successful management of a large program of research that includes the management of multiple service providers and sub-contracts.	Yes/No
Demonstrated experience in meeting regulatory requirements for industrial hemp research.	Yes/No
Has demonstrated successful management of Material Transfer Agreements.	Yes/No
Has demonstrated successful logistical management of seed distribution (or related logistical management) to multiple locations in a timely manner.	Yes/No
Has demonstrated successful consolidation of milestone reports from many researchers to create one cohesive overall report.	Yes/No
Has shown evidence of successful ability to communicate with funding bodies.	
Has provided two named referees and their contact details.	Yes/No

Other Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
(a) Organisational capability and relevant experience	40%
(b) Project plan	30%
(c) Reason for involvement in the program	30%

Seed supplier evaluation criteria

Mandatory Requirements	Complies
Seed must be available by the end of July for each year of the program.	Yes/No
Seed Suppliers must document that they are the legal owners or commercial licensees of all varieties they nominate for inclusion in program.	Yes/No
Nominated varieties must be commercial varieties or be targeted for commercial release in Australia within two years of nomination.	Yes/No
Planting seed for the program must be sourced from within Australia.	Yes/No
Each nominated cultivar must have a unique name/number when nominated to the program. A Seed Supplier must not nominate the same cultivar under different names/numbers.	Yes/No
Seed supplier must be able to identify the traits of the varieties nominated.	Yes/No

Industry participant evaluation criteria

Mandatory Requirements	Complies
Demonstrate existing involvement, and the area of significant interest / experience in the Australian industrial hemp industry.	Yes/No
Have clearly articulated a valid contribution their participation would bring to the program.	Yes/No

Submitting a Response

Applicants are required to complete the application form via the online SmartyGrants application system. Please ensure you complete the application relevant to you:

- [Research organisation](#)

- [Seed supplier](#)
- [Industry participant](#)

* If you wish to be considered for this role, please ensure you nominate this on the application form, and populate the section under '*Additional section for managing research organisations.*'

Part B – Conditions of Participation

Part B.1 – AgriFutures specific requirements

1. Invitation

1.1. Invitation

This invitation is not an offer. It is a formal request for respondents to submit a respondent's response for the supply of services in response to AgriFutures requirements in Part A.

Nothing in this Invitation is to be construed as creating any binding contract for the supply of services (express or implied) between AgriFutures and any respondent.

1.2. Accuracy of invitation

AgriFutures does not warrant the accuracy of the content of this invitation and will not be liable for any omission from the Invitation documents.

1.3. Additions and amendments

AgriFutures reserves the right to change any information or to issue an addendum to this Invitation.

1.4. Availability of additional materials

Additional materials (if any) may be accessed in the manner set out in Part A. Respondents should familiarise themselves with the additional materials.

1.5. Representation

No representation made by or on behalf of AgriFutures in relation to this invitation (or its subject matter) will be binding on AgriFutures unless the representation is expressly incorporated into any contract(s) ultimately entered into between AgriFutures and a respondent.

1.6. Licence to use Intellectual Property Rights

Persons obtaining or receiving this Invitation and any other documents issued in relation to this Invitation may use the documents only for the purpose of preparing a respondent's response. Such Intellectual Property Rights as may exist in this Invitation and any other documents provided to the respondents by or on behalf of AgriFutures in connection with the EOI process are owned by (and will remain the property of) AgriFutures except to the extent expressly provided otherwise.

2. Communication

2.1. Communication protocol

All communications relating to this Invitation and the EOI process must be directed to the Organisational Contact.

2.2. Requests for clarification

- (a) Any questions or requests for clarification or further information regarding this Invitation or the EOI process must be submitted to AgriFutures contact in writing prior to the EOI closing time.
- (a) AgriFutures is not obliged to respond to any question or request for clarification or further information.
- (b) AgriFutures may make available to other prospective respondent's details of such a request together with any response, in which event those details shall form Part of this Invitation.

2.3. Briefing session

Not applicable.

2.4. Unauthorised communication

- (c) Communications (including promotional or lobbying activities) with staff of AgriFutures or consultants assisting the organisation with the EOI process are not permitted during the EOI process except as provided in clause 2.1 above, or otherwise with the prior written consent of the AgriFutures contact.
- (d) Nothing in this clause 2.4 is intended to prevent communications with staff of, or consultants to, AgriFutures to the extent that such communications do not relate to this Invitation or the EOI process.
- (e) respondents must not engage in any activities or obtain or provide improper assistance that may be perceived as, or that may have the effect of, influencing the outcome of the EOI process in any way. Such activities or assistance may, in the absolute discretion of the organisation, lead to disqualification of a respondent.

2.5. Anti-competitive conduct

Respondents and their representatives must not engage in any collusion, anti-competitive or similar conduct with any other respondent or person in relation to the preparation, content or lodgement of their respondent's response. In addition to any other remedies available to it under law, AgriFutures may, in its absolute discretion, disqualify a respondent that it believes has engaged in such collusive or anti-competitive conduct.

2.6. Privacy Laws

The Respondent must ensure that any collection, use, disclosure or transfer by the Respondent or the Respondent's personnel, of personal information in connection with the participation in this Expression of Interest complies with all applicable laws and AgriFutures Privacy Policy, which is available at <http://www.AgriFutures.com.au/privacy/>.

2.7. Conflict of Interest

The Respondent must disclose any actual or perceivable conflict of interest that exists at the time of lodging. The successful organisation will be required to advise AgriFutures in writing of any changes in conflicts of interest at the time of contracting the services with AgriFutures or at any time during the term

of the agreement when a conflict occurs

2.8. Complaints about this Invitation

A respondent with a complaint about this Invitation or the EOI process which has not been resolved in the first instance with the Organisational Contact must follow the complaints process of AgriFutures.

3. Submission of a respondent's response

3.1. Lodgement

- (f) The respondent's response must be lodged by the EOI closing time. The closing time may be extended by AgriFutures in its absolute discretion by providing notice to respondents.
- (g) All respondents' responses lodged after the EOI closing time will be recorded by AgriFutures. The determination of AgriFutures as to the actual time that the respondent's response is lodged is final.

3.2. Late respondent's response

If a respondent's response is lodged after the EOI closing time, it will be disqualified from the EOI process and will be ineligible for consideration unless:

- (h) the respondent can clearly document to the satisfaction of AgriFutures that an event of exceptional circumstances caused the respondent's response to be lodged after the EOI closing time; and
- (i) AgriFutures is satisfied that accepting a late submission would not compromise the integrity of the EOI process.

AgriFutures will inform a respondent whose response was lodged after the EOI closing time as to whether the respondent's response is ineligible for consideration.

3.3. Providing a respondent's response

It is the respondent's responsibility to:

- (j) understand the requirements of this Invitation, the EOI process and any reference documentation;
- (k) ensure that their respondent's response complies with all requirements of this invitation and is accurate and complete;
- (l) make their own enquiries and assess all risks regarding this invitation and the EOI process;
- (m) ensure that it did not rely on any express or implied statement, warranty or representation, whether oral, written or otherwise made by or on behalf of the organisation or its representatives other than any statement, warranty or representation expressly contained in this Invitation;
- (n) ensure that they comply with all applicable laws in regard to the EOI process;
- (o) be responsible for all costs and expenses related to the preparation and lodgement of its respondent's response, any subsequent negotiation, and any future process connected with or relating to the EOI process.

3.4. Obligation to notify errors

If a respondent identifies an error in their respondent's response (excluding clerical errors which would have no bearing on the evaluation), they must promptly notify the organisation.

AgriFutures may permit a respondent to correct an unintentional error in its respondent's response where that error becomes known or apparent after the EOI closing time, but in no event will any correction be permitted if AgriFutures reasonably considers that the correction would materially alter the substance of the response.

3.5. Use of a respondent's response

Upon submission, all respondent's responses become the property of the organisation. The respondent will retain all ownership rights in any Intellectual Property Rights contained in the respondent's response. However, each respondent, by submission of their respondent's response, is deemed to have granted a licence to AgriFutures to reproduce the whole, or any portion of their respondent's response for the purposes of enabling AgriFutures to evaluate their respondent's response.

3.6. Withdrawal of a respondent's response

A respondent who wishes to withdraw a previously submitted response must immediately notify AgriFutures of the fact. Upon receipt of such notification, AgriFutures will cease to consider the respondent's response.

3.7. Status of respondent's response

Each respondent's response constitutes a non-binding proposal by the respondent to AgriFutures to provide the services required under and otherwise to satisfy the requirements in accordance with Part B of this Invitation.

3.8. Disclosure of EOI contents and EOI information

Respondent's responses will be treated as confidential by AgriFutures. AgriFutures will not disclose the information contained in a respondent's response, except:

- (p) as required by law (including, for the avoidance of doubt, as required under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic))
- (q) for the purpose of investigations by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or other government authorities having relevant jurisdiction;
- (r) to external consultants and advisers of AgriFutures engaged to assist with the EOI process;
- (s) to other government departments or organisations in connection with the subject matter of the EOI process; or
- (t) general information from respondents required to be disclosed by government policy.

4. Capacity to comply with the overview of requirements

Part A details AgriFutures requirements for the services the subject of this Invitation. The assumption is that each respondent will be capable of providing all of the

services in full. Where a respondent believes it will not be capable of providing all the services in full or will only comply with Part B subject to conditions, it should either not apply or set out potential limitations in their respondent's response.

Respondents who are invited to participate in subsequent EOI processes (should such eventuate) will be provided with a full specification for the relevant services at that time.

5. Evaluation

5.1. Evaluation process

Respondent's responses will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria stipulated in Part A.

A respondent's response will not be deemed to be unsuccessful until such time as the respondent is formally notified of that fact by AgriFutures.

AgriFutures may in its absolute discretion:

- (u) reject any respondent's response that does not include all the information requested or is not in the format specified in Part A;
- (v) after concluding a preliminary evaluation, reject any respondent's response that in its opinion is unacceptable;
- (w) disregard any content in a respondent's response that is illegible and will be under no obligation whatsoever to seek clarification from the respondent;
- (x) disqualify an incomplete respondent's response or evaluate it solely on the information contained within it;
- (y) alter the structure and/or the timing of the EOI process; and
- (z) vary or extend any time or date specified in this Invitation for all respondents.

6. Next stage of the EOI process

6.1. Options available to the organisation

After evaluating all respondent's responses, AgriFutures may without limiting other options available to it, do any of the following:

- (aa) prepare a short list of respondents and invite further offers from those respondents;
- (bb) conduct a subsequent procurement process calling for the services or any similar related services;
- (cc) enter into pre contractual negotiations with one or more respondents;
- (dd) decide not to proceed further with the EOI process or any other procurement process for the services; or
- (ee) commence a new process for calling for respondent's responses on a similar or different basis to that outlined in the original invitation.

7. No legally binding contract

Being short listed does not give rise to a contract (express or implied) between the preferred respondent and the organisation. No legal relationship will exist between

the organisation and a preferred respondent relating to the supply of goods and/or services unless and until such time as a binding contract is executed by both parties.

8. Respondent warranties

By submitting a respondent's response, a respondent warrants that:

- (ff) in lodging its respondent's response, it did not rely on any express or implied statement, warranty or representation, whether oral, written, or otherwise made by or on behalf of AgriFutures or its representatives other than any statement, warranty or representation expressly contained in the invitation documents;
- (gg) it has examined this Invitation, and any other documents referenced or referred to herein, and any other information made available in writing by AgriFutures to respondents for the purposes of submitting a respondent's response;
- (hh) it has sought and examined all necessary information which is obtainable by making reasonable enquiries relevant to the risks and other circumstances affecting its respondent's response;
- (ii) it otherwise accepts and will comply with the rules set out in this Invitation; and
- (jj) it will provide additional information in a timely manner as requested by AgriFutures to clarify any matters contained in the respondent's response.

9. AgriFutures rights

Notwithstanding anything else in this Invitation, and without limiting its rights at law or otherwise, the organisation reserves the right, in its absolute discretion at any time, to:

- (kk) vary or extend any time or date specified in this Invitation for all or any respondents; or
- (ll) terminate the participation of any respondent or any other person in the EOI process.

10. Governing Law

This Invitation and EOI process is governed by the laws applying in the State of New South Wales. Each respondent must comply with all relevant laws in preparing and lodging its respondent's response and in taking Part in the EOI process.

11. Interpretation

11.1. Definitions

AgriFutures	Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Trading As AgriFutures Australia And The Organisation Issuing This Invitation.
EOI closing time	means the time specified at Item 4 of <i>Part A.1</i> by which respondent's responses must be received by the organisation.

EOI process	means the process commenced by issuing an Invitation for respondent's responses and concluding upon either early termination of the process or a subsequent procurement process.
Intellectual Property Rights	includes all present and future copyright and neighbouring rights, all proprietary rights in relation to inventions (including patents), registered and unregistered trademarks, confidential information (including trade secrets and know how), registered designs, circuit layouts, and all other proprietary rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields.
Invitation	means the opportunity set out in each of the documents identified in the Introduction to this Invitation including this Part B.2, the EOI process and any other documents so designated by the organisation.
Item	means an item of this Invitation.
Overview of requirements	means the overview of requirements set out at <i>Part A.2</i> .
Part	means a Part of this Invitation.
Project manager	means the person so designated at Item 3 of <i>Part A.1</i> .
Representative	means a party and its agents, servants, employees, contractors, associates, respondents and anyone else for whom that party is responsible.
Respondent	means a person who submits a respondent's response.
Respondent's response	means a document lodged by a respondent in response to this Invitation containing a proposal to provide goods and/or services.
Services	means the services required by the organisation as stipulated in <i>Part A.2</i> .

11.2. Interpretation

In this Invitation, unless expressly provided otherwise:

- (mm) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (nn) a reference to:
 - (i) 'includes' or 'including' means includes or including without limitation; and
 - (ii) '\$' or dollars is a reference to the lawful currency of the Commonwealth of Australia; and
- (oo) if a word or phrase is defined, its other grammatical forms have corresponding meanings.

Part C – Terms of reference

AgriFutures Australia uses standard form contracts and agreements for projects and research procured by AgriFutures Australia (please refer to <https://www.agrifutures.com.au/contracts-and-agreements/>). These contracts and agreements set out the terms on which AgriFutures Australia will engage successful applicants to carry out the project.

Applicants must be familiar with the contracts and agreements before submitting a response and are advised to seek legal advice beforehand.

These contracts and agreements have been developed to reflect AgriFutures Australia's statutory and other procurement responsibilities.

If you require any amendments to the standard agreement, please complete the statement of non-compliance for each of the relevant clause. AgriFutures will then assess those requests.

Applicants will be taken to have agreed to all clauses in the Research Agreement that are not referred to in a statement of non-compliance. The extent of any non-compliance will be a factor in AgriFutures Australia's evaluation of the application.

If you require further information regarding these contracts and agreements, please, contact Erin Hulm, Manager, Legal Services via email erin.hulm@agrifutures.com.au.