

# Coal Minesite Rehabilitation Trust Fund - 2011 Postgraduate Scholarships Guidelines

The Coal Minesite Rehabilitation Trust Fund was established in 1999 with the objective of supporting research into the management of Queensland Coal minesite environmental issues leading to the achievement of sustainable operations and post-mining land uses.

The fund is overseen by a Steering Committee of representatives from the fund trustee's - the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) in partnership with the Queensland Government, along with representatives from major Queensland coal mining companies.

Up to two 2011 Postgraduate Scholarships are on offer, each with a maximum value of up to \$35,000 per annum.\*

Applications are sought by way of Short Proposals from students undertaking research within Queensland and with a Queensland university. Short Proposals must be aligned to one or more of the 2011 Research Priorities.

## 2011 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

13 Research Priorities are defined under the overall objective of supporting research into the management of minesite environmental issues leading to achievement of sustainable post-mining land uses.

- Defining rehabilitation success criteria.
- Defining habitat value of rehabilitation.
- Rehabilitation of coal processing wastes including those disposed of in-pit.
- Defining key parameters for sustainable post-mining land use such as native ecosystems, grazing agriculture land.
- Defining improved methods for managing biodiversity adjacent to, and in association with, mining.
- Defining methods of management and mitigation of the effect of subsidence, including impacts of aquifers and other water resources.
- Improving understanding of the impacts of mining on receiving waters.
- Defining the value of rehabilitation as future off-sets for current disturbance of remnant ecosystems.
- Improving understanding of community aspects of sustainable development associated with the coal mining industry.
- Evaluating the impact of mining on floodplains and the stability of post-mining landforms in floodplains.
- Improved methods for the prediction and management of dust and noise impacts generated by mining operations and associated infrastructure.
- Evaluating the economic return from post-mining land uses, particularly the potential for CO<sub>2</sub> off-sets and sequestration within native ecosystems.

## CRITERIA FOR SHORT PROPOSALS

The Steering Committee will consider Short Proposals based on:

- The expected value to industry of the research
- Whether or not it addresses one or more of the 2011 Research Priorities.
- The credibility of the proposed research and the capacity of the application to undertake the research.

Short Proposals must clearly define:

- A statement of objectives, with which explain how the research will be carried out.
- The expected outcomes and benefits of the research.

## Statement of research objectives

It is essential that the project objectives identify the problem to be solved. The objective should not be a précis of the work program, but a simple statement of what is to be achieved (project outcomes), eg. develop a technique, understand a mechanism.

***\*NB The Scholarship is for support of the scholar and not a contribution to the research funding.***

## **Expected outcomes and benefits**

The benefits and risks in the project should also be made clear. The Steering Committee recognise that every research project has an element of risk, and that not all projects will succeed.

Short Proposals must indicate:

- How the research aligns to the 2011 Research Priorities
- The likelihood of success.
- How the results will benefit the Queensland Coal Industry.
- An estimate of the size and nature of the benefits of success in dollar, regulatory and/or social terms, where possible.

All Short Proposals must:

- Be accompanied by a completed Short Proposal Cover Sheet.
- Be accompanied by a summary tertiary academic record.
- Contain no extraneous material such as company profiles, lists of publications etc.
- Indicate if any other funding is being/has been sought for the research project.
- Be no more than ten pages in length.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Short Proposals are to be received by the QRC on behalf of the Steering Committee only via [rehabfund@qrc.org.au](mailto:rehabfund@qrc.org.au) by 26 November 2010.

Successful applicants, the actual scholarship funding allocation and key payment milestones for each research project, will be determined at the sole discretion of the Steering Committee.

The successful applicants will be notified in writing by 21 January 2011.

## **STANDARD SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Standard Scholarship Agreement details the research project reporting milestones, scholarship payment value, schedule and intellectual property issues.

The successful applicants and their Project Leader/s will be required to read and accept the terms and conditions set by the Steering Committee in the Standard Scholarship Agreement.

## **CONTACT**

For further assistance with submitting an application, email [francesh@qrc.org.au](mailto:francesh@qrc.org.au)