EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Funding Rules made under section 60 of the Australian Research Council Act 2001

Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2014

Issued by the authority of the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

Subject: 
Australian Research Council Act 2001
Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2014

Authority
Section 60 of the Australian Research Council Act 2001 (the Act) provides that the Minister must approve ARC funding rules.

Purpose and effect
Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities is a scheme funded under the Australian Research Council’s National Competitive Grants Program. The Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities for funding commencing in 2014 sets out the eligibility and accountability requirements and other relevant matters for research programs which may be funded under this scheme. The scheme provides funding to eligible organisations for research infrastructure, equipment and facilities that will be used to support high-quality research projects.

In accordance with subsection 59 (2) of the Act, the Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities for funding commencing in 2014 contain:
(a) the eligibility criteria to be met in order for a proposal to be approved for financial assistance (including criteria relating to the kinds of organisation that may receive assistance and the kinds of research program in respect of which assistance may be provided);
(b) how to apply for financial assistance;
(c) the assessment process for deciding which proposals will be recommended for approval;
(d) the ways in which, and circumstances in which, a funding approval may be varied; and
(e) any additional accountability requirements that the ARC thinks desirable.

In accordance with subsection 59 (2) of the Act, the Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2014 rules take account of, and are consistent with:
(a) the funding cap for the year, or each of the years, to which the rules apply; and
(b) the funding split determination for the year, or each of the years, to which the rules apply.

The Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2014 were approved by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skill, Science and Research, the Hon Chris Bowen, on 21 February 2013. No amendments have been made.

Documents incorporated by reference
The following documents are incorporated by reference:
• the NHMRC/ARC/UA Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007);
• the NHMRC/ARC/UA National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007);
and codes on animal research promulgated by the NHMRC (see section 13.1 of the rules), available from (www.nhmrc.gov.au);
• Instructions to Applicants for funding commencing in 2014 (see section 9.2), available from (www.arc.gov.au)
Commencement
The Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2014 shall take effect upon registration on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

Explanation of provisions: provision by provision description

Section 1 provides the name of the Funding Rules.

Section 2 provides the commencement details.

Section 3 provides definitions.

Section 4 provides an overview and outlines the objectives of the Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities scheme and selection criteria.

Section 5 outlines the level of funding, restrictions on budget items, and types of research not supported.

Section 6 deals with organisational types, roles and eligibility. This includes eligible, collaborating and partner organisations.

Section 7 outlines roles and general eligibility for researchers and eligibility criteria for Chief Investigators and Partner Investigators.

Section 8 outlines the number of proposals, funded projects and cross-scheme eligibility.

Section 9 outlines the submission of proposals, including proposal content and format, how to complete and submit proposals, closing time for proposals and certification of proposals.

Section 10 deals with the selection and approval process.

Section 11 outlines the appeals process.

Section 12 outlines reporting requirements including progress reports, end of year reports, final report and audited financial statement.

Section 13 outlines fundamental principles of conducting research including ethics and research practices, applicable law, confidentiality, intellectual property and incomplete or misleading information.

Appendix A: Eligible Organisations