



**Queensland  
Government**

**Regional University Industry Collaboration Program**

# Innovate to Grow: Circular Economy and Sustainability

Applications are open for a free 8-week R&D training program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on circular economy and sustainability solutions. Delivered as part of the Queensland Government funded Regional University Industry Collaboration (RUIC) program.

## Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's innovation capability, but having the right support is critical to success.

Our free online 8-week program will help build your skills and networks so you can learn how to advance your idea with R&D.

Apply today

Applications close: 26 April 2026

Program starts: 21 May 2026

[www.csiro.au/I2GQueensland](http://www.csiro.au/I2GQueensland)



## Key program outcomes

**Refine your research idea:** We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

**Confidential feedback:** Meet with a CSIRO facilitator to discuss your program exercises and business challenges.

**Coaching:** Learn more about research projects and get connected to an expert with help from an R&D coach.

**Build your network:** You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers and other SMEs.

### Key program outputs include how to:

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of your business idea
- Build your R&D project plan
- Develop your project roadmap and funding strategy
- Review your business idea and create a list of priorities and actions.

## Commitment and course outline

### Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Virtual onboarding session, pre-workshop video and reading materials. You'll also complete a short pre-program exercise.

### Program start: 21 May 2026

#### Workshop (3.5 hours)

Guest speakers from CSIRO, sector experts and SMEs who will provide tips and information on topics such as trends and opportunities, innovation experience and funding. You will also meet your fellow participants and R&D coach.

#### Weeks 1–8

#### Program timeline (2–3 hours per week)

Participants explore opportunities to grow their business through innovation and research.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

## Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Queensland Australia who are working circular economy and sustainability related technologies. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Energy, solar, wind turbines, batteries
- Construction materials
- Agriculture, food and beverage
- Reducing plastic waste
- Mining and METS
- Digital, robotics and AI.

### Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Queensland Australia that is registered with an ABN
- A business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- An R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to the circular economy or sustainability.

*Please note: Australian subsidiary companies of foreign entities are not eligible.*

### Other considerations:

- A strong alignment to the program objectives
- A clear desire to investigate a R&D project

### Previous participant

'Participating in Innovate to Grow has been transformative for us. The guidance from our mentor helped us navigate complex hurdles and gave us the tools and mindset to innovate with purpose and impact.'

– Ms Leanne Edge, Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc.

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using [Practera's](#) online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

### For further information:

Email: [InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au](mailto:InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au) or visit [www.csiro/I2GQueensland](http://www.csiro/I2GQueensland).