

Policy – Grant funding endorsement

Authority: C.A. Board of Directors
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1. Context:

- 1.1. Composites Australia (C.A.) supports the development and growth of knowledge, innovation and technology for the benefit of the wider Australian composites sector by way of quality research, innovation, and technology and material inputs.
- 1.2. Composites Australia is regularly called upon to support grant funding applications by firms, Universities and other education institutions by way of endorsement for the grant application as well as cash and in-kind contributions. Grant funding applications could be for research programs, business improvement and/or technology acquisitions.

2. Purpose of this policy:

- 1.3. Appeals for support for grant funding applications is a request for endorsement of the execution and results of the proposal outlined in the grant application, all of which carry liability, financial and reputational implications for C.A..
- 1.4. C.A. is not (and cannot be) bound to endorse grant funding endorsement appeals except with the approval of the Board of CA.
- 1.5. The purpose of this policy is to provide a structured approach for C.A. to evaluate and potentially support grant funding applications by firms, universities, and other educational institutions, including how C.A. manages endorsements, cash, and in-kind contributions.

3. Cash and in-kind contributions:

- 3.1. As a rule, Composites Australia will not contribute funds to endorsed programs.
- 3.2. It may consider in-kind contributions under specific circumstances, with the expectation that such contributions are reimbursed at an agreed rate.

4. Appeal to C.A. for grant funding endorsement:

- 4.1. Appeals for support for grant funding must clearly articulate objectives for Sovereign Manufacturing Capability¹ and how the proposed program will further the Australian composites industry, including building strong, competent onshore industry verticals with a focus on developing specific onshore manufacturing production and operational capabilities.
- 4.2. Entities appealing to C.A. for grant funding endorsement should do so by email to the Executive Director of Composites Australia. This initial communication should include a link to the official

¹ Definition – The terms ‘Sovereign Industrial Capability,’ ‘Sovereign Manufacturing Capability,’ ‘Sovereign Operational Capability’ and ‘Sovereign Supply Chains’ originally described the concept for an Australian based industry that produces defence systems, materials and services to support Australian defence projects; the products, technology and materials from which are also exportable in their own right. This is distinct from overseas companies using Australian subsidiary companies as shopfronts for wholly imported goods and services that do not contribute to the Australian industrial landscape and that leave Australia dependent on imported goods, services and labour for critical activities. Usage of the terms has since extended to include the broader Australian manufacturing industry.

website documenting the grant program guidelines as well as initial expectations of the proposed program outcomes and C.A.'s role in the proposed program.

- 4.3. It is understood that programs often require more than one participating entity.
 - 4.3.1.C.A. requires full disclosure of participating entities both on-shore and offshore, expected outcomes and allocation of financial and in-kind contributions for all participating parties.
 - 4.3.2.C.A. requires assurance that all parties have a record of behaving ethically.
- 4.4. C.A. requires an adequate notification time-frame. Last minute appeals are unlikely to be considered.
- 4.5. C.A. requires a copy of the final application and general expectations about the review process and its timelines.
- 4.6. C.A. requires immediate notification of the funding application outcomes, the contractual terms and funder's associated reasoning, if provided.
- 4.7. Industry wide derisive statements and false information manufactured for the purpose of obtaining grant funding or media attention will not be tolerated.
- 4.8. So too any attempt to engage in advocating industry policy to state and federal governments.

5. Expectation of endorsed programs:

- 5.1. Program Communications:
 - 5.1.1.As custodians of the C.A. brand and the association's corporate identity, C.A. has a duty to protect and enhance its reputation and that of the Australian composites sector. To that end, C.A. must approve all content (written and visual) in which C.A. is mentioned and or the C.A. brand is used before it is publication, be it through social or traditional media. Any misrepresentation of the Australian composites industry will not be tolerated.
 - 5.1.2.C.A. communication platforms are available for agreed Media announcements and the dissemination of program milestone and research findings.
- 5.2. C.A. must be informed of any incident whereby the Grantee fails to comply with any of the contracted reporting requirements during the project period.
- 5.3. In the event that a Grantee fails to comply with contracted reporting requirements, C.A. will suspend support until it is satisfied that the grant conditions have been satisfied.
- 5.4. C.A. will be informed of the acceptance of the closeout of any grant that has reached the end of the project period.
- 5.5. C.A. expectation is that the Grantees will comply with all federal and state regulations and statutes applicable to the grant during the project period and abide by all applicable laws and regulations, including those governing the conduct of those engaged in the program.

6. Standards of endorsed research:

- 6.1. Arrangements regarding dissemination of research findings will be specified in the relevant project agreements.
- 6.2. Research under C.A.'s endorsement must be conducted responsibly and ethically, aligning with the principles of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018 and its supporting guides.
- 6.3. C.A. will refer any allegations of misconduct to the appropriate authorities for investigation.

7. Responsibilities and Authorities:

- 7.1. The Executive Director of C.A. is tasked with reviewing endorsement appeals and overseeing endorsed projects.
- 7.2. The final decision to endorse grant applications rests solely with the C.A. Board and requires their written confirmation.

8. Linked Policies

- 8.1. Branding Guidelines
- 8.2. Social Media

END