**In-Stream Expression of Interest**

**Questions and Answers**

1. **What is the expected time commitment for the Pioneer or a Catalyst?**

The teams should ideally meet monthly. Pioneer and PioneerPlus sponsors will have a greater commitment as they will be running the program. It will be up to the Pioneer to decide the time commitment, but we don't want it to be too onerous on the working group (i.e. meetings every week), equally, we don’t want you to meet twice in the 12 months. It is a 12-month process and therefore the cadence of the meetings may change over that time but even if you think you have found a solution after 6 months, we expect to continue to refine and test for the full time period.

1. **What will be the role of universities or research institutions such as WaterRA?**

IWN sees this as an opportunity to engage with research institutions and if there is a solution that fits the skill sets of a particular institution then we would actively seek a partnership

1. **What will be the role of water utilities?**

The role of the water authorities will be to provide members to the working groups. IWN have already engaged with their water authority members regarding the requirements. The water authorities will bring their perspective on the challenges and the nuances with regards to adopting various solution options.

1. **Will there be opportunities to seek additional funding e.g. from Arena or a CRC?**

This will depend on the outcome of the solution and if it fits nicely into a CRC or Arena fund. This is the way IWN typically operates, seeking to leverage funding opportunities.

1. **What will happen at the end of the 12 months? Will the team need to develop an implementation plan and find additional funding or will it be handed over to IWN to move forward?**

This will depend on the type of outcome in terms of solution option. If the solution is a $5 million trial verses a $50,000 technology on a small skid, they will have different pathways. Therefore, the solution will determine the next steps and the working group will need to define how the solution will get to implementation after the 12 months have finished. We have thought about options for funding following the 12-month period and potentially IWN funding could be used, as well as trialling solutions with the water utilities. The steps though will be determined by the solution developed.

1. **How many participants will there be in each working group?**

Ideally no more than 10- 15 in each working group. The size of the team may change over the course of the program as the stage of the work changes. Stakeholders and experts may come in at different points in the program as the solution progresses. Each challenge will likely have different-sized working groups.

1. **Has thought been given to IP ownership?**

This will depend on the solution developed. What we don’t want is proprietary IP being used in the solution. This is a co-creation process, collaborating across the sector therefore we don’t envision one water utility or company owning the IP. The Pioneer of the group will facilitate any IP discussions and if there are any IP ownership issues they will be determined as the solution option is developed.

1. **If the utilities are joining as part of the challenge teams who will be the Pioneer, PioneerPlus and Catalyst?**

The Pioneer, PioneerPlus and Catalyst will not be water authorities, they will be from the private sector. The water authorities will not be expected to contribute financially to In-Stream, they may however, contribute to a trial of a solution option.

1. **What would a great outcome look like?**

We would love to see viable solutions implemented in the real world whether this is in a year or 4 years. We would like to see accelerated solution development that would not be possible without In-Stream. Therefore, it is ultimately about tangible results. We would also like to see the creation of a co-creation innovation ecosystem and enough success to ensure that the process is self-sustaining, and we roll into another cycle of In-Stream.

1. **How does this connect to current IWN working groups?**

There will probably be some crossover with current working groups under IWN and if there is, then this will be an opportunity to accelerate what they are doing and bring in their expertise.

1. **Does IWN know the total cost to run the 12-month In-Stream program?**

Yes, we have some commercial models on which the sponsorship levels are based in order to cover the venues and resources required. This is not a profit-making exercise for IWN. This is about delivering innovations and tangible solutions to the challenges in the sector

1. **What level of detail is required in the EOI?**

In the EOI documentation there are templates to guide responses. What we don’t want is numerous pages of information, therefore please keep it succinct and the word count requirement is designed to help with that. We want to know how the challenge fits with the potential sponsors business. We don’t expect you to have all the answers to the challenge at this point but we want to know how you will approach it and what process you will use to develop a solution.

1. **Is there a model for how decisions will be made in the individual challenges and who will make the final call on the development path to take?**

This will be in the domain of the water authorities and that is why they are an integral part of this process of the co-creation process. The decision to adopt will be theirs.

1. **Do you have more details on the program structure?**

The In-Stream Program Structure is shown in the EOI documents at this link: <https://vicwater.org.au/programs/#IWN>

1. **Do you have more details on the problem statements?**

The problem statements are deliberately broad right now. We will work with the organisations leading the streams to refine and hone the problem statements.

1. **Keen to understand better what the value delivered to water utilities will be (beyond knowledge sharing & capability uplift) – is there more detail on this you can supply?**

The value to Water Utilities is to accelerate the development and availability of credible solution options to solve for the challenges. In-Stream will simultaneously address up to 8 challenges with independent working groups, tapping into the best available global experience and knowledge in those challenge areas. Its more than sharing knowledge, its about providing pathways to transformation for the sector though innovation and technology adoption.

1. **Will there be a standard framework for how each group will work within and across each of the challenges? Perhaps a common set of principles, guidelines, decision-making etc?**

There will be a set of guiding principles. We don’t want to be too prescriptive and inadvertently diminish process creativity.

1. **Is there anything we can learn from the work Isle has done with Northumbrian re bringing groups together e.g. IP ownership?**

IWN have partnered with Isle Utilities as the In-Stream Delivery Partner as they bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from designing and delivering Innovation Festivals globally, including Northumbrian Water and Sydney Water. Their experience and learnings are being applied to the design and execution of In-Stream.