

# Project Catalyst Expression of Interest

## Innovation Practice Trial Form



**PURPOSE:** As an industry leading innovation program, Project Catalyst is calling for expressions of interest to showcase ideas and concepts for the next generation of sugarcane farming innovation. This call for proposals is to allow Project Catalyst to build a library of novel, shovel ready innovation ideas to provide to potential funding partners. Proposals should align with Project Catalyst's underlying ethos that best practice farming improves productivity and environmental performance.

**ABOUT THIS FORM:** By completing this form you are proposing a new Project Catalyst innovation trial that will form part of future innovation funding applications by Catchment Solutions (representing Project Catalyst). Potential funders may select certain proposed innovation ideas and/or trials for further evaluation at their discretion. If you require assistance completing this form, please contact Ross Neivandt on 0408 139 289 or [rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au](mailto:rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Where additional supporting documents are required, please supply as separate attachments in PDF format. You should complete all sections of this form. Once complete, please email this form to [rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au](mailto:rneivandt@catchmentsolutions.com.au)

**ELIGIBILITY:** To be eligible for funding under Project Catalyst innovation programs, all innovation partners must be willing to:

- Work with an On-Ground Service Provider (OGSP) that can be approved by Catchment Solutions for trial design and project implementation.
- Keep accurate records and make available data relating to the trial, and consent for this data to be made available to Catchment Solutions for reporting purposes.
- Participate in field days and shed meetings so that growers and other participants in Project Catalyst can visit the trial site.
- Work with an approved On-Ground Service Provider and Catchment Solutions to develop communications material relating to the trial.
- Give permission to Catchment Solutions for images and video footage to be used for project promotion purposes.

Through this call for Expressions of Interest, Project Catalyst is looking to have a number of high-quality trials fully scoped and costed for the consideration of potential funders. These EOI's should aim to document innovation opportunities that have the potential to create relevant practice change outcomes for future uptake across the industry. These precursor documents shall outline the envisaged innovation, its applicability to current farming systems, possibilities for creating positive impacts and potential for scalable adoption. There is no formal closing date for submissions however submissions received by 5:00pm EST Friday 17th December 2021 will be put to potential funders in the first round of Project Catalyst's "Opportunities to Innovate" portfolio.



## Project Outline

Project Catalyst aims to empower farmers to increase productivity, manage land sustainably, improve competitiveness and create enduring environmental benefits. Funders are interested in restoration and rejuvenation of Australian biodiversity and supporting farmers to manage their land sustainably to produce long-term economic, community and environmental advantage.

Project Catalyst is recognised as one of the sugarcane Industry's innovation leaders with great successes achieved through a "network of practice" approach to technology and knowledge development, grower extension and peer to peer learning. In addition to measurable on farm performance gains, this approach delivers large scale water quality run-off improvements across cane producing farmland that positively impacts the long-term sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef. The project is making a valuable contribution to identifying and validating the innovative practices that will assist the Queensland cane industry to adopt practices consistent with the goals and targets of Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Long Term Sustainability Plan including the 2025 water quality targets. Practices that deliver an environmental and economic benefit are promoted widely to the industry.

Project Catalyst is structured so that the participating growers have input to the list of innovation practices evaluated. This approach has led to a culture of innovation and collaboration flourishing amongst the participating growers that has created a more positive approach to the changes facing the industry. The project's primary purpose is to reduce the environmental footprint that Australia's sugarcane production has on reef catchment water quality and the Great Barrier Reef, by accelerating the adoption of farming practices in the sugar industry that balance and restore farming inputs against crop requirements that also promote biodiversity and soil health. Project Catalyst focuses on the identification and validation of cutting-edge sugarcane farming practices in line with the "triple bottom line" sustainability principles of positive social, environmental and financial outcomes at scale.

Project Catalyst continues to identify, implement and validate pathways to rapid adoption through trial work of new farm management practices which are more effective and efficient in regard to the use of external inputs and natural resources, minimising the impact on natural assets while maximising farm production and profitability.

The methodology retains a core focus on innovation of farming practices, testing and validating these practices against both environmental and economic measures by using established on-ground agronomic support, (on-ground service providers), that can develop and measure with scientific rigour the effectiveness and results of each trial and report them in such a way they can be communicated to the industry and broader community.

Project proposals will be considered from any area or region in Queensland and the focus should be on sugarcane farming systems at this time. However, should there be an opportunity to apply innovation ideas across multiple industries, please include appropriate details and information in your EOI application. Growers, interested parties and On-Ground Service Providers should collaborate to scope out proposed innovation trials that include indicative annual budgets, timelines and scalability. Expressions of interest will be considered for projects of not less than 2 years duration (preferable scalable over a longer duration).

# Assessment Criteria

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicant is operating in Australia and has an Australian Business Number (ABN).

Applicant holds, or is willing to hold, the required insurances.

Applicant has demonstrated ability to design, implement and deliver innovation field trials in the sugarcane industry.

Applicant can collect, secure and provide Paddock 2 Reef survey data to Catchment Solutions.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
The proposed trial is considered to be innovative or previously scientifically untested for the industry or possibly a catchment region. (Mandatory)	20%
The Applicant's project includes measurable outcomes. Demonstrated systems must be in place to record measurable outcomes and must be reported in accordance with Project Catalyst trial reporting requirements and the Paddock to Reef Program as a minimum data collection requirement. (Mandatory)	30%
The proposed trial will allow for progress towards productivity benefits, economic benefits and environmental outcomes, measured through meaningful indicators that demonstrate a pathway to improved farming practices. (Mandatory)	30%
The farm management practice being trialled has the potential for broader adoption expansion across the industry. Consideration is given to the commercial viability of the practice change versus smaller demonstration activities. (Mandatory)	10%
Proposed trial draws on or involves collaboration with technical expertise and more broadly will collaborate/integrate with other projects. (Desirable)	5%
The application leverages other funding or co-investment opportunities and in particular acknowledges in-kind contributions. (Desirable)	5%

**NOTE:** The submission of an eligible application for funding does not guarantee that funding will be provided.

Applications need to demonstrate a high level of merit against the criteria and be competitive against other applications.

## Grower Details

Grower Name		
Address		
Contact Details	Phone	Email
Entity Name		
Farm No./Name		
Mill Area		
Trial Subdistrict or Production Zone		
Total Farm Area Under Cane ha		
Has the grower previously undertaken a Project Catalyst Trial?	<p style="text-align: center;">YES                      NO</p> <p>If yes, please list the trial or trials conducted and when</p>	

## On-ground Service Provider Information

Company Name		
ABN		
Business Address		
Contact Details	Phone	Email
Business Structure (Sole Trader/ Partnership/Company)		
Names, title (position), qualifications and experience of key technical company personnel		

## ●●●● On-ground Service Provider OH&S Information

Does the business have a documented WHS Policy?	YES If yes, please provide evidence	NO
Does the business have a documented Health and Safety Management System?	YES If yes, please provide evidence	NO
Does the business have an established process for incident reporting and investigation?	YES If yes, please provide evidence	NO

## ●●●● On-ground Service Provider Insurance Information

Work Cover	Insurer	
	Policy Number	
	Amount	
	Expiry Date	
Public and Products Liability	Insurer	
	Policy Number	
	Amount	
	Expiry Date	
Professional Liability	Insurer	
	Policy Number	
	Amount	
	Expiry Date	



## Project Plan Information

<p>Can you assess and generate Nutrient Management Plans?</p>	<p>YES                      NO</p> <p>If yes, please provide evidence</p>
<p>Can you obtain, secure and upload Paddock 2 Reef (P2R) reporting data?</p>	<p>YES                      NO</p> <p>If yes, please provide evidence</p>
<p>Have you previously managed sugar cane trials and delivered technical trial advice?</p>	<p>YES                      NO</p> <p>If yes, please provide evidence</p>

<p>Name of Trial</p>	
<p>Description</p>	
<p>Aim</p>	
<p>Type of Trial: (Rationale for why this might work)</p>	

## ●●●● Project Plan

Summary of benefits including potential water quality benefit	
Expected Outcome of Trial	
Name and Contact Details of Service Provider	
Where did this idea come from?	

## ●●●● Project Plan

Project Stages	Date (month & year to be undertaken)	Activities (breakdown of each activity for each stage)
Stage 1		
Stage 2		
Stage 3		
Stage 4		
Stage 5		

## ●●●● Project Trial Site Details

Trial Crop	
Variety Ratoon/Plant	
Trial Block No/Name	
Trial Block Size Ha	
Soil Type/s	

## ●●●● Project Budget

Please note that funders are unlikely to consider payments to growers for capital expenditure (including land or marine vehicles, plant, facilities etc) or administration costs. Payments will only be made to the contracted On-Ground Service Provider (OGSP) managing the trial.

While no annual trial budget is set, applications will be assessed based on their value proposition. Larger amounts may be considered for projects that demonstrate potential to deliver high value, scalable outcomes for industry level step change adoption.

Other activities or specific expenditure may be ineligible because Catchment Solutions determines it does not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes of the project or they are contrary to the spirit and intention of the funding.

Project Stages	Date (month & year to be undertaken)	Activities (breakdown of each activity for each stage)	Grant Cash Contribution	Applicant Cash Contribution	In Kind \$ Value
Stage 1					
Stage 2					
Stage 3					
Stage 4					
Stage 5					



## ●●●● Trial Design

Please detail how the trial will be implemented including grower interaction, inputs, monitoring, outcomes and reporting. It is important to include how the trial will validate and measure productivity benefits, economic benefits and environmental outcomes. Please include details of the data that will be collected to evaluate these project outcomes.

## ●●●● Authorisation

Name of Grower		Date	
Name of Service Provider		Date	