

Service Offering

The Infrastructure Sustainability Council (ISC) requires Australian-first innovation proposals (for the Inn-1 credit) to be endorsed by an independent industry organisation, as part of organisations' application processes.

The ARA can consider Australian-first proposals for rail organisations making submissions to ISC, based on its areas of knowledge and capability.

Process for consideration

If the proposal relates to rail project design, construction, or delivery, the application will be considered by the ARA's Rail Infrastructure Contractors Executive Committee (RICEC).

If the proposal relates to planning, processes or outcomes that deliver sustainability benefits, the application will be considered by the ARA's Sustainability Advisory Committee.

If the proposal covers both rail construction projects and sustainability processes, then the application will be considered by both the ARA's RICEC and its Sustainability Advisory Committee, based on their different areas of expertise.

If the proposal, however, relates to specific aspects of sustainability, such as energy, environmental, etc, then the ARA recommends approaching other more relevant associations with specific expertise. A suggested starting list is included below:

- Australia Environment Business Network
- Australian Photovoltaic Institute
- Clean Energy Council
- Energy Efficiency Council
- Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand
- National Landcare Network
- Smart Energy Council
- The Banksia Foundation
- Waste Management Association of Australia

Information provision

In order for your request to be considered, we ask that you provide the following information:

- A brief overview of your application and the evidence that supports your state, national or world-first claim
- Any additional documents or data that supports your claim (if required)

- Contact details for the person who would present to RICE or the Sustainability Committee, if required
- The timeframe you are working towards to lodge your IS Rating Scheme application

In reviewing the information, the ARA may request further information, or a presentation from the submitting organisation to the ARA committee considering the proposal.

Please note, the ARA will only assess your claim to be a state, national or world-first and will not make any assessments of the sustainability benefits your innovation would deliver.

Please send the relevant information to ara@ara.net.au

Timeframes

The timeframe for consideration can also be dependent on the level of information provided, whether supplementary information is required, the timing of when the Committees can meet to consider the proposal and whether a presentation is required. This can take up to 2 months.

Both RICEC and the Sustainability Committee meet quarterly and will discuss your request at their meeting, so please plan ahead when making your endorsement request.

Criteria

The ARA and its Committees will consider:

- whether the 'approach' has been applied elsewhere;
- how unique and innovative the 'approach' is; and
- what benefits and improvements the 'approach' will bring.

Letter of endorsement

Once sufficient information has been provided and the ARA is confident based on the provision of information and its level of knowledge in consulting with its industry committees, the ARA will provide a letter of endorsement to the submitting organisation for use as part of their ISC application.

Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

The ARA will share your request with RICEC and Sustainability Committee representatives to support our review of your Australian-first claim. Members will be advised that the information is provided on a confidential basis for the purposes of reviewing your request for Australian-first endorsement.

The ARA's committees consist of representatives from across the rail industry. It is recommended you advise us of any specific commercial in confidence considerations when lodging your application.

The ARA will ask committee members to declare any potential conflicts of interest before considering your request. Should a conflict of interest be identified, the committee member concerned will abstain from the discussion on your request.

Contact

Should you have any questions please contact the ARA on 02 6270 4501 or via email ara@ara.net.au