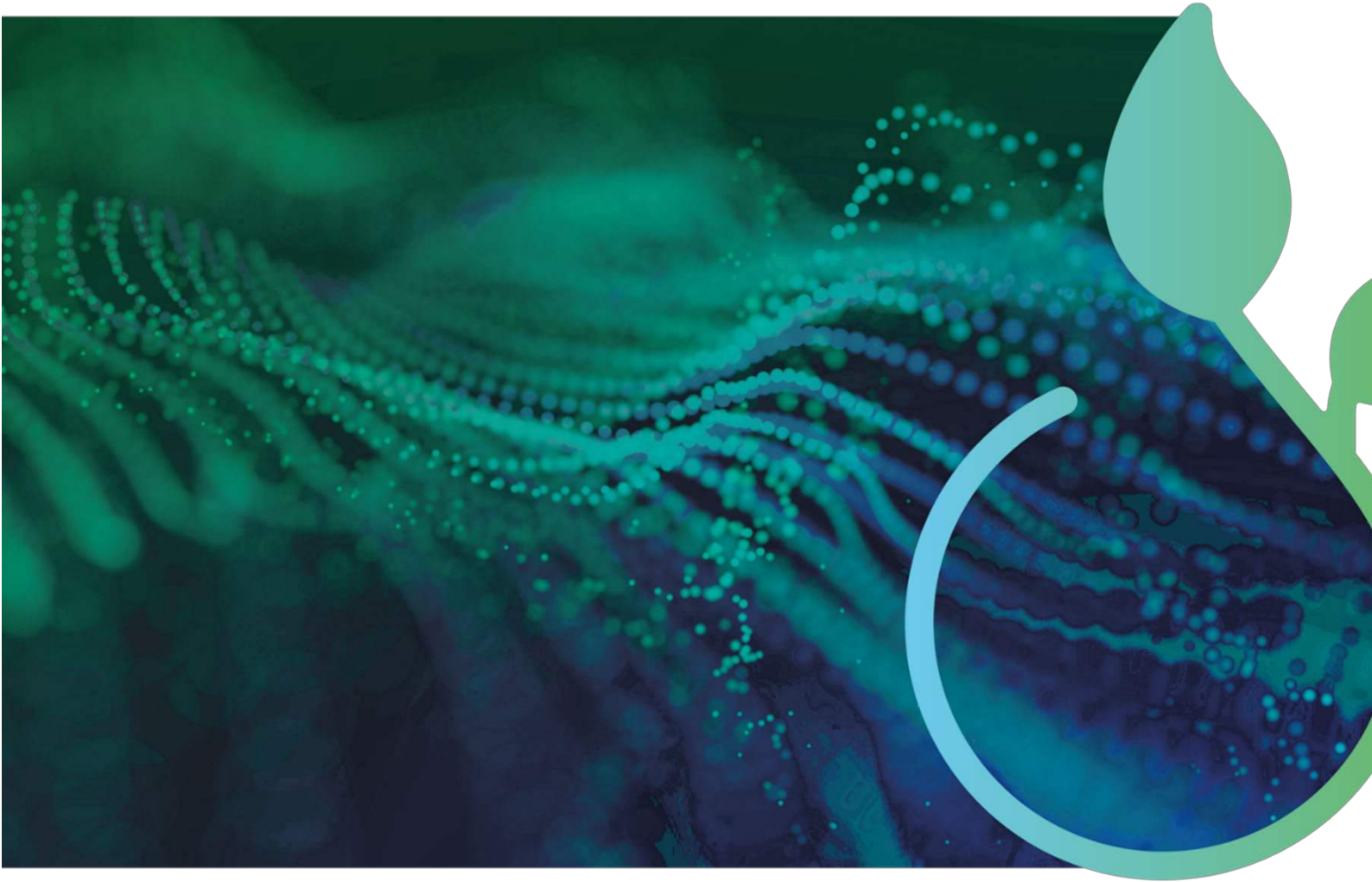


# Water Minister's Climate Innovation Challenge - 2025

Judging Pack



**Water Minister's**  
climate  
innovation  
challenge



**intelligent  
water  
networks**



# Contents

**Overview** ..... 2

**Key Dates** ..... 2

**Judging Instructions** ..... 2

**Judges Role** ..... 2

**Judging Process Overview** ..... 2

**Submission Form** ..... 4

Document Revision Information

Version	Date	Author(s)	Changes
1.0	30/07/2025	Jason Cotton, Isobel Decru	Initial Draft

## Overview

The 2025 Water Minister's Climate Innovation Challenge (WMCIC) is the final year of the current funding arrangement. The 2025 WMCIC will build on the foundations established in 2023 and 2024 incorporating many of the prior learnings. The WMCIC's aim to recognise and promote innovation in the Victorian water sector, supporting climate resilience, collaboration, and the adoption of new solutions to address climate challenges and drive sector-wide transformation.

Participants will be invited from across the 18 Victorian water corporations (urban and rural). Collaborative submissions are encouraged however submissions must be led by a Victorian Water Corporation. Submissions selected for funding following the judging process will share in the funding pool of \$280,200, which is the highest funding pool to date.

## Key Dates

Date	Project Phase
28 July 2025	Submissions Open
28 September 2025	Submissions Close
6-17 October 2025	Judging/Shortlisting
24 October 2025	Shortlist Notification
14 November 2025	Final Pitch Event
19 November 2025	Finalists list to the MO
5 December 2025	Award Ceremony

## Judging Instructions

### Judges Role

The judge's role is to review, assess and score the submissions assigned to them, against the approved assessment criteria through the AwardForce platform. The judging panel then makes a recommendation to the Minister for Water on which submissions should be awarded funding based on the ranked weighted scoring.

The Minister for Water will make the final decision on all funding awarded considering the judges' recommendations.

The judges may recommend any number of winners according to the merit of the submissions and funding requested.

## Judging Process Overview

Judges will each be assigned a number of submissions to review. The assignment of submissions will consider the judges field of expertise and experience, declared actual and perceived conflicts of interest, diversity and inclusion and geography (i.e. regional or metro).

The judging process will be facilitated through the Awardforce platform as per the 2024 judging process.

## Key activities and timings:

Date	Activity	Description
1 September 2025	Judge confirmations	Confirmation of Judging panel members. Judges information packs distributed. Confidentiality and Conflict of interest declarations completed.
15 September 2025	Briefing session	A briefing session will be held to cover the judging process, governance and probity, and the submission assessment process prior to initial judging period. The session will be recorded for later reference.
28 Sept – 6 Oct 2025	Judging Stage 1 – Eligibility (Review by IWN)	Submissions will be reviewed by IWN to confirm they comply with entry requirements
6-17 October 2025	Judging Stage 2 – Shortlisting	Eligible submissions will be scored using a weighted system against a set of approved criteria. Not all judges will assess every submission; instead, judges will be allocated submissions to judge as outlined above. The highest-scoring submissions will be considered the shortlisted finalists.
14 November 2025	Judging Stage 3 - Final Pitch Judging	Final judging will be based on a live pitch, with judges attending only their allocated sessions to avoid conflicts of interest. A conferral meeting will be held immediately after the pitch event to finalise scores and agree the funding recommendations to the Minister for Water.
19 November 2025	Judges Recommendations to the Water Minister (to be completed by IWN)	IWN will document the judging panel's recommendations and submitted them to the Minister for Water for endorsement.
5 December 2025	Award Ceremony	Announcement of the winners of the 2025 WMCIC.

All shortlisted submissions will have the opportunity to review the judges Stage 2 feedback and be permitted to address that feedback to strengthen and build on their submission prior to Stage 3 judging. All finalists will receive individual coaching to improve their submissions ready for final judging.

## Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Weighting	Description
AC1.Climate Outcomes	40%	The degree to which the project demonstrates achieving a real and measurable positive climate outcome consistent with the DEECA climate action objectives.

AC2.Sustainability	30%	The degree to which the project outcomes can be maintained or improved in the future and scaled across the water sector in Victoria.
AC3.Capability to deliver the project	20%	The degree to which the applicant can demonstrate their capacity and capability to successfully undertake and deliver the project/activity.
AC4.Risk identification and control	10%	The degree to which the applicant identifies potential risks and adequate actions to remove, reduce or manage those risks.

## Attachment 1: Submission Form

The following submission form will be integrated into the AwardForce Platform for completion by entrants.

### Introduction:

Submissions can be supported by external parties\* but the submission must be led and submitted by a Victorian Water Corporation.

Submissions must be made in full and meet the criteria to be evaluated by the judging panel.

Word limits are set as maximums. Concise submissions will be appreciated by the judges.

Submissions must be endorsed by an Executive representative from within the submitting organisation.

<b>Part 1 – Submitting Organisation</b>
<b>Submission title</b>
<b>Submission representative</b>
<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Partnering organisation/s*</b>
<b>Senior Leader endorsement by</b>

<b>Part 2 – Defining the Opportunity</b>
Q. What is the positive climate outcome your proposal is aiming to achieve? (word limit 250) <i>(This will inform AC1)</i>
<i>What is the problem or opportunity? How does it link to Climate Adaption or Climate Resilience (refer to DEECA definitions in FAQs)</i>
Q. How will your proposal achieve a positive climate outcome? (word limit 250) <i>(This will inform AC1)</i>
<i>What is your solution? How will you deliver the solution? How can the outcome and success be measured?</i>
Q. Partners and Stakeholders (word limit 250) <i>(This will inform AC3)</i>
<i>Who are the key stakeholders in the solution? Who will you partner with to deliver the solution? What role will the partners play?</i>

Q. Provide Key milestones and dates (word limit 250) <i>(This will inform AC3)</i>
<i>Detail the expected timelines for the delivery of the project and key milestones</i>
Q. Budget (word limit 200) <i>(This will inform AC2 and AC3)</i>
<i>Detail the budget requirements, how the prize money contributes to this budget and, if required, how any additional funding might be sought.</i>
Q. Risk & Opportunities evaluation and controls (word limit 250) <i>(This will inform AC4)</i>
<i>Detail any risks and / or opportunities and the subsequent controls that are needed to be considered for the development and delivery of the solution proposed including Safety, Environment, Quality, Reputation, Financial, People, others</i>
Q. How will the project outcomes be scaled, improved and maintained across the water sector? (word limit 250) <i>(This will inform AC2)</i>
<i>What is the big picture impact of the solution? How will you share knowledge?</i>