

Guideline for Applicants

Collaborative Exploration Initiative – Round 7

November 2022

Version history

Version	Effective Date	Comments
1.0	01/12/2021	Guideline for Applicants CEI Round 6.
2.0	02/11/2022	CEI Round 7 has had the following significant changes: maximum award is capped at \$275,000, geographical restrictions have been removed, public liability insurance has increased to \$20 million, multiple proposals will be weighted and the list of critical minerals has been updated.

Approval

Position	Name	Date
Chief Government Geologist	Tony Knight	2 November 2022

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Summary

This guideline provides information to Applicants who are considering applying for Queensland's Collaborative Exploration Initiative (CEI) Round 7 for 2023.

The Department of Resources (department) administers the CEI through the Geological Survey of Queensland (GSQ) and will award up to \$275,000 (including GST) to successful Applicants for exploration activities aimed at the discovery of critical minerals in Queensland.

Important Dates

1 December 2022	Applications open
11 January 2023	Deadline for submissions (via webform at 23:59 QLD time)
Planned March 2023	Announcement of successful programs
30 March 2023	Deadline for Funding Deed signed between Applicants and department
15 September 2023	Start – Activity must have started no later than this date
15 November 2023	Finish – Activity must be completed by this date
1 December 2023	Submit – All data, final report and copies of paid tax invoices (5pm QLD)
3 June 2024	Release – Final reports and data on Open Data portal
31 January 2025	Submit – Drill core and rock chips to the department

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1. Introduction

The Queensland Government, through the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP, www.resources.qld.gov.au/gridp) have committed to investing in the Collaborative Exploration Initiative (CEI) over the next four years, with an additional \$17.5 million dollars until 2027.

CEI provides funding for exploration programs that are:

1. Technically sound
2. Innovative
3. Address vital knowledge gaps, and
4. Contribute to the discovery of critical minerals (Table 1) in Queensland, through both the exploration program and the public data generated as a resource for other explorers.

Round 7, supports explorers looking to discovery critical minerals (Table 1), as we transition to a decarbonised future. Applications exploring for coal, gas and petroleum will not be considered.

Table 1. Critical Minerals for CEI Round 7

High Purity Alumina	Erbium	Iridium	Osmium	Samarium	Titanium
Antimony	Gadolinium	Lanthanum	Palladium	Scandium	Tungsten
Beryllium	Gallium	Lithium	Platinum	Silica (HPQ & sand)	Vanadium
Bismuth	Germanium	Lutetium	Praseodymium	Silver	Ytterbium
Cerium	Graphite	Magnesium	Promethium	Tantalum	Yttrium
Cobalt	Hafnium	Neodymium	Rhenium	Terbium	Zinc
Copper	Holmium	Nickel	Rhodium	Thulium	Zirconium
Dysprosium	Indium	Niobium	Ruthenium	Tin	

This document provides guidance to Applicants who are considering applying for CEI Round 7.

Appendix 1 lists the administrative information Applicants should have ready when completing the online webform.

Appendix 2 contains the scorecard that will be used by the Technical Assessment Panel when scoring applications.

Appendix 3 provides guidance on which expenses are eligible and not eligible for reimbursement through the initiative. Please note this list has changed since previous rounds.

Two templates are also available for download:

- 1) [CEI Round 7 Technical Proposal TEMPLATE.docx](#), which can be used to assist when drafting the proposal;
- 2) [CEI Round 7 Proposed Budget TEMPLATE.xlsx](#), which should be used as a starting point when preparing the budget.

1.1 Changes from previous initiatives

Changes to the initiative have been made from previous rounds, on a trial basis. Specifically:

- The maximum award is now capped at \$250,000 (excluding GST).
- Assessment scores for multiple proposals and previous successful Applicants will be weighted.

- Public Liability Insurance must be held for a minimum of \$20 million dollars.
- Proposals are no longer restricted to the Northeast and Northwest Mineral Provinces.
- The list of critical minerals has been updated.
- Two templates can be downloaded to assist with the technical proposal and proposed budget.

1.2 Notification

All Applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, will be notified of the outcome in March 2023 via email. A map of successful Applicants including a short description of the program will be publicly available on the department's website after all Funding Deeds are initiated. See the link below for successful programs in previous rounds.

storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4cef1b904edb4cc396cb2d8aad7b82a0

GSQ is committed to the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP). Part of that commitment will be to carry out the initiative as paperless. This includes, although not limited to the use of email for written notifications and the utilisation of electronic signatures by both parties when signing Funding Deeds.

1.3 Outcome of assessment

GSQ's decision on the outcome of Round 7 is not open to appeal, though Applicants are encouraged to seek feedback. If an Applicant has any complaints in relation to the proposal or assessment process, a formal complaint may be submitted to the department via the below website.

www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/landholders/monitoring-complaints

2. Proposal Requirements

All proposals, including supporting information, must be submitted through the department's online webform no later than 23:59 (QLD) Wednesday, 11th January 2023. All applications must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Guideline for Applicants.

2.1 Minimum eligibility

Minimum conditions of eligibility for a CEI in Round 7 must be met to be considered for assessment. These conditions aim to ensure Applicants are appropriately prepared and the program has the best chance of meeting the strict CEI deadlines.

- The Applicant must be the holder of a granted Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) in the State of Queensland. Please note this initiative is not open to non-minerals permits such as coal, gas or petroleum (EPC or ATP). Applicants with a mining development licence (MDL) or mining lease (ML) *within* their primary EPM will not be disqualified, but the primary tenure for CEI must be an EPM.

- All tenure held by the Applicant including all associated entities must be in compliance with legislation including, but not limited to, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, *Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003* and *Native Title Act 1993*.
- All tenure held by the Applicant including all associated entities must be in good standing with the Queensland Government, meaning activity and expenditure commitments have been consistently met for the Conditioned Periods, and reporting requirements fulfilled.
- The relevant Environmental Authority (EA) must be in place for all relevant EPMS at the time of application. In order to meet the timeframes required by CEI, any additional environmental clearances for high impact activity must also be completed at the time of application (for example, EA variations for drill targets within designated Endangered Regional Ecosystems).
- The Applicant must have an Australian Business Number (ABN), an Australian bank account, and be registered for GST.
- Relevant access agreements with landholders must be in place. Applicants are required to show evidence that the standard Notice of Entry has already been sent. If high impact work is proposed, show evidence that the relevant Conduct and Compensation Agreement (CCA) are in place.
- Notifications to Native Title parties for the proposed work must be in place.
- Provisions must already have been made for appropriate cultural clearances for high impact activities.
- Public Liability Insurance must be held for a minimum of \$20 million dollars for the duration of the program, with evidence of renewal sent to GSQ should it expire. This level of insurance must be held by the Applicant, and all entities undertaking the activity (such as tenement operator, geophysical contractors and drilling companies).
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate financial and technical capability to complete the program, accompanied by a financial statement.
- Where contractors are involved (ie. drilling, geophysical surveys), a letter guaranteeing their availability in the given timeframe to undertake the proposed work must be provided.

2.2 General conditions

Please note the following application restrictions:

- Drilling and non-drilling activities such as large geophysical programs, cannot be combined under a single application.
- Programs cannot be retrospective and may only commence when both the Applicant and the department have signed the Funding Deed.
- Applicants who have been successful in previous CEI rounds but withdrew or had their Funding Deed terminated, are generally not eligible to apply for a CEI in the following two consecutive rounds.
- The proposed program timeline in the application must be realistic to ensure completion and delivery of the final report and data to GSQ no later than 1 December 2023.

- Applicants may submit multiple proposals in Round 7, based on the score, these will be classified as primary (highest score) and secondary. All secondary proposals will automatically have the score reduced by 10%.
- To ensure diversity of applications across the initiative, companies who have previously been awarded a CEI will have their assessment scores reduced by ten (10) points.

Please note GSQ reserves the right to:

- Amend the initiative at any time prior to the closing date provided that prospective Applicants are notified.
- Extend the proposal submission closing date.
- Clarify any aspect of a proposal after the specified closing date.
- Seek the advice of external consultants to assist in evaluation or review of applications.
- Extend the assessment period of the round.
- End the initiative at any time without liability, whether before or after the receipt of applications.
- Refuse to accept any application without obligation to provide reasons for the decision.
- Fund only part of a proposal. If partial funding is recommended by the Technical Assessment Panel, GSQ will advise the Applicant confidentially. The Applicant must resubmit the varied proposal to suit the partial funding.

2.3 Applicant checklist

- Information on Administrative Information and Minimum Eligibility Criteria completed via the online webform. Please refer to Appendix 1 which contains a list of information required.
- Attachment: Technical Proposal document. The elements of this document are outlined in Appendix 2 with the scorecard. An editable template may be downloaded from the website with prompts for each section.
- Attachment: Additional maps and figures as required. The standard for these is also described in Appendix 2.
- Attachment: Proposed budget in excel format. Please download and use the template provided from the website. Customise line items as required and provide as much detail as possible of anticipated expenses. This will be used to track the estimated, quoted and actual expenses for reimbursement throughout the program.
- Attachment: Copy of Notice of Entry form sent to relevant landholders for EPMs.
- Attachment: Copy of Notification to Native Title Holders for low or high impact activities.
- Attachment: Evidence that provisions have been made for appropriate cultural clearances.
- Attachment: Copy of current Public Liability Insurance for a minimum of \$20 million dollars. This must be held by the Applicant, and all operators and/or contractors undertaking the activity.
- Attachment: Letter from Applicant's Director guaranteeing:
 - financial capability to complete the program,
 - financial statement,
 - technical capability to complete the program, and
 - Landholder Access Agreement or Conduct and Compensation Agreements (if required) are in place.
- Letter from relevant contractors guaranteeing their availability in the given timeframe to undertake the proposed work.

3. CEI Application Assessment

3.1 Technical Assessment Panel

The Technical Assessment Panel will only consider proposals where the Applicant has met the minimum eligibility criteria and satisfied all submission requirements outlined in this Guideline. The Secretariat may ask for additional information on behalf of the Panel to assist with the evaluation.

The Technical Assessment Panel comprises:

- Secretariat (Manager, Grants and Engagement).
- A minimum of three geoscientists and representatives from within the department selected according to relevant expertise.
- A minimum of three independent industry geoscientists appointed by the Chief Government Geologist.

All Technical Assessment Panel members will exclude themselves from the assessment of applications where there is an actual or perceived conflict of interest.

3.2 Assessment criteria

As a broad overview, applications are assessed against the following criteria:

1. The technical merits and soundness of the proposed program utilising current research and all available data, as well as techniques that are fit for purpose.
2. The extent to which the proposed program is innovative. For example, utilising a new exploration model on under-explored (greenfields) ground. Existing exploration models on under-explored ground, new exploration models on well-explored ground and new exploration techniques are also encouraged.
3. The extent to which the proposed program addresses specific gaps in knowledge or critical uncertainties in, but not limited to, the geological understanding of a region and/or deposit type, stratigraphy, structure, geochemistry, deposit models, exploration models and the application of new exploration techniques.
4. The extent to which the proposed program is likely to contribute to the identification of new exploration targets in Queensland and across the industry as a whole, specifically for critical minerals.

As with previous rounds, proposals that involve or contribute to known resource appraisal, definition or development drilling will **not** be eligible in Round 7.

3.3 Common failures observed in applications

The following are the most common shortcomings seen in applications from previous rounds.

- Failure to demonstrate why the program is innovative, rather than simply employing current models in known areas.

- Failure to demonstrate how the program contributes to improved understanding and prospectivity of a region.
- Failure to demonstrate an understanding of depth to basement or target, and the extent and depth of previous work.
- Proposal of incorrect geophysical techniques (for example, using ground-based electromagnetics to test for disseminated sulphide mineralisation).
- Providing overly detailed background information, but insufficient information on the program itself.
- Failure to provide a map showing regional context, and maps with proposed sample locations or drill collars.
- Failure to provide scales or appropriate context for geophysical imagery.

4. Acceptance Requirements

4.1 Funding Deed agreement

All successful Applicants are required to enter into a Funding Deed with the State of Queensland acting through the Department of Resources. Programs may only commence after the Funding Deed is signed by both parties and cannot be retrospective. The deadline for signing the Funding Deed by both parties is 30th March 2023.

All aspects of the Funding Deed must be adhered to. Please note the following specific conditions:

- Management of approved programs will be undertaken by the Applicant or its nominee, subject to approval by GSQ.
- All liabilities associated with the Applicant's program will remain with the Applicant.
- The department recognises that geological exploration is a dynamic and iterative process, however, variations to the approved program are subject to written approval from the department.
- Significant modifications to the approved program require submission of a Deed of Variation by the Applicant to the department. Agreement for the Deed must be sought from the department proactively and not retrospectively.
- If the Applicant anticipates any risk of inability to complete the activities within the stipulated timeframe, they must notify GSQ as soon as possible.
- GSQ will maintain regular contact with Applicants to follow activity progress.
- All data and final reports must be received in the correct digital format no later than 17:00 (QLD) on 1 December 2023 and will be made public from 3 June 2024.
- All rock chips and core must be supplied to the department no later than 30 January 2025 and be made available to the public, unless written approval to extend this deadline is given by GSQ.

4.2 Claimable expenses

CEI is designed to reimburse explorers for the **direct** expenses of the program only. A list of examples is provided in Appendix 3, followed by a list of items that are not reimbursable under CEI. Please note the following conditions:

- Copies of paid tax invoices must be provided as evidence of direct expenditure associated with the program.
- Reimbursement is subject to approval of the final report and data being submitted by the due date, in the required format and in accordance with the approved proposed program.
- If the actual direct activity costs are **more** than the proposed activity costs, the department will only reimburse funds based on the proposed activity costs as set out in the Funding Deed.
- Where the actual direct activity costs are **less** than the proposed activity costs, the department will only reimburse the lesser of the two (ie. actual direct delivery costs).
- Reimbursement of funds is restricted to the costs incurred directly through the exploration activity described in the application. The department will not reimburse Applicants for any additional drillhole material or data collected outside the scope of the approved CEI program.
- After notification from GSQ that the final report and data has been approved, a correctly rendered tax invoice is to be send to the department for payment on a 30-day term. Tax invoices must **not** be submitted before 1 July 2023.

4.3 Program milestones and communication

All successful Applicants must notify GSQ of the actual commencement and completion date of project activities. This notification must be within two weeks of the actual date, or no later than the program milestones listed in Table 2. Successful Applicants may be required to present their program's findings during a GSQ sponsored seminar or on departmental social media, after final reports and data have been released on the Open Data portal.

Table 2.CEI Milestones

15 September 2023	Start – Activity must have started no later than this date.
15 November 2023*	Finish – Activity must be completed by this date.
1 December 2023**	Submit – All data, final report and copies of paid tax invoices (5pm QLD)
3 June 2024 ⁺	Release – Final reports and data on Open Data portal
31 January 2025 ⁺⁺	Submit – Drill core and rock chips to the department

*Failure to meet this deadline will likely terminate the Funding Deed.

**Final reports and data must be submitted in compliance with the department's reporting and data standards. www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/mining-resources/initiatives/reporting-changes-mining-resources and/or www.dnrme.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/262378/practice-direction-geophysical.pdf

⁺All final reports and data will be made publicly available on the department's Open Data portal after a confidentiality period of six months. GSQ will be responsible for uploading into the portal.

**Drill core and rock chips must be submitted in compliance with the department's requirements and will be made public. (www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/resources/geoscience-information/exploration-incentives/drillcore-packaging)

4.4 Conduct throughout the program

All successful Applicants are expected to uphold the following standards throughout the program, as outlined in the QRIDP (www.resources.qld.gov.au/qridp):

- Provide high-quality information to the government, enabling greater opportunities for collaboration, innovation and exploration through shared and open datasets.
- Maintaining social licence by demonstrating good Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance.
- Work to ensure that programs leave a positive legacy in the community.
- Uphold principles to recognise, protect and conserve the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Provide opportunities to increase the participation of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with a disability, and veterans in the workforce.
- Ensure full understanding of, and compliance with, all regulatory requirements.

5. Privacy and Consent

Collection of information from Applicants for this initiative is authorised under the, Guideline for Applicants Collaborative Exploration Initiative Round 7, and may be used by the Geological Survey of Queensland for the following purposes:

- communicating with the Applicant regarding this Round, future rounds and related events
- providing information to the Technical Assessment Panel for the purpose of assessment
- disclosing of information to other agencies and departments, Department of Environment and Science and Department of Resources, within the Queensland Government for the purpose of investigating compliance

The Applicant information provided will not otherwise be used or disclosed unless authorised or required by law. Further information is available at: [Privacy | Department of Resources](#).

6. Contact and Enquiries

All enquiries should be directed to:

CEI Team

Department of Resources

Email: GSQ@Resources.qld.gov.au

Phone: +61 499 432 635

Appendix 1

Guidance for administrative information and eligibility

All information requested in the Appendix 1 is mandatory and forms part of the eligible requirements to apply for a Round 7 CEI, you will be required submit it as part of the online webform – please have this on hand when completing the application and note the character limits.

Administrative Information and Eligibility Criteria	Guidance
<p>Project Title (PUBLIC)</p> <p><i>Provide a short but descriptive title for your project.</i></p>	<p><i>Maximum of 60 characters</i></p>
<p>Project Summary (PUBLIC)</p> <p><i>Please provide a <u>concise</u> statement of the proposed project in plain English, which will appear on the online Project Information Map for successful Applicants. This should include information on location and primary exploration activity, limited to <u>one sentence</u> (see character limit).</i></p> <p>Please see the website for examples from successful Applicants in previous rounds: storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4cef1b904edb4cc396cb2d8aad7b82a0</p>	<p><i>Maximum 250 characters</i></p>
<p>Total amount of funding requested</p> <p>AUD \$</p>	<p><i>Amount must include GST</i></p>
<p>Queensland Exploration Permit for Minerals (EPM) numbers and names relevant to this project (PUBLIC)</p> <p>EPM XXXXX 'Name 1', EPM XXXXX 'Name 2'...</p> <p><i>Note all Queensland tenure must be compliant with legislation and remain so for the duration of the CEI.</i></p>	
<p>Name of EPM holder (The Applicant) (PUBLIC)</p> <p><i>Please note the Applicant must be the holder of the relevant EPM, or the holder of the majority of EPMs, not the operator.</i></p>	<p><i>Maximum of 250 characters</i></p>
<p>Applicant's postal address</p>	
<p>Applicant's valid Australian Business Number (ABN)</p>	
<p>List <u>all</u> associated entities including subsidiaries/parent companies of the Applicant engaged in exploration or mining in Queensland</p> <p><i>For example, 'Explorer 1 (the Applicant) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Mining Company A (plc), which also operates Explorer 2'.</i></p>	<p><i>All entities must be in good standing (QLD)</i></p>
<p>Does the Applicant have an Australian bank account?</p> <p><i>Evidence of this is required to be attached as part of the Applicant checklist</i></p>	

Administrative Information and Eligibility Criteria	Guidance
<p>Is the Applicant registered for GST?</p>	
<p>Does the Applicant, Operator and relevant subcontractors hold public liability insurance for a minimum of AUD \$20 million?</p> <p><i>Please remember to attach proof of this as per the Applicant checklist. Public Liability Insurance must be held for a minimum of \$20 million for the duration of the program, with evidence of renewal sent to GSQ should it expire. This level of insurance must be held by the Applicant, and all operators and/or contractors undertaking the activity.</i></p>	
<p>Applicant's Public Liability Insurance expiry date</p> <p><i>Renewal notice during the term of CEI must be provided to the Department</i></p>	<p><i>(dd/mm/yyyy)</i></p>
<p>Which Local Government Area (LGA) is your activity predominately taking place in?</p> <p><i>You can search for the LGA in which the EPM(s) are located using this link: https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/local-government/for-the-community/local-government-directory/search-the-local-government-directory</i></p>	<p><i>For statistical purposes</i></p>
<p>List the <u>primary</u> target commodity (PUBLIC)</p> <p><i>List <u>only one</u>, by element, in this field. Please refer to priority Critical Minerals listed in Table 1 of the Guideline for Applicants and note that coal, gas and petroleum are not eligible to apply for CEI. Note usage of REE, LREE or HREE is acceptable.</i></p>	<p><i>Maximum of 10 characters</i></p>
<p>List all secondary commodities</p> <p><i>List all other commodities as elements in this field. Note usage of REE, LREE or HREE is acceptable.</i></p>	
<p>List the <u>primary</u> exploration technique the program is seeking reimbursement for (PUBLIC)</p> <p><i>List <u>only one</u> in this field. For example (but not limited to) diamond drilling, machine learning, geochemical sampling.</i></p>	
<p>List all other exploration techniques the project is seeking reimbursement for if applicable</p> <p><i>For example, downhole electromagnetic (EM) logging following drilling</i></p>	
<p>What is the estimated activity start date?</p> <p><i>Please note activity must commence by 15th September 2023 at the latest</i></p>	<p><i>(dd/month/yyyy)</i></p>
<p>What is the estimated activity completion date?</p> <p><i>Please note all reimbursable activity must conclude by 15th November 2023</i></p>	<p><i>(dd/month/yyyy)</i></p>

Administrative Information and Eligibility Criteria	Guidance
<p>Primary contact person's name and position within the company</p> <p><i>This is the person who will remain in communication with the department throughout the CEI.</i></p>	
<p>Primary contact person's phone number</p>	
<p>Primary contact person's email address</p>	
<p>Secondary contact person's name and position within the company</p> <p><i>This is the person who will be contacted if the primary contact is unavailable.</i></p>	
<p>Secondary contact person's phone number</p>	
<p>Secondary contact person's email address</p>	

Appendix 2

Elements of the technical proposal and associated scorecard

The following outlines the required elements of the Technical Proposal and the weighting with which they are assessed. Please note an editable template for this proposal and budget are available to download online. These contain further guidance for each section: [Technical proposal template](#) and [budget proposal template](#).

Technical Proposal Elements (25%)	Assessment
Project summary	<p><i>Accurate understanding of what is currently known about geology and target (score 1-10)</i></p> <p><i>Appropriate exploration techniques proposed for target (score 1-10)</i></p> <p><i>Realistic timeframes and budget (score 1-5)</i></p> <p><i>Please note the budget will also be scrutinised at this stage and returned to the Applicant for amendments if it is unrealistic or includes ineligible expenses.</i></p>
Executive summary	
Introduction	
Geographic location	
Commodities (critical minerals)	
Geology	
Target description	
Target style	
Proposed exploration program	
Proposed budget summary	
Project management (addressing contingencies)	
<p>Supporting Figures</p>	
<p>The following are the minimum requirements for accompanying figures. These may be submitted as separate files or embedded in the technical proposal document.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maps showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole target area in regional context Location of project and proposed activity at an appropriate scale with EPM boundaries Grid references, scale bar, legend and context for geophysical products (ie. colour bar). If the target is not at surface, a cross section showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth and orientation of target(s) Depth of previous exploration (ie. drilling) Depth of approximate technique penetration based on terrain (for example, the depth of the proposed drill hole(s) or geophysical penetration) Grid references, scale bar, legend and context for geophysical products (ie. colour bar). 	

CEI Objectives (75%)	Assessment
<p>Proposals that have met the eligibility criteria will then be scored on the extent to which they fulfil the CEI objectives described in the Guideline for Applicants. Noting that successful Applicants will rank highly in all three categories if they demonstrate a fresh new approach to a critical knowledge gap and are directly linked to increasing exploration prospectivity in Queensland for critical minerals listed in Table 1.</p>	
<p>Innovation Please describe how the exploration proposal, or specific aspects of it represent a significant departure from what is already being done by explorers in the State.</p>	<p>Score 1-25 (25%)</p>
<p><i>Innovation means something ‘new’, implying a departure from what is currently being done by other explorers. It may be an idea, method or technique. Proposal of new exploration techniques is encouraged, as long as they are realistic and based on a good understanding of the geology and target. Using techniques that are well established to test new ideas is also encouraged.</i></p>	
<p>Key Knowledge Gaps Please describe the gap in exploration knowledge that has been identified, and how the program specifically contributes to reducing the gap. Specifically: How the proposed program will contribute to the identification of new exploration targets and lead to greater exploration activity. How the project advances the collective understanding of the State’s critical minerals potential. How the project adds value to exploration activities in Queensland.</p>	<p>Score 1-25 (25%)</p>
<p><i>This describes the extent to which the exploration program will improve the geological understanding of a region, a deposit type, or the utility of a new technique. Essentially, a critical gap in knowledge, and how the program aims to reduce the gap.</i></p>	
<p>Advancing Queensland Resources Please describe how the program you are proposing will contribute to the discovery of critical minerals in Queensland beyond the scope of your program.</p>	<p>Score 1-25 (25%)</p>
<p><i>The third objective describes how reducing a critical knowledge gap using an innovative approach is <u>directly linked to</u> improving exploration prospectivity in Queensland, specifically for the critical minerals outlined in the Guideline for Applicants.</i></p>	
<p>Multiple Applications Please note as per the Guideline, Applicants may submit multiple proposals. All applications will be considered, however, the score on proposals other than the highest ranking one will be reduced by ten (10) points to encourage new Applicants.</p>	<p>Less ten (10) points</p>
<p>Diversity of Applications To ensure diversity of applications across the initiative, companies who have previously received a CEI will have their assessment scores reduced by ten (10) points.</p>	<p>Less ten (10) points</p>

Appendix 3

List of eligible expenses

The following list is provided as guidance for the kind of direct expenses that are claimable through the CEI, and those that are not. The list is not exhaustive, rather it provides the most common examples. Tax invoices need to itemise and list the amount of GST paid. For further information, please send questions to: GSQ@Resources.qld.gov.au

Table A-1 List of typical claimable items

Eligible Items	Guide
Standard drilling costs	Invoices charged by drilling contractors for all active (metres) and slow (time) drilling costs as well as consumables, equipment hire (ie. downhole survey) and water cartage. Supplied tax invoice must be itemised and include unit price (per metre drill costs).
Additional drilling equipment costs	Where invoiced separately from above, the hire of downhole survey and orientation tools (or similar) is claimable.
Standard geophysical survey costs	Invoices charged by geophysical contractors for active work and consumables.
Standby costs	Please note 'standby on client' costs invoiced by contractors are capped at AUD \$5,000. These costs are usually incurred through unforeseen circumstances such as adverse weather.
Contractor mobilisation and demobilisation	Please note the amount is capped at 5% of total funding for <i>combined</i> mobilisation and demobilisation costs.
Commercial laboratory expenses	Invoices charged by commercial labs for sample preparation and digestion, geochemical assay, hyperspectral analysis, or another service approved in the successful CEI proposal. The proposed technique (Lab Code) must be provided with the data. Reimbursement includes analysis of QA/QC samples, as well as environmental disposal charges.
Specialist sample preparation and analysis	Invoices charged by contractors for services such as preparing thin sections, and petrographic analysis are claimable.
Specialist equipment hire	Invoices for hiring specialist equipment specifically for the CEI, such as portable XRF or hyperspectral devices are claimable.
Core trays	Applicants will only be reimbursed for the number of core trays used to provide the drill core to the Department. The unit price must be included on the tax invoice. Grey or black (hyperspectral) plastic trays with handles that enable good manual handling practices are preferred.
Chip trays	Reverse circulation chip trays are reimbursable but must be large format (510 mm width), 20-compartment are preferred.
Machine Learning	Invoices associated with programs such as machine learning and AI must be fully itemised, complying with the same principles of claiming direct costs only.

Table A-2 List of typical non-claimable items

Non-eligible Items	Guide
Standard corporate overheads and expenses	Costs associated with the internal workings of the business, such as hiring costs, employee salaries and entitlements, rent (etc) are not claimable.
Contractor wages	Wages of general labour-hire contractors are not eligible to be claimed. Note this does not include specialist external contractors such as geophysical or drilling contractors, covered in Table A-1.
Non-specific consumables	General consumables such as marker pens, wooden depth blocks, diamond saw blades (etc) used in the normal running of a core shed rather than for the specific purpose of the CEI may not be claimed.
Training courses	Training is not a claimable expense, nor is on-job training and supervision.
Licencing expenses	Acquiring licences to operate equipment such as a portable XRF is not a claimable expense.
Personnel transport	Costs incurred transporting personnel to and from site are not claimable. This does not refer to contractor mobilisation or demobilisation, outlined in Table A-1.
Track and drill pad preparation	Expenses incurred through putting in or maintaining tracks to sites, drill pads, including rehabilitation may not be claimed.
Food and accommodation	Food and accommodation costs incurred by staff or contractors are not claimable.
Vehicle expenses	Expenses related to vehicle hire or maintenance for general field activities are not claimable. This does not extend to specialist equipment such as aircraft.
Cultural heritage clearances	The cost of cultural clearances required for high impact work is not claimable.
Land access agreements and compensation	Costs associated with Conduct and Compensation Agreements (CCA), and other land access costs are not claimable.
Environmental clearances	Expenses incurred through additional environmental clearances needed for drilling in specific areas (ie. Endangered Regional Ecosystems) are not covered.
Legal advice	Legal advice is not claimable (for example, advice sought over land access disputes).
Application preparation	No expenses from third party consultants in preparation of the CEI application, or any technical reports used to support the application are claimable.