

Frequently Asked Questions - CRC SAAFE Research Project Application Process

April 2026

1. Background and Purpose

This document answers the most common questions about applying for a research project with CRC SAAFE. It should be read alongside the CRC SAAFE Research Project Application Guidelines.

2. Frequently Asked Questions

Q) What is the scope of CRC SAAFE?

A) CRC SAAFE is tackling antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at source using a 'One Health' approach. We focus on Australia's food and agribusiness, water, organic waste, and environmental management sectors.

Our vision is to ensure the long-term success of Australia's food and agribusiness industries and protect the environments in which they operate. We do this through three interconnected programs: **Monitoring, Analytics, and Solutions**.

Q) What is the purpose of CRC SAAFE?

A) We work with industry and government to develop practical, scalable solutions that reduce AMR risk while delivering real commercial and environmental benefits.

Q) How long does the project development process take?

A) From in-principle Board endorsement to final contracting usually takes 8 to 12 weeks. The co-design phase before that can vary depending on the complexity of the project and the number of partners involved.

Q) What is the CRC SAAFE Research Project process?

The process follows a clear five-stage lifecycle designed for efficiency and strong co-design:

- Ideation & Qualification
- Stage One Application
- Board Review (in-principle endorsement)
- Stage Two Application
- Contracting & Kick-off

Full details and timelines are provided in Section 2.1 of the Guidelines.

Q) Who should I contact at CRC SAAFE about an idea for a research project?

A) Please email projects@crsaafe.com.au. A member of the team will connect you with the right person and guide you through the process.

Q) Can a research partner initiate a project on their own?

A) No. All projects must be co-designed with at least one industry or government partner. Research only proposals will not be accepted.

Q) How does the co-design process work?

A) Industry/government partners and researchers work together from the very beginning to define the problem, objectives, and deliverables. SAAFE staff and Program Leads facilitate this process to ensure the project is both scientifically strong and practically relevant.

Q) What should I consider when developing a project proposal?

A) Strong proposals clearly demonstrate:

- A real-world industry or government need
- Genuine co-design with end-users
- Clear alignment with SAAFE's strategic priorities
- Scalable outcomes with defined adoption pathways
- Realistic budget and risk management

Q) What is the difference between Stage One and Stage Two?

A)

- **Stage One** = High-level overview for Board in-principle endorsement
- **Stage Two** = Detailed final proposal (budget, milestones, risk plan, impact pathway, etc.)

Q) Can the project scope or budget change after Board in-principle endorsement?

A) Minor changes are usually acceptable. Significant changes to scope or budget will require re-submission to the Board.

Q) What is the required in-kind to cash ratio?

A) A minimum **2:1 in-kind to cash ratio** is required across the life of the project (i.e., for every \$1 of cash contributed, there must be at least \$2 of in-kind contributions).

Q) Can third parties contribute in-kind without being named partners?

A) Yes. Third-party in-kind contributions (e.g., advice or expertise from colleagues) can be included and do not need to be named as formal project personnel.

Q) What can the cash funds be used for?

A) Eligible costs include salaries and on-costs (up to 30%), contractor costs, capital items, publication/dissemination, knowledge transfer activities, and project-specific travel. Please refer to the Guidelines for the full list of eligible and ineligible expenditures.

Q) How are linked PhD projects handled?

A) A linked PhD project must be directly connected to (and co-designed with) an existing SAAFE research project, where it complements and adds value to the broader project's goals and deliverables without replacing or duplicating core outputs. PhD students are expected to make meaningful contributions to the linked SAAFE project while retaining full academic independence for their thesis work.

Standalone PhD projects (not tied to a specific SAAFE project) are also welcome through the SAAFE Scholars Program, provided they include a confirmed industry partner commitment and are submitted via the standard PhD application form. For more details on the SAAFE Scholars Program, please contact the Education and Training Program Manager at lisa.kirkland@crsaafe.com.au.

Q) How is the contracting process managed?

A) Once Stage Two is approved, we use our standard Project Agreement template (already reviewed by all partners). Contracting is targeted to be completed within 12 weeks of Board endorsement.

Q) Can we bring in collaborators who are not current SAAFE partners?

A) Yes, provided they bring specific value and after consultation with SAAFE. Please contact projects@crsaafe.com.au to discuss.

Q) I have a good idea but don't have industry partners yet. Can you help?

A) Email projects@crsaafe.com.au and we can provide advice on how your idea aligns with current government and industry priorities. Where appropriate, we may support connections with suitable partners, but this is not guaranteed. We recommend identifying an industry partner early to support co-design and ensure the research addresses a relevant industry need.