EnergyTech Market Ready Support (EMRS) 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

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Energy, Environment and Climate Action

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria’s land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria’s Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

Accessibility

To receive this document in an alternative format, phone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, email customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au, or contact National Relay Service on 133 677. Available at DEECA website (www.deeca.vic.gov.au).

Contents

1. About this FAQ Document

This FAQ provides general information for prospective applicants to the *EnergyTech Market Ready Support (EMRS) 2026* grant program. It should be read together with the EMRS Application Guidelines, which are the authoritative source of information for the grant round.

If there is any inconsistency between this FAQ and the published Application Guidelines, applicants should rely on the Application Guidelines.

Can DEECA advise whether my project is eligible or likely to be successful?

No. DEECA cannot provide information that would give one applicant an advantage over another. This includes reviewing, a pre-assessment, or providing advice on individual applications or proposed projects.

DEECA can, however, answer general questions about the EMRS Application Guidelines.

2. About EMRS

What is EMRS?

EnergyTech Market Ready Support (EMRS) 2026 provides targeted, equity-free grants to in-market Victorian EnergyTech startups to deliver defined commercialisation projects.

EMRS is delivered by DEECA under the Digital Energy Economy Program (DEEP) and supports startups with EnergyTech solutions that benefit energy consumers and contribute to Victoria's renewable energy transition.

What is EMRS designed to support?

EMRS is designed to help in-market Victorian EnergyTech startups take a specific commercial step that would be difficult to achieve without targeted assistance.

EMRS does not fund general business growth, routine business operations or activities that are not tied to a defined commercialisation project.

What does 'EnergyTech' mean for EMRS?

EnergyTech means a product, service, process, platform or solution that generates, stores, distributes, trades or manages energy more efficiently, sustainably or securely. This includes software, hardware or other technologies that benefit energy consumers and support Victoria's renewable energy transition.

What does 'in-market' mean for EMRS?

'In-market' means the solution has moved beyond prototype or Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage and has been deployed or trialled with external customers, partners or users.

3. Funding Available and Key Dates

How much funding is available?

A total funding pool of $300,000, excluding GST, is available through EMRS. This comprises six equity-free grants of $50,000 each, excluding GST.

DEECA reserves the right to award fewer than six grants or not allocate all available funding.

What are the key dates?

Milestone	Date
Applications open	13 July 2026
Information session (online)	23 July 2026
Applications close	5:00 pm AEST, 14 August 2026
Assessment period	August - September 2026
Applicants notified	September - October 2026
Funding agreements executed and project commences	October 2026
Project completed and acquittal report submitted	Within 6 months of project commencement

What is the project delivery period?

Applicants must demonstrate that all project activities can be completed within the six-month grant period.

4. Eligibility and Project Fit

Who can apply?

EMRS is open to eligible Victorian-based EnergyTech startups that are already in-market and meet all eligibility requirements set out in the EMRS Application Guidelines.

Applicants should review the Application Guidelines carefully before applying, including the requirements relating to legal entity status, ABN, founder or co-founder status, intellectual property or commercialisation rights, in-market evidence, Victorian expenditure and funding or revenue position.

What entity types can apply?

Eligible applicants may include sole traders, partnerships and companies, provided the applicant meets all eligibility requirements in the EMRS Application Guidelines.

What evidence can show that a solution is already in-market?

Evidence may include an active pilot or trial partner, a letter of intent or written commitment from a potential customer or partner, documented usage, adoption or deployment, or early customer revenue.

Applicants should refer to the EMRS Application Guidelines for the full eligibility requirements.

What kinds of projects may be funded?

EMRS may fund defined commercialisation projects that help an in-market Victorian EnergyTech startup progress towards market readiness or further expansion.

Projects must be time-bound, linked to specific and measurable commercial outcomes, completed within the grant period, and distinct from general business growth or routine business operations.

Applicants should refer to the EMRS Application Guidelines for the full requirements on eligible projects and activities.

What activities are not eligible for funding?

Examples of activities that will not be funded include idea development, prototype build or MVP development without active market engagement, retrospective costs, routine operating costs or business-as-usual activities, general marketing not tied to a defined project activity, major capital works and political campaigning, or advocacy activities for political parties.

Applicants should refer to the EMRS Application Guidelines for the full list of eligible and ineligible activities.

Can DEECA confirm whether my proposed cost is eligible?

No. DEECA cannot assess or provide advice on your proposed project costs before you submit your application.

Costs must be directly related to the approved project, incurred after the funding agreement is executed, and consistent with the eligible and ineligible activities set out in the EMRS Application Guidelines.

5. Supporting Documents and Assessment

What supporting documents are required?

Applicants must provide the required supporting documents listed in the ERMS Application Guidelines. These include a completed business plan/model template, a completed project outline template, evidence of in-market traction and evidence of other funding sources if applicable. A short video pitch is optional.

How should I include in-kind contributions in my application?

If your project includes in-kind contributions, record their value in the ‘Other Income’ and corresponding ‘Other Expenses’ fields in the Budget section of the Grants Online application form. You should also include a breakdown of any in-kind contributions in the budget table in your completed Project Outline Template, ensuring the information is consistent across your application and supporting documents.

Do applicants have to use the EMRS templates?

Yes. Applicants must use the business plan/model template and the project outline template available from the program web page.

Is a video pitch required?

No. A short video pitch is optional. If provided, it must be an accessible link and must be a maximum of three minutes.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will first be checked for eligibility, based on the EMRS Application Guidelines. Eligible applications will then be assessed against the weighted assessment criteria set out in the EMRS Application Guidelines.

Applicants should provide clear, evidence-based and realistic responses and ensure supporting documents are complete and consistent with the application.

Can I submit more than one project for funding?

Applicants may submit applications for projects that meet the requirements of the EMRS Application Guidelines. In assessing eligible applications, DEECA will consider the applicant's capability, capacity, resourcing, proposed commercial outcomes and the achievability of the project, as reflected in the published assessment criteria.

Applicants should put forward a clearly defined commercialisation project that provides a strong opportunity to achieve a specific, measurable commercial outcome within the six-month grant period.

All eligible applications will be assessed through a competitive, merit-based process against the five assessment criteria in the EMRS Application Guidelines. Relevantly for this question, please note in particular:

- Criterion 2: Your startup and your team considers the startup's capability and capacity, including the time, co-funding, networks and other resources it will apply to the project;
- Criterion 3: What will be delivered considers the proposed commercial milestones and how the project will improve the solution's commercial viability or ability to scale; and
- Criterion 4: How the project will be delivered considers whether the activities, timing, budget and resourcing are realistic and achievable.

Also note the objectives of the program, including the prompting question in the Assessment Criteria: How does your solution improve affordability, reliability, sustainability or security for Victorian energy consumers, and/or align with Victoria's renewable energy transition priorities?

6. How to Apply and Support

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online through the Grants Online portal. Applicants should use the online portal to start a new application or return to a saved draft application.

Hard copy, late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

What if documents cannot be attached?

Documents that cannot be attached may be emailed to grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au with the application number before the closing date. Applicants should attach all documents to one email and zip the files if required.

Who should applicants contact for help?

For technical assistance with Grants Online, email grantsinfo@deeca.vic.gov.au.

For EMRS program enquiries, email emerging.energy@deeca.vic.gov.au.

7. Questions, Notification and Next steps

How can applicants ask questions before applications close?

Applicants can submit questions about the EMRS Application Guidelines, application process or broader program to emerging.energy@deeca.vic.gov.au.

DEECA may publish responses as updates to this FAQ where the information is relevant to all applicants and can be provided without breaching probity requirements.

Questions about a specific application may need to be answered at a general level to maintain fairness and probity.

Questions should be submitted no later than 5:00 pm AEST on 7 August 2026.

How will applicants be notified?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email after the assessment process is completed. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review.

Can unsuccessful applicants ask for feedback?

Yes. Unsuccessful applicants can ask for feedback on their application after they have been notified.