**DP23: Instructions for Section A6 - National Interest Test Statement**

The National Interest Test (NIT) must outline the how the project contributes to Australia’s national interest through economic, commercial, environmental, social or cultural benefits to the Australian community.

Write the description of national interest simply, clearly and in plain English between 750 and 1125 characters (between approximately 100 and 150 words).

**Note:** The National Interest Test Statement may be used for public release by the ARC and may be considered by the Minister in deciding which grants to award.

This question and corresponding answer will not appear on the PDF version of the application form

The National Interest Test statement seeks to address four key considerations.

1. What is the project about? Describe the project in 1-2 sentences.
2. What are the expected outcomes of the project? What gap is it addressing?
3. How will the research benefit Australia (economically, socially, environmentally, commercially or culturally)? How might the research be used?
4. What translation and adoption pathway(s) might be used to achieve the outcome? For example, are there conditions that would need to be in place for the outcome to occur? If so, briefly describe them

Tips for writing the NIT. The NIT statement needs to:

* be written in clear plain English understandable to the general community
* use a writing style that could be used in popular publications or the media;
* be specific to the project;
* be realistic and not overstate the outcomes of the project;
* justify the use of public funds towards the research project;
* stand alone and not rely on any other part of the application to be understandable;
* provide a clear explanation of how the project benefits part of, or all of the Australian community and how. This benefit can be economic, commercial, environmental, social or cultural. This could be through the development of a new product, development of an industry or by providing savings or an increase in value to the public. If possible, relate the project to existing government policies or initiatives. Explain the downstream applications of the project or relevance of the research to the future of Australia.

If the project includes International partners or research overseas, the NIT must still specify the benefits to Australia.

The NIT statement should NOT focus on:

* enhancing a particular discipline’s reputation;
* training a future academic workforce;
* increasing academic publications.

While these may be by-products of the research, they should not be the sole rationale of the project.

The NIT must not contain acronyms, technical or disciplinary specific terms. Pay particular attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Overall, the **benefit** of the research **to the** **Australian community** must be made absolutely clear.