

# SMALL BUSINESS CO-INVESTMENT FUND

Special request for project funding from the Australian Government – 2022

## BACKGROUND

Cradle Coast Authority (CCA), Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority and RDA Tasmania have developed a proposal for a grants program that supports government co-investment in expansion of enterprises where there are clearly new employment outcomes.

The program will provide opportunity for growth and development, generate more sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for people and sectors which have had employment negatively impacted by COVID-19, including our vital and hard-hit tourism, hospitality, entertainment and events industries.

The Small Business Co-Investment Fund will allow businesses and not-for-profits to apply for funding through a competitive process, with applications assessed against a number of criteria, and applicants required to match the Government contribution. This kind of co-investment scheme is a proven way of stimulating economic growth that is relevant, place-based and low risk for government.

CCA has also identified a gap in funding opportunities for new and small businesses and believes there is need to offer grants of a smaller amount (up to \$10,000) to businesses that have progressed through the Cradle Coast Enterprize program, or a program of similar prestige i.e. Start-up Tas.

## 1. VISION: SMALL BUSINESS CO-INVESTMENT FUND

A dollar-for-dollar small business co-investment program that aims to drive economic growth and create jobs in the Cradle Coast region.

- The program will be managed Federally and implemented Locally.
- It will allow for a minimum grant of \$20k and maximum grant of \$1m.
- Applicants will be required to at least match the government contribution.

## 2. VISION: ENTERPRIZE FUND

This proposal will deliver a limited number of grants to start-ups and small businesses unable to match the Government contribution (minimum \$20,000). It will create funding opportunities for organisations that have progressed through the Cradle Coast Enterprize program.

- Limited number of grants available.
- Managed Federally and implemented Locally.
- It will allow for a minimum grant of \$2k and maximum grant of \$10k.
- Applicants will be required to have progressed through the Cradle Coast Enterprize program, or a program of similar prestige.

## 3. VISION: 'FUNDING FINDER' PLATFORM AND SUPPORT

Many businesses, not-for-profits and community groups have identified the challenges with constantly seeking and applying for grants that are best suited to them. In 2020, Cradle Coast Authority launched the 'Cradle Coast Funding Finder' to all businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals. This site provides a comprehensive list of grant and funding opportunities available to the user as a free service however the cost to Cradle Coast Authority is \$23,000 per annum. In addition to the Funding Finder, CCA will provide a free service to help explain and write/apply for grants.

- Continue funding the 'Cradle Coast Funding Finder' (annual cost of \$23,000).
- Provide a free service to help businesses, community groups and not-for-profits navigate grant finding, writing and management.

## KEY BENEFITS:

- Diversify regional economies.
- Stimulate long term growth.
- Deliver sustainable employment.
- Enable applicants to enter new markets and sectors.
- Attract and retain a working age population within the Cradle Coast region.

## REQUEST:

SMALL BUSINESS CO-INVESTMENT FUND	\$20 mil
ENTERPRIZE FUND	\$200 k
'FUNDING FINDER' PLATFORM	\$70 k
'FUNDING FINDER' SUPPORT	\$30 k
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT OVER 3 YEARS</b>	<b>\$20.3 mil</b>

