



How to present strong evidence of policymaker interest

March 2025



Including evidence of policymaker interest in applications

The JMI Policy Challenge Grant supports applied public policy research for the public good. Grants are awarded to outstanding academics undertaking applied policy research or translating existing research for a policy audience, with the aim of tackling the greatest public policy challenges facing NSW.

Applicants must outline how their proposed project relates to a public policy challenge facing the NSW Government and demonstrate that the project will be of interest to policymakers. While evidence can include references to other states and territories or the Commonwealth, a strong focus on NSW is recommended.

Applicants can choose to provide evidence in the way that best supports their application. There are several ways to provide this evidence effectively. Some examples are outlined below.

1. Include letter(s) of support

Consider submitting a letter(s) of support from relevant stakeholders. Letters of support can come from NSW policymakers, industry, non-government organisations or other organisations relevant to the policy challenge.

You can submit more than one letter of support where you have multiple stakeholders supporting your project.

Letters should be succinct (one-page) and summarise how the research would help tackle the specific policy challenge.

2. Summarise policymaker interest

You can summarise policymaker interest in the topic in your 600-word written response to question 3. See example response below. Note that hyperlinks may not work in the application portal, and you will need to include the full URL.

Example 1: Community engagement in energy infrastructure projects

Across NSW, there have been multiple examples of community kickback linked to the rollout of renewable energy infrastructure projects in NSW which have been well documented (see this article in [The Conversation](#)). If unaddressed, this resistance will undermine the successful transition to net zero and result in NSW Government failing to meet the key objectives of its Electricity Infrastructure Roadmap and the development of Renewable Energy Zones (REZs).

At both federal and state level, there has been acknowledgement of the 'consultation deficit' in recent years which must be addressed to enable net zero goals to be met. The independent [Community Engagement Review](#) conducted by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, Andrew Dyer, for the Australian Government's Minister for



Climate Change and Energy identified a number of actions necessary to improve community engagement effectiveness and outcomes in the energy transition.

The Chair of the Net Zero Economy Agency, Greg Combet, has added further weight to the issue highlighting in a recent [speech](#) the need to “develop a plan that will help people and communities through change”.

Other organisations have joined together to call for greater government action to address the information deficit around renewable energy infrastructure projects. These include RE-Alliance which [called for](#) governments to invest in building trust for Australia’s clean energy shift and NSW Farmers who called for government action to address the lack of community and landholder consultation by renewable energy developers.

With large scale renewable energy projects planned across NSW, there is a pressing need to address the consultation deficit and generate enhanced social licence in support of the energy transition.

3. Include evidence in a table or list

Upload a table or list summarising examples of NSW Government/policymaker interest. Aim to be specific and succinct. 1-2 pages of evidence is sufficient. Evidence can vary and may include quotes from ministers, key commitments from NSW Government strategies or recommendations from parliamentary inquiries. Make it easy for the assessment panel to understand the relevance of your evidence, noting that they may not be experts or have a background in your policy area.

Examples are below.

Example 2: Demonstrating policymaker interest in increasing electric vehicle uptake

Evidence	Further information
NSW Government’s Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 aims for a 50% emissions reduction (from 2005 levels) by 2030 and net zero by 2050.	https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/government-strategies-and-frameworks/climate-change-net-zero-future-act-2023
In September 2023, NSW Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Penny Sharpe said: “Increasing the number of electric vehicles on our roads is an essential step to NSW getting to Net Zero emissions”.	https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/supercharge-the-shift-evs-in-nsw



NSW Government EV Strategy aims to increase EV sales to 52% by 2030–31	https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/nsw-electric-vehicle-strategy-210225.pdf
NSW Government rolled out EV Ready Building Grant to boost charging infrastructure in apartment buildings	https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/electric-vehicle-ready-buildings-grant
NSW Government invested \$260 million in the 2023–24 NSW Budget to increase electric vehicle uptake in NSW	https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/supercharge-the-shift-evs-in-nsw
At a federal level, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water has commenced in Jan. 2024 into the transition to electric vehicles.	https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/House_of_Representatives/About_the_House_News/Media_Releases/Committee_launches_inquiry_into_the_transition_to_electric_vehicles

Example 3: Demonstrating policymaker interest in increasing the supply of affordable housing in NSW

Evidence	Further information
NSW Government has announced reforms to facilitate the increased supply of social and affordable housing for low-income households and essential workers.	https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/housing/housing-sepp
NSW Premier Chris Minns has highlighted that no challenge today is bigger than the housing crisis facing NSW (May 2024)	https://www.ceda.com.au/newsandresources/videosandphotos/government-regulation/nsw-state-of-the-state-2024
NSW Government has announced the first of 44 government-owned sites that will be made available for new housing.	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-01/nsw-first-housing-sites-announced/104042528



Avoid uploading lengthy and detailed documents such as an entire NSW Government strategy document or a relevant Act. The judging panel will not have time to read them and extract the salient points.

Be specific in highlighting commitments made by government (in strategies, speeches, legislation etc), recommendations made by parliamentary committees or inquiries, or key data demonstrating this is a significant policy challenge.



Use [this template](#) to summarise policymaker interest in your topic area. 1-page of evidence is sufficient.

Evidence	Further Information
<p><i>In this box, please include a quote (or paraphrase)/ very short summary of the evidence here e.g. a quote from a ministerial speech/ parliamentary report/ government strategy. State the government agency/organisation/Act and year the evidence relates to.</i></p>	<p><i>Include a link to the evidence here.</i></p>