

# NIC Building Leadership Capacity across the Irrigation Sector program Background information



The National Irrigators Council (NIC) is pleased to have received funding from the Commonwealth Government's Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund which enables individuals from NIC Member organisations to undertake leadership training from three programs:

1. Australia Institute of Company Directors, [Company Directors Course](#);
2. Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, [Trail emerging leaders program](#); or
3. [The Peter Cullen trust](#)

In each case the person wishing to undertake the program will need the support of the NIC member organisation.

The aim of the Leadership in Agricultural Industries fund is to “assist with developing industry leadership capacity and capability within their organisation and across their agricultural industry.”

For the NIC, this program is an opportunity to enhance the skills of the irrigation sector's current and future leaders both in managing organisations and engaging community debate. The NIC's goals in include:

- Enhance the capacity of not for profit member organisations to engage with Government, community and media in their local regions, and at state and national levels;
- Enhance corporate governance
- Develop management and leadership skills; and
- Enhance ability to respond to and manage change, including identifying and managing risk and dealing with people.

The focus of the program outlined above means priority will be given to people who are expected to make a long-term contribution to the leadership of the irrigation sector and its communities. It is not intended to substitute for normal workplace training that should be funded by employers when the person is an employee.

NIC is seeking expressions of interest for these programs by 30 March 2018. If the programs are oversubscribed, the NIC board will make final decisions. Member organisations are able to apply for more than one person however priority will given to organisations that have no placements if places are limited.

## AICD Company Directors Course

The AICD offers courses in a variety of locations (including some regional centres) throughout the year. It will be up to the participant to find a suitable course and with assistance of their organisation, book in to the course. The program will provide up to 9 places over the period of the program.

- Each participant must be approved by NIC prior to enrolling.

- NIC, through the Leadership fund, will provide \$7,700 for each sponsored participant (GST inclusive).
- This covers the course fee for an AICD member.
- The NIC Member organisation and or participant will be required to cover all additional costs including AICD membership fee (if required); any travel and accommodation costs.
- The NIC Member organisation, or the participant, will select a course and venue that best suits the participant and make the enrolment.
- The NIC Member sponsor will provide the NIC with invoices or documentary evidence of expenditure to facilitate the NIC's acquittal of the Commonwealth grant.
- The participant will provide a brief feedback report (template will be provided) about the course for reporting.
- NIC expects that participants will complete the optional assessment component of the course.

## Australian Rural Leadership Foundation – Trail, emerging leaders program

The Trail program is aimed at emerging rural leaders and is a cross-sector leadership program set in Canberra and region, for Australia's future emerging rural leaders. Participants undertake a challenge based program to develop key leadership skills, including:

- strategic thinking
- ability to have successful conversations
- understanding of advocacy, influence and political processes
- partnerships and collaborative relationships

The [Australian Rural Leadership Foundation web site has more detail on the program](#). You are invited to call the Foundation (ask for Andrea) if you would like to discuss the suitability of the course.

The program is delivered in a residential program of just over a week – so you will need to be able to commit to attending. The next program is from 26 April with additional programs expected to be offered in August/September 2018 and again in around April/May 2019. You would need to be able to attend one of those programs to comply with our funding conditions.

Please note:

- Each participant must be approved by NIC prior to enrolling.
- NIC, through the Leadership fund, will provide \$9,900 (inc. GST) for each sponsored participant. This covers the course fee.
- The NIC Member organisation and/or participant needs to cover all additional costs including any travel and other costs
- The NIC Member sponsor will provide the NIC with invoices or documentary evidence of expenditure to facilitate NIC's acquittal of the Commonwealth grant.
- The participant will provide a brief feedback report (template will be provided) about the course for reporting.

The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation also offers an Agribusiness Leadership program. If you feel this would be more useful and would also meet this programs' goals please contact Steve or Joy to discuss.

## Peter Cullen Trust Leadership program

The Peter Cullen Trust program is a highly competitive program. Any NIC backed applicant will need to be supported by NIC and also go through the Trust's own selection process.

We are able to half fund two people over the two year period of this program.

The other half of funding will need to be provided by the potential participant's NIC member organisation.

As this is a more complex process than the other two programs, potential applicants are requested to:

- Carefully read the program criteria on [the Peter Cullen trust web site](#)
- Discuss with your NIC Member sponsoring organisation if it is willing to support your application
- Discuss with Steve Whan from NIC the process of getting support and applying.

## Next steps

Fill in and return the Expression of Interest form.

## Contacts

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