

2/2/2026

Via online submission

Re Future Made in Australia Community Benefit Principles draft public guidance

The Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition Cooperative Research Centre (HILT CRC) was established in November 2021 to support the decarbonisation of the Australian iron/steel, alumina, and cement/lime sectors. Since commencing operations, HILT CRC has co-developed a groundbreaking research program to develop new technologies and address non-technological barriers and enablers to heavy industry decarbonisation, in collaboration with over 65 partners from industry (including heavy industry, end users and technology providers), government, academia and non-governmental organisations (our current member list is provided in Attachment A).

HILT CRC welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) regarding the Future Made in Australia (FMIA) Community Benefit Principles draft public guidance, particularly given our research focus on green metals, a priority area of FMIA. HILT CRC considers this public guidance as both important and complementary to supporting our shared vision to create a prosperous, net-zero heavy industry sector at the forefront of the low-carbon transition.

Our responses to relevant consultation questions are provided below.

Question 1: Please tell us about you or your organisation, and your interest in the Community Benefit Principles.

HILT CRC is a collaborative research partnership guided by our corporate strategy in Figure 1 below:



Figure 1 - HILT CRC corporate strategy

HILT CRC has mapped decarbonisation pathways and areas where technology can be deployed and have a significant impact on decarbonisation and the potential for green products (iron/steel, alumina and cement) manufactured in Australia. Figure 2 shows individual technologies and pathways for the decarbonisation of HILT CRC’s sectors, as well as the linkages between them.

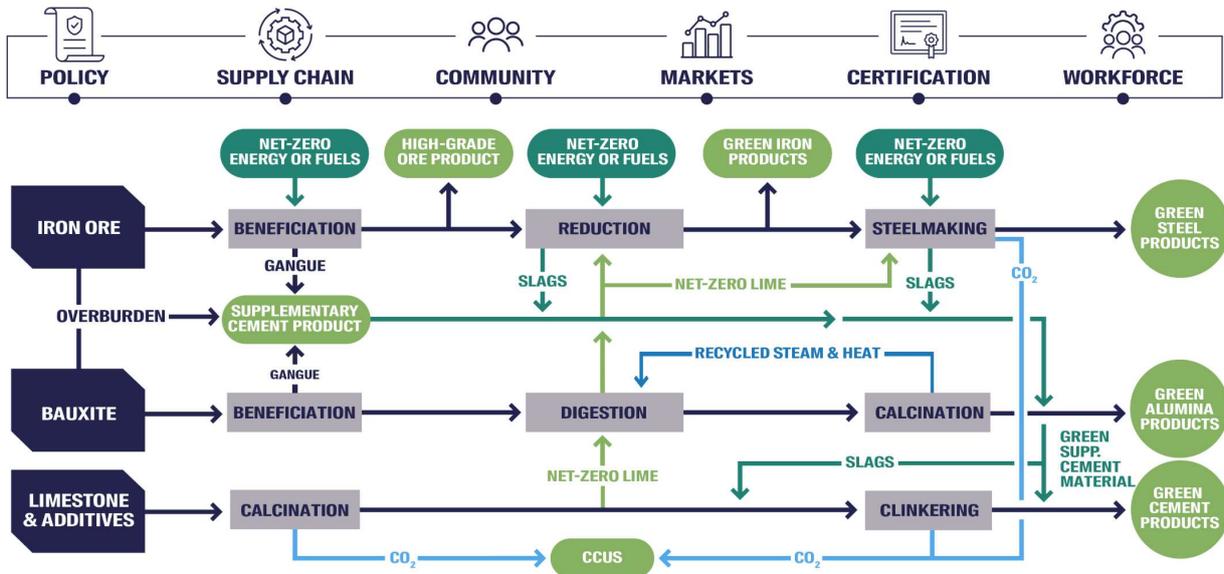


Figure 2 - Heavy industry decarbonisation and green product production pathways

As is highlighted in Figure 2, HILT CRC focuses not only on technological pathways, but also on equally important enablers at the top of the diagram: policy, supply chain, community, markets, certification and workforce.

The FMIA Community Benefits Principles and Framework proposed in the consultation paper have strong intersections with HILT CRC's ongoing program, particularly in the areas of future workforce development and job needs (Principles 1 and 2), as well as strengthening domestic industrial capabilities and local supply chains (Principle 5).

From HILT CRC's experience, well-designed and targeted research, education and training support is an important contributor to enhancing community benefits and should be favourably considered as practical measures to facilitate better outcomes.

Question 2: What feedback do you have on the proposed minimum requirements in Appendix A of the guidance document

HILT CRC does not have relevant feedback for this question.

Question 3: What is an appropriate threshold amount for applying the threshold requirements and Future Made in Australia plans?

The A\$20M cumulative threshold appears to balance the need for more detailed requirements for larger projects and the capacity of projects to be effectively implemented.

Question 4: What feedback do you have on the proposed threshold requirements in Appendix B of the guidance document?

Threshold commitment 1.1 - Have a hiring plan outlining recruitment strategies and committing to training programs to equip local residents with the skills needed for project related jobs

A hiring plan that includes community outreach to educational institutions may also benefit from partnerships that link with relevant CRCs, such as HILT CRC, if the project is focusing on heavy industry decarbonisation and green product market development. HILT CRC provides useful capability and career development insights for students and professionals, some of whom are from regional backgrounds, to acquire higher-value skills in technology, market development and policy-related disciplines.

Threshold commitment 1.2 - Have a policy that sets out how the project will support secure, ongoing employment in well paid jobs

A policy that supports collaborative research as a community benefit outcome could also support the creation of additional research jobs.

Threshold commitment 2.3 - Have a policy that sets out how the project will enhance workforce capability

Similarly to highlighted above, policies could also consider strategically partnering with collaborative research organisations, such as CRCs, on community outreach to provide insights and enable more high-value pathway opportunities for students and professionals in emerging growth markets. Recipients of FMIA funding could also work with entities like HILT CRC to deliver workforce training on a fee-for-service basis.

HILT CRC stewards capability development through its higher degree research program, currently comprising 30 students and additional outreach activities. Examples of these include research project opportunities, industry training courses, workshops and webinars, student scholarships, and a national green metals challenge competition for university student teams.

Collaborative research also helps to train and upskill the workforce of the future by producing highly skilled academic professionals who gain deep industry experience. These people are consequently equipped to advance Australian industry through innovative, industry-focused R&D.

Threshold commitment 5.3 - Set out how the project will strengthen domestic industrial capabilities, including through strengthening local supply chains

HILT CRC welcomes and strongly supports the setting out of knowledge-sharing and contributions to Australian innovation, including participating in shared R&D in the industry, as an important threshold commitment. Project partnerships with collaborative research organisations, such as HILT CRC, are not only important to progress Australian-focused technological developments, but also to support the creation and scaling of new markets that can advance projects and create jobs over time.

Question 5-28:

HILT CRC does not have relevant feedback for these questions.

HILT CRC thanks the Government for the opportunity to comment on the FMIA Community Benefit Principles draft public guidance.

If the Government would like to discuss any elements further, I can be contacted via ceo@hiltcrc.com.au.

Kind regards,



Jenny Selway
Chief Executive Officer,
HILT CRC

ATTACHMENT A - HILT CRC MEMBER LIST

OVER 65 PARTNERS AND GROWING



CORE PARTNERS



KEY PARTNERS



AFFILIATE PARTNERS



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL TRADING PARTNERS

