
Desert Knowledge Australia is seeking Expressions of Interest for a potential independent member to join its Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee (FARMC)

Desert Knowledge Australia (**DKA**) is a statutory corporation established under the Northern Territory *Desert Knowledge Australia Act 2003* (NT) (**DKA Act**) to *'encourage and facilitate learning, research and sustainable economic and social development relating to deserts and arid lands.'*

DKA facilitates the development of educational, employment, and enterprise pathways, arid zone-focused research, and technological progress relevant to the well-being, resilience, and sustainability of desert communities.

DKA's vision is *'sharing our place on Country to innovate, progress social wellbeing and sustainability for desert and arid communities.'*

DKA manages the Desert Knowledge Precinct (**the Precinct**), a 73ha innovation precinct 8kms south of the Mparntwe (Alice Springs) CBD, under an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the native title holders, Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation. DKA shares the Precinct with its partners, Batchelor Institute and the Centre for Appropriate Technology, and has established the DKA Business and Innovation Centre on the site as a co-working and meeting space utilised by a wide range of users from local, regional and national organisations. The Precinct is approximately 50% renewably powered through the Desert Knowledge Solar Centre, a renewable energy test bed operating since 2008.

DKA plays a leading role through supporting and facilitating collaborations that support research and better outcomes for remote Australians.

DKA's current funded programs and initiatives can be found at dka.com.au/activities.

To understand DKA's current strategic priorities for 2023-25 go to dka.com.au/about-dka.

DKA is actively seeking expressions of interest by interested persons, to become an independent member of the FARMC.

The Role

The FARMC meets 4 times a year prior to each Board meeting. The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Desert Knowledge Australia Board in its responsibility to:

- monitor and review the financial reporting processes and procedures;
- ensure there is an adequate system of internal control;
- review the risk management systems;
- maintain and monitor a Risk Register;
- maintain and monitor a Gift Policy & Register;
- monitor, oversee and review the external audit process;
- monitor compliance with applicable laws, regulations and organisational policies;
- review post completion audits of major tenders and projects within a suitable time frame after project/tender has commenced;
- ensure adequate internal communication and reporting; and
- configure the annual report for the Minister.

Qualifications and Experience

We are seeking professionals with expertise in the following areas:

Financial:

- A strong background in finance, accounting, or related fields
- Experience in financial management, budgeting, and risk assessment
- Knowledge of financial regulations and reporting standards
- Ability to provide advice on how to interpret financial reports and advice received from the auditor
- Understanding internal control mechanisms, with an ability to provide advice as to their adequacy
- Familiarity with governance and compliance frameworks, particularly related to the DKA Act

Risk:

- A strong understanding of the risk management framework, including the ability knowledge of legislative compliance and industry best practice
- A strategic vision on all aspects related to risk with an ability to see beyond the horizon to anticipate risks and opportunities
- Ability to make actionable recommendations in risk associated with the business operations

Cultural Connections:

- Deep understanding and connection to Aboriginal and First Nations cultures
- Experience working with Indigenous communities and promoting cultural diversity and inclusivity
- Ability to guide DKA in its commitment to cultural engagement and reconciliation

Commitment

The independent FARMC member is expected to actively contribute to the strategic discussions and decision-making processes of the Committee. The Committee convenes four times per year, during the working day, based on the Central Australia Time Zone. Most meetings are held virtually, but can be attending in-person meeting at the Precinct in Alice Springs.

Appointment

Appointments are made under the DKA Act Part 3, Division 4.

Application Process:

To express your interest, please submit a detailed CV and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and the contribution you can bring to the organisation.

Applications should be sent to kate.wiles@dka.com.au no later than COB 10th June 2024.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a significant impact on the sustainability and liveability of Australia's desert regions as a member of Desert Knowledge Australia's Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Further Information

DKA website: www.dka.com.au