

Research consultancy policy

Transport Energy/Emission Research (TER)

- *TER is a research consultancy that operates independently, without alignment to any political party or ideology.*
 - TER supports stakeholders in the transition to smart, clean, zero emissions transport through the provision of advice based on robust, transparent and impartial research.
- *To ensure the integrity, quality, and excellence of the research it undertakes, TER is committed to The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (the Code, 2018)¹.*
 - The Code establishes a framework for responsible research conduct and expectations of institutions and researchers.
- *TER recognises that the area of transport emissions, and efforts to measure and reduce emissions, can be politicised.*
 - This politicisation may lead to potential conflicts of interest in research funding.
 - Under the Code (2018), a conflict of interest exists in a situation where an independent observer might reasonably conclude that TER's work is or may be unduly influenced by other interests.
- *In seeking and negotiating funding for TER services, TER will consider the risks (real or perceived) that funders may seek to influencing research findings, including how findings may be selectively communicated.*
 - Where such a risk exists, TER will either:
 - 1) choose not to undertake the work, or
 - 2) implement measures to ensure independence.
- *Measures to manage real or perceived conflict of interest will be tailored to the circumstances and could include:*
 - establishing independent oversight of some or all of the research activity,
 - requiring the public disclosure of interests,
 - ensuring methods, calculations and analysis are made publicly available
 - requiring TER to be absent from any deliberative decision making (if applicable),
 - requiring TER to relinquish financial or other interests (if applicable).

¹ <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>