Quick Guide to Writing an Impact Statement

Remember an impact statement is a short document that explains why your research is significant. This can be the impact of the research on current knowledge or social, economic and environmental impact. The impact statement is used both to inform and persuade the different stakeholders involved. Frequently those stakeholders will be funders who need to be convinced why they should fund your research over anybody else’s. So the need to inform, convince and persuade should drive your research impact statement.

Your impact statement should have these 5 elements

1. A clear description of the question or problem you research is addressing.
2. A statement of the action/s you are taking to answer the question or resolve the problem.
3. An explanation of the impact. Do not confuse this with outputs. This is the most important part of your statement where you describe clearly who benefits from your work and how that happens. There are many kinds of level of benefits..organisational, community level, individual, research community and social and economic benefits. Describe them all as they relate to your work.
4. A list of the people involved in the research other than you. Any collaborators including institutions you are working with need to be included here. Stakeholders will want to understand why these people are necessary.
5. Your name and contact details. Sometimes a brief description of your background and why you became involved in the project can be helpful.

Always check if your preferred funder mandates the format of the impact statement and obviously comply with that.