

OFFICIAL

# Enabling Infrastructure Program

2023-24 Guidelines

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Government of South Australia  
Department of Primary Industries  
and Regions

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### Disclaimer

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*Murray River communities impacted by flooding should contact their Regional Coordinator to discuss any concerns they have about application timings.*

## All enquiries

Enquiries should be directed to your Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) local Regional Coordinator:

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(including Barossa; Light and Lower North;  
Adelaide Hills; and Fleurieu)  
Phone: (08) 8429 0249  
Mobile: 0428 543 135  
Email: [trevor.bennett@sa.gov.au](mailto:trevor.bennett@sa.gov.au)

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Information is also available on the website: <https://pir.sa.gov.au/thriving-regions-fund>

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## 1. Purpose

The aim of the State Government's new Thriving Regions Fund (TRF) is for South Australia is to achieve thriving, resilient regional communities through improving quality of life, developing diverse leadership, implementing place-based programs, attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, and capitalising on growth potential.

The long-term outcomes from investment through the TRF have been identified as:

- Improved quality of life for regional communities
- Thriving, resilient, sustainable regional communities that attract and retain people to live and work
- Pipeline of regional leaders providing a voice for their regions
- Regions creating job opportunities and improved career options by capitalising on regional growth potential
- Stronger regional economies

The TRF is a \$15 million annual funding commitment, supporting a range of measures, including the Enabling Infrastructure Program (EIP). The EIP provides support for enabling infrastructure with a focus on place-based solutions and implementation through an integrated approach to achieving regional well-being and livability.

## 2. Key features

- \$5 million is available under the EIP in 2023/24.
- Funding will be available through regular competitive rounds, as announced by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (the Minister).
- Grants will range between \$50,000 minimum up to a \$1 million maximum.
- Grants up to a \$2 million maximum could be considered where there are exceptionally broad benefits.
- Projects will need to align with the priorities of the State Government, and will be guided by the priorities identified in the relevant South Australian Regional Development Australia (RDA) associations' regional plans. <https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/enabling-infrastructure>
- Support will be for projects that are investment ready and can commence within 6 months and be completed within 2 years from execution of the Funding Agreement.
- An applicant co-contribution of at least:
  - fifty percent (50%) is expected for Companies, Partnerships, Sole Traders, Co-operatives and Statutory Authorities.
  - thirty percent (30%) for Local Governments, Incorporated Associations, Registered Charities, and Companies Limited by Guarantee.
  - or applicants will need to make a strong case for why more public investment is required.

- Applicants are expected to contribute the minimum percentage of co-contribution in cash (in-kind contributions will not be counted). This is to be exclusive of any other grant funding sources. While in-kind contribution cannot be counted as co-contribution it will be considered as part of the project's overall benefit.
- Applicants are encouraged to secure contributions from other sources including Commonwealth, State and/or Local Government grants. This can be in the form of cash or in-kind. This cannot be used as part of the applicant's cash co-contribution.
- Grants will be paid on a reimbursement basis hence applicants will need to demonstrate the capacity to manage the costs of the project until key milestones are completed to the Minister's satisfaction and paid, or applicants will need to make a strong case for why upfront public investment is required.
- The project must be located within South Australia with the outcomes and benefits in regional South Australia.

### 3. Program objectives

The funding will be considered for projects that can demonstrate delivery against the majority of the following program objectives:

- Value-added investment in priority community infrastructure that improves quality of life and / or attracts and retains people in our regions; and/or
- Enabling infrastructure to attract and retain business (goods and services) in region and support a strong regional economy; and
- Collaboration with other projects, programs or initiatives; and
- Has broad regional community benefit; and
- Has considered latent and future demand.

### 4. Assessment criteria

The assessment will consider the following criteria:-

- Economic and social benefits expected to result from the project for the relevant region.
- Project is investment ready, and applicant has the capability, resources and approvals available to deliver the project within agreed timeframes.
- The extent of benefits arising from the project will address the relevant regional RDA plans and/or State Government priorities.
- Ability to deliver the project.

Economic benefits may include:

- increasing the number, retention or value of jobs
- new businesses or production opportunities created directly or indirectly through the project

- growth opportunities in existing sectors
- use of local goods and services
- improving efficiency of the transport system for goods, services and people.
- improve mobile & digital connectivity
- improving utilities use and/or access
- increasing economic participation and employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples.

Social benefits may include:

- improving livability of a region
- identifying and addressing 'gaps' within the community
- improving community connections, participation, social inclusion and addressing disadvantage
- pilot programs.

## 5. Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible the applicant must be a legal entity, the key driver of the project and have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and registered for GST.

Eligible entities may include Companies, Partnerships, Sole Traders, Co-operatives, Statutory Authorities, Local Governments, Incorporated Associations, Registered Charities, Companies Limited by Guarantee.

RDA associations and State Government agencies are not eligible to apply.

## 6. Application Process

- Applicants will submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) in the Stage 1 process, no later than the advertised closing date and time, providing details of the applicant and specific project information.
- EOIs will be assessed by an internal government panel and informed following consultation with the relevant RDA association on project alignment with regional plans.
- EOIs will be shortlisted and progressed by PIRSA to the Minister for consideration.
- Following consideration, the Minister may invite certain applicants to submit a detailed application (Stage 2), to be submitted no later than 6 weeks from the date of the Minister's formal notification.
- All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the EOI stage once assessment has been completed.
- PIRSA and the South Australia Financing Authority (SAFA) will then undertake a detailed due diligence of each application and provide details to the Minister for consideration.
- The Minister will then advise applicant of decision.

## 7. What will the grant fund?

Funding will be provided for projects that deliver tangible benefits to regional South Australia. The project must closely align to the intended outcomes detailed in these guidelines.

To ensure the greatest value to the people of South Australia, there are activities and projects that will not be funded:

- Plans, including feasibility studies, business cases, reports and development plans.
- Costs associated with the preparation of the application.
- Costs for works undertaken and / or goods supplied by the applicant, its employees or related entities.
- Operational expenditure, including overheads, wages, utilities, repairs, and maintenance, or statutory obligations.

- Retrospective funding, where projects have been completed or have commenced prior to the application being approved by the Minister.
- Purchase of land or a business.
- Projects that require ongoing recurrent State Government funding.
- Projects undertaken on behalf of third parties.
- Projects that have already received assistance from PIRSA or other relevant State or Commonwealth Government grant funds to achieve the same project outcomes.
- Projects that are more appropriately funded through other funding sources ie State or Commonwealth programs. For example, there may be funding programs already in place to support sporting facilities or tourism venture projects.

The Minister will make the final decision on all applications taking into consideration advice and recommendations from the Department, Assessment panel, the funds criteria, the funds available, as well as any other relevant information.

## 8. What do I need to apply?

Applications will firstly be submitted in the form of an EOI. The EOI will detail the necessary information for assessment at this stage and will include:

- Documents that demonstrate that the applicant is a legal entity eligible to apply, is registered for GST, and has an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- Evidence of how the project aligns to the relevant RDA regional plans.
- Evidence of stakeholder and community engagement.
- A detailed Business Plan, including demand / supply assumptions that underpin the project and documentation to confirm relevant planning and development approvals are held or significantly progressed and likely to be achieved within the next six months, and status of finance available for the project.
- Project plan that includes project scope, budget, capex, major milestones and timelines.

Applicants who are invited to the second stage of the assessment process should note the following information will be required with the full application:

- Information provided for the EOI.
- Quotes from service providers (confirmation of project costs ex GST).
- Financial modelling for the project, indicating cash flow forecast, profit and loss, capital expenditures, including underlying assumptions.
- A funding plan showing where funding for the project will come from – cash, loan, other grants, private investment etc, together with supporting evidence.
- Financial statements for the last 3-5 financial years\*, preferably audited, but if not, independently prepared for the applicant and any associated entities.

\*Note: Interim financial statements for the financial year 2022-23 will be accepted.



- Letters of support for the project.

Applicants are invited to consider whether to submit additional information that demonstrates the technical feasibility of the project and the management of risks.

Applicants should discuss with Departmental officials if there are reasons why the above documentation cannot be provided.

## How to submit your application

Applications must be submitted using the online application form on the PIRSA website at: <https://pir.sa.gov.au/thriving-regions-fund/enabling-infrastructure-program>

## Closing date

Expression of Interest (EOI) Stage 1 close at **12.00 noon, 9 August 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Full Application (Application) Stage 2 close at **12.00 noon, 7 February 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted.

## General information

### Process following approval

All applicants will be contacted and advised of the outcome of their application.

Successful applicants will be sent a formal letter of offer and may be involved in the preparation of public announcements about the Fund.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions and / or the Department of Treasury and Finance may negotiate with applicants on the details of a project under the Funding Agreement to meet any specific requirements imposed as a condition of funding and specific milestones the applicant will be required to meet.

A letter to successful applicants will not constitute a contract and should not create any legitimate expectation on the part of the applicant unless a Funding Agreement is executed by both parties.

### Privacy

All personal information collected from applicants will be treated in accordance with the Government of South Australia's Information Privacy Principles as set out in [Premier and Cabinet Circular 012](#).

### Confidentiality and Commercial-in-Confidence Considerations

If an Applicant believes that any information provided in their Application is confidential or commercial-in-confidence, the Applicant must clearly identify such information and the reason for its confidentiality.

Applicants should be aware that PIRSA is subject to certain legislative and administrative accountability and transparency requirements of the Government of South Australia, including public disclosure in accordance with Department for the Premier and Cabinet policy.

PIRSA will treat all information provided by Applicants sensitively. Any information contained in, or relating to, an Application, including information identified by an Applicant as confidential, may be disclosed by PIRSA:

- to its employees, advisers or third parties including Regional Development Associations in SA in order to evaluate and assess an application
- within the Government of South Australia or other entities where this serves the legitimate interest of PIRSA
- in response to a request made by a House or Committee of the Parliament of South Australia
- where information is authorised or permitted by law to be disclosed
- where the information is already in the public domain
- for the purposes of conducting checks with other State and Australian Government databases to ensure duplicate funding (or 'double dipping') will not occur for Project activities.

## Successful applicants – How will we manage the grant process?

Applications will be assessed, using a two-stage approach:

Stage 1. Expression of Interest

Stage 2. Full Application (if invited, following Stage 1 assessment)

If successful following both stages, applicants will be required to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Government of South Australia in order to receive assistance. The Funding Agreement will outline all the special conditions of the provision of funding. This would be subject to the Government's Contract Disclosure policy (see: <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/documents/rendition/B17980>).

Successful applicants will be expected to meet all terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement, including governance and reporting requirements. Applicants must comply with all Australian and State legislation, regulations and codes in the delivery of the Program.

Grant payments will only be made on a reimbursement basis on milestones agreed in the Funding Agreement, upon presentation of paid invoices for approved project expenditure, including evidence of eligible applicant contributions. Payments will be made after a milestone is accepted as completed by the Department of Treasury and Finance – South Australian Government Financing Authority.

Final payments are made on receipt of a final report evidencing project completion to the satisfaction of the Minister.

The following conditions will be expected of any financial assistance recipients:

- Complete the project as stated in the application.
- Meet all key milestones and obligations as defined in the Funding Deed.
- Seek prior consideration and approval from the Minister before making any changes to the project.
- Acknowledge the contribution of the Government of South Australia on any promotional material and if a building is constructed, the erecting of appropriate permanent signage.
- Provide opportunities for the Minister or a representative to take part in any formal project milestones, including as a minimum an initial on-site announcement and opening event upon project completion.

Note: Grants may be subject to GST and income tax. Applicants should consider seeking advice on these and other tax implications from their tax advisers or the Australian Taxation Office before applying.

## Additional information for successful applicants

### Industry Participation Policy

Successful applicants to the Thriving Regions Fund – Enabling Infrastructure Program will need to meet the requirements of the South Australian Industry Participation Policy (the Policy).

The Policy requires that private projects that receive significant monetary support (or value-in-kind) from the Government of South Australia need to apply the Policy. The details of the Policy can be found at: [www.saipp.sa.gov.au](http://www.saipp.sa.gov.au).

Office of the Industry Advocate

Phone: 8226 8956

Email: [ia@sa.gov.au](mailto:ia@sa.gov.au)

### Public Works Committee

When a successful applicant receives funding from the Government of South Australia to the value of between \$4 million and \$15 million, and where the total amount is for construction, the Minister is required to refer the project to the Public Works Committee of Parliament.

Further guidance on the Public Works Committee's requirements is available from the Committee's website: [www.parliament.sa.gov.au/committees](http://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/committees).

Enquiries can be directed to the Parliamentary Officer:

Phone: 8237 9223

Email: [PWC.Assembly@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:PWC.Assembly@parliament.sa.gov.au)