Grain Industry Research and Development Fund

Management Plan 2026-27 to 2030-31

Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Grain Industry Research and Development Fund) Regulations 2024

Government of South Australia

Grain Industry Research and Development Fund Management Plan 2026-27 to 2030-31

Enquiries

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Document History	
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Contents

Introduction

The *Primary Industry Funding Schemes Act 1998* (the Act) was established to provide South Australian primary industries with a legislative instrument to raise funds within their sector to undertake activities that support and develop the sector, to maximise strategic advantage and to meet new industry challenges.

Section 4 of the Act allows the Governor to make regulations to establish a fund for a particular primary industry sector.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (the Minister) administers all existing funds under the Act, ensuring appropriate accountability for the use of funds for various functions and activities for industry benefit. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) administers the funds on behalf of the Minister.

The Grain Industry Research and Development Fund (the fund) established by the *Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Grain Industry Research and Development Fund) Regulations 2024* (the Regulations).

Contributions are payable at the rate prescribed in the Regulations The contribution rate for this fund has been set to 0.12% of value of grain sold on or after 1 July 2024. All South Australian grain growers are required to contribute to the fund.

Collection agents for this fund are the first purchasers of grain who are required by the Regulations to deduct the contributions from the payment to the grower and forward them to the Minister for payment into the fund account.

Grain grower contributors may seek a refund of their contributions. If a refund is paid to a contributor, they are deemed to be '*in default'* of the Regulations and not entitled to receive benefits or services funded by payments from the fund.

Payments are made from the fund for purposes defined in Regulation 7 and in this management plan.

In accordance with section 9 of the Act, this management plan has been developed in consultation with the South Australian grain industry. It covers a five-year period and must be updated annually and may be updated at any time. This management plan should be read in conjunction with the Act and the Regulations, which are available at www.legislation.sa.gov.au.

This management plan guides the operation of the fund and helps contributors understand how their contributions are used. The Act section 9 describes the requirements of a management plan.

Estimate of contributions to the fund

The Regulations require grain growers to contribute to the fund. Following consultation by Grain Producers South Australia (GPSA) in late 2023, the Minister approved changes to the contribution rate for the Grain Industry Research and Development Fund moving from a volume ($0.30/tonne) to value (0.12% of farm gate value of grain sales) model.

The contribution rate for this fund is prescribed by Regulation 5 to be 0.12% value of grain sold on or following 1 July 2024. Regulation 5 permits rate changes to some other amount specified by a ministerial notice in the South Australian Government Gazette.

The estimated contribution income for the most recent and next five financial years is provided in Table 1.

The estimated grain sales have been derived from total crop production estimates published in the PIRSA Crop and Pasture Report. This estimate of contributions to the fund is based on grain sold rather than total grain produced. Estimated purchases for subsequent years are based on average seasonal conditions and average grain production The actual amount of income to the fund will vary according to seasonal conditions that cannot be predicted.

The Regulations require the purchaser to remit contributions to PIRSA within 28 days following the quarter in which the grain was purchased. Grain purchasers that only deal in small quantities of grain may make an application to the Minister to remit annually instead of quarterly.

Table 1 – Contribution Rates and Estimated Income (Value Based) [1]						
	Current Year 2025-26[2]	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Estimated Grain Sales (t) [34]	8,270,664	7,700,000	7,700,000	7,700,000	7,700,000	7,700,000
Estimate farm gate average price ($/tonne) [5]	$350	$298	$298	$298	$298	$298
Estimated Grain Sale Value ($)	$2,894,732,400	$2.29b	$2.29b	$2.29b	$2.29b	$2.29b
Contribution Rate	0.12%	0.12%	0.12%	0.12%	0.12%	0.12%
Total Estimated Income	**$3,473,679**	**$2,753,520**	**$2,753,520**	**$2,753,520**	**$2,753,520**	**$2,753,520**

Investment of the fund

PIRSA administers the financial operations of the fund on behalf of the Minister in accordance with the Regulations and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*.

Contributions are invested in an interest-bearing account in accordance with the Department of Treasury and Finance. Interest paid on monies held is treated as income to the fund consistent with the Regulations.

Any balance not immediately required for the purposes of the fund will be retained in the fund and interest earned deemed as an investment consistent with the Act section 4(7).

[1] For Table 1 calculations see zA487022
[2] Actual figures (rounded) from 2025-26 Crop & Pasture report (summer 2026)
[3] The estimated grain sales have been derived from total crop production estimates published in the PIRSA Crop and Pasture Report. This estimate of contributions to the fund is based on **grain sold** rather than total **grain produced (z**A487022).
[4] Estimated purchases for subsequent years are based on average seasonal conditions and average grain production of the previous 10 years (zA487022).
[5] The estimated farm gate average value (or average price) for current year are based on summer Crop & Pasture Report figures and future estimates are based on the 10 year average grain prices from crop and pasture reports.

Purposes of the fund

Payments from the fund must be made in accordance with the Regulation 7:

7—Application of the Fund

The Fund may be applied by the Minister for any of the following purposes:

(a) payments to the trustees of the South Australian Grains Industry Trust Fund for 1 or more of the following purposes:

(i) the reasonable operating and management expenses of the Trust;

(ii) funding research and development into the growing, harvesting, storage, processing and marketing of grain;

(iii) dissemination of technical information to persons associated with the grains industry;

(iv) collection and dissemination to grain growers of information relevant to research and development into grains;

(v) other purposes of the Trust;

(b) payments for other purposes related to the funding of research and development into grains;

(c) payment of the expenses of administering the Fund;

(d) repayment of contributions to the Fund under regulation 6.

Eligible activities

This management plan further defines the scope of eligible activities to include those identified by grain growers in the consultations for this management plan. The following eligible activities that comply with the legislated applications of the fund (Regulation 7 prescribed activities) and project outcomes which deliver the eligible functions and activities which may be included in the Trust's business plan funded include:

- Reasonable operating expenses associated with the approved and funded activities.
- The collection and dissemination of information relevant to the grain industry to the fund contributors including the publication or dissemination of project outcomes to the fund contributors.

Ineligible activities

- Commercial activities such as grain trading or speculative investments with a speculative investment defined as the act of trading in an asset or conducting a financial transaction that has a significant risk of losing most or all the initial outlay in expectation of a substantial gain.

Funding guidelines

Eligible organisations

The trustees of the South Australian Grain Industry Trust Fund (trustees) are named in Regulation 7(a) as the body to which the Minister may make payments from the fund. The trustees operate on a calendar financial year.

Application process

The Trustees are not required to submit application to the fund, however, are responsible for reporting outcomes to the Minister on an annual basis.

Payment terms

Four payments per annum will be made to the trustees in the months of October, January, March and May.

The amount of any payment will not exceed the available balance of the fund at the time, less the minimum balance amount of not less than $35,000, which is considered sufficient to cover audit and administrative costs plus an allowance for any refunds to contributors in accordance with Regulation 7(d). A payment will not be paid if the fund balance is insufficient at the time the payment is due.

Payments made under Regulation 7(c) are GST exclusive.

In the event that applications for payments are less than the amount of income, as may be the case following a good season, any balance not immediately required will be retained in the fund and the balance plus interest earned will become available in future years.

Table 2 – Payment Schedule for payments

	October	January	March[6].	May[7]
Payment amount	Balance of fund (funds collected May – September 2026) – minus $35,000	Balance of fund (funds collected October – 31 December 2026, minus $35,000	Balance of fund (funds collected 1 January - February 2027) – minus $35,000	Balance of fund (funds collected March – April 2027) - minus $35,000

[6] SAGIT financial operates on a calendar year basis and provide a copy of their audited annual report to the Minister in late July

[7] income collected in May & June 2026 will be paid in October 2026

Reporting requirements

The Minister is required to prepare an annual report to Parliament on the performance of the fund.

The SAGIT Trust Deed requires the Chairperson of SAGIT provide a an annual report for each financial year relating to the activities of the Trustees (Item 9.ee.vi), an audited financial report (Item 10) and a budget for the following financial year relating to the activities of the Trustees and the application of moneys in the Fund (Item 9.ee.vi), which shows the projects supported with monies from the fund and including a statement of acquittal of funds to inform the Minister that all monies are expended for appropriate purposes.

As SAGIT operates on a calendar year basis for its financial reporting, this Annual Report will be submitted around the end of July each year.

The trust may be required to provide the following information (Regulation 9):

- A copy of the financial statements of the Trust and
- A copy of the annual report of the Trust and
- A copy of the business plan of the Trust and
- Any other information reasonably required for the purposes of the fund.

Fund administration

Grievances

It is recognised that a fund contributor may elect not to join an industry association and therefore feel unable to take up a complaint or grievance on the operation or application of the fund with the applicant organisation. In this case, the fund contributor may register his/her complaint or grievance in writing with the Minister which will review and address the issue with the applicant organisation, provided the issue falls within the scope of this management plan.

Changing the contribution rate

The contribution rate is established by Regulation 5, which also permits changes to some other amount specified in a published Ministerial Notice in the South Australian Government Gazette.

A change to the contribution rate may be initiated by the Minister or by industry but can only be made following consultation with the grain grower contributors. Grain Producers SA Ltd in conjunction with the trustees may write to the Minister recommending the contribution rate be varied. Consultation is expected to be coordinated through Grain Producers SA Ltd as the current recognised grain grower representative body in South Australia or any successor organisation to Grain Producers SA Ltd that in the opinion of the Minister represents grain growers.

Acceptable evidence of support for a variation to the contribution rate is to include results of any contributor survey held for the purpose and may include outcomes of any other consultation with industry. The evidence must demonstrate a genuine attempt to engage with the majority of contributors.

The new contribution rate will be implemented at the start of the financial year with sufficient notice provided to the industry so that grain purchasers can implement the new rate prior to commencement of grain harvest.

Updating the management plan

The Act section 9 requires that this management plan is updated annually. Table 3 is a guide to the expected timing and process.

PIRSA will ordinarily commence the review of the management plan around January each year, posting the draft management plan on the PIRSA website providing an opportunity to the industry for comment. Feedback will be considered, and the management plan finalised and provided to the Minister.

PIRSA will aim to present the management plan at a public meeting no later than April, enabling applications for funding to be prepared based on the newly revised management plan.

The management plan will be posted on the PIRSA website to meet the requirement of section 9(7) of the Act, in a manner permitted by section 8(3) of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* , which provides for the 'inclusion of digital material'. The management plan may be updated at any time.

An extraordinary amendment of the management plan will be drafted and consulted similarly to the annual revision and update of the management plan.

Table 3 – Revising the Management Plan (annual routine update)	
Timing (estimate)	**Activity**
October / December	PIRSA incorporate comments and update management plan for next financial year.
January / February	Consultation on revised draft management plan for new financial year and Minister approval.
February / March /April	Advertise and conduct public meeting to present management plan.