

# Sustainable Communities Program

## Guidelines – Round 1 January 2026

Please note Round 1 applications will close on Tuesday 31 March 2026 at 5.00 pm ACDT.

## Program purpose

The Australian Government has provided the Government of South Australia \$20 million in funding to help diversify and build resilience in Murray-Darling Basin communities exposed and vulnerable to the Commonwealth's water recovery activities towards acquisition of an additional 450GL of environmental water under the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Act 2023 (*Cth*). This is in accordance with the Restoring our Rivers Framework for delivering the 450GL of additional water for the environment, such as voluntary water purchasing.

Investment themes were identified through consultation with representatives of key stakeholder groups and supported by insights gained from existing stakeholder engagement, regional and local economic development strategies and plans. These themes informed the program objectives of South Australia's Sustainable Communities Program.

The investment themes are:

- agricultural diversification and innovation
- business growth and industry diversification
- community infrastructure and liveability
- First Nations economic development
- health, ageing and community services
- infrastructure and urban development
- renewable energy and green transition
- resilience through transition to new industries
- sustainability and circular economy

- sustainable industries
- tourism and cultural development
- workforce development, education and retention.

Consultation and stakeholder insights also informed the program design and the inclusion of 2 streams of funding in Round 1 of the Sustainable Communities Program, being 'Investment Feasibility' and 'Investment Ready.'

### Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility

The Investment Feasibility stream supports South Australian River Murray communities to partner and prepare investment proposals. This stream is available in Round 1 only.

The project being assessed for feasibility must demonstrate clear alignment with the program's objectives and the applicant must intend to apply for implementation funding in Round 2, subject to the feasibility outcomes. Note that Sustainable Communities is a competitive grant program and successful projects in Round 1 Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility are not guaranteed funding under Round 2.

### Stream 2 – Investment Ready

The Investment Ready stream funds implementation ready projects that mitigate the anticipated effects of water recovery towards the 450GL Murray-Darling Basin target.

## **Program objectives**

The objectives of Round 1 of the Sustainable Communities Program are to fund the preparation stage (feasibility, investigations, planning) of investment proposals and to fund immediate, investment-ready economic opportunities in exposed and vulnerable South Australian River Murray communities. This includes opportunities that:

- retain and create new jobs within the local economy
- support the establishment of new and emerging industries
- support existing local businesses and industries to grow, diversify and value add
- invest in key community infrastructure that enhances liveability, social wellbeing and resilience whilst supporting economic growth
- upskill the local workforce to build capacity to proactively manage impacts of water recovery
- align with local, regional or state strategic priorities, for example, aligning with First Nations priorities, supporting existing regional development plans, or the local Regional Drought Resilience Plan
- result in a diversification of economic activity away from heavy water consumption activities.

## Program funding

This funding opportunity will consist of open and competitive funding rounds in 2 streams – ‘Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility’ and ‘Stream 2 – Investment Ready’. Total funding available in Round 1 is up to \$14 million.

### Round 1 Funding

Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility	Stream 2 – Investment Ready
<p>Up to \$1 million allocated</p> <p>Minimum funding request: \$50,000</p> <p>Maximum funding request: \$275,000</p> <p>Applicant cash co-contribution required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% public and private companies, trusts and co-operatives</li> <li>• 30% local governments and incorporated associations</li> </ul> <p>Refer to the eligibility criteria for further information on cash co-contributions required.</p> <p>Note: the total project cost (funding and cash co-contributions combined) should not exceed 10% of the estimated total value of the project being investigated for feasibility.</p> <p><i>Examples</i></p> <p><i>With a 50% cash co-contribution:</i>  <i>Total project cost of \$100,000</i>  <i>(funding \$50,000 + cash co-contribution \$50,000),</i>  <i>the estimated project value at implementation should be \$1.0 million or more.</i></p> <p><i>With a 30% co-contribution:</i>  <i>Total project cost of \$100,000</i>  <i>(funding \$70,000 + cash co-contribution \$30,000),</i>  <i>the estimated project value at implementation should be \$1.0 million or more.</i></p>	<p>Up to \$13 million allocated</p> <p>Minimum funding request: \$50,000</p> <p>No application will be granted more than 35% of the total funding available in this stream in Round 1.</p> <p>Applicant cash co-contributions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% public and private companies, trusts and co-operatives</li> <li>• 30% local governments and incorporated organisations</li> </ul> <p>Refer to the eligibility criteria for further information on cash co-contributions required.</p>
<p>Funding for investment feasibility proposals that supports the progression of project concepts from initial feasibility assessment to a ready to implement stage, for example:</p>	<p>Funding for proposals that are ready to implement, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction costs for infrastructure</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• needs assessments</li> <li>• stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• business case development (including concept/detailed design)</li> <li>• implementation planning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development, expansion or upgrades</li> <li>• purchase of plant and equipment</li> <li>• expanding built infrastructure</li> <li>• program/training event costs.</li> </ul>
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Round 1 of both streams will open on 15 January 2026 and close on Tuesday 31 March 2026 at 5:00 pm ACDT.

It is expected that the second round of Stream 2 – Investment Ready will be offered in 2026-27 (timing to be confirmed). It will be informed by outcomes of the Australian Government’s water purchases as they become known.

Applications received during the application period will be assessed at the close of applications for each round.

Funding not allocated in Round 1 Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility will be allocated to Round 1 Stream 2 – Investment Ready. Funding not allocated in Round 1 will be reallocated to Round 2.

Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility is available in Round 1 only, and projects funded under this stream must be completed by 30 October 2026.

Stream 2 – Investment Ready projects (funded under both Round 1 and Round 2) must be completed by 31 January 2028.

## Targeted eligibility approach

A targeted approach to eligibility is being taken to ensure that funding is directed towards South Australian River Murray Communities that are exposed to purchasing of water under the Commonwealth’s recovery of the 450GL, and are more vulnerable to the associated impacts, as indicated by Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) report [Baseline relative community vulnerability and adaptive capacity— Murray-Darling Basin](#).

The South Australian River Murray Communities within scope for the program are:

- Renmark Paringa Council
- Berri Barmera Council
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- Mid Murray Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge

- Alexandrina Council
- Coorong District Council
- Gerard Community Council
- Riverland Unincorporated Area.

Local Government Areas with an index of 0.6 or higher as identified in the ABARES community vulnerability and adaptive capacity report, and within the region will be highly regarded under the program.

The Government of South Australia has also considered the findings of economic analysis undertaken and consequently, the following may also be considered during assessment:

- the findings of any economic analysis undertaken that supports the project/application
- the location of significant shared water infrastructure (up to 75% of the funding available in the Investment Ready Stream will be allocated within eligible communities with significant shared water infrastructure)
- any consultation undertaken by the applicant in relation to the project/application.

This aligns with the principle of proportionality with the aim of avoiding funding of projects in relatively less vulnerable areas in the Basin.

## Eligibility criteria

### Eligible applicants

To be eligible for grant funding, an applicant must meet all the following requirements:

Applicants are required to be:

- a legal entity, includes companies, trusts, co-operatives, local governments
- an incorporated organisation/association
- corporations established under '*The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Commonwealth)*'.

Applicants must:

- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) that is registered for GST
- be financially viable and able to demonstrate ongoing viability through provision of accounting statements (profit and loss, cash flow, balance sheet) from financial years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
- hold or commit to obtaining public liability insurance of not less than \$20 million per occurrence, prior to executing a funding agreement with the Minister

- not be insolvent, bankrupt or subject to ongoing legal proceedings
- not be aware of any issues concerning their organisation which could cause reputational or other risks to the Government of South Australia
- have previous project delivery experience for projects of a similar size and scope (see Merit Criteria for additional information).

Applicants are required to provide a cash co-contribution of at least:

- fifty per cent (50%) for public or private companies, trusts, co-operatives
- thirty per cent (30%) for local governments, incorporated associations, companies limited by guarantee

Applicants seeking to contribute less cash will need to make a strong case for why additional public investment is needed and in-kind contributions will be favourably considered.

First Nations applicants are not required to provide a cash co-contribution to their projects, in-kind contributions will be favourably considered.

## Ineligible applicants

The following applicant types are ineligible for funding

- individuals and sole traders
- State Government or Australian Government agencies and departments
- State Government or Australian Government owned corporations
- statutory authorities.

An applicant is not eligible to apply for funding under the Program if they did not meet all the terms and conditions placed on any previous Government of South Australia or Australian Government funding or grant provided to them.

For example (but not limited to) are:

- not complying to acts, regulations, by-laws, orders, awards and proclamations of the Commonwealth and the state or territory applicable to a project
- not gaining required certificates, licences, consents, permits, approvals and requirements of organisations having jurisdiction applicable to a project
- not adhering to Australian Standards, ISO Standards, the Building Code of Australia and any other relevant standards or codes
- any required policies or procedures of the relevant Minister or the Commonwealth Government (for example, reporting required under a funding agreement).

## Eligible costs – Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility

For Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility, the following types of project costs are eligible for funding:

- costs associated with planning projects, cost benefit analysis, regional design and services, energy and resources, recreation planning and concepts, sustainability strategies)
- business case development
- economic/financial or feasibility analysis
- development of strategies, plans or products.

## Ineligible costs – Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility

The following costs are ineligible for funding in Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility:

- construction costs for infrastructure development, expansion or upgrades
- asset purchase (e.g. plant and equipment including technology or software, land and buildings) expanding built/existing infrastructure
- financing costs
- depreciation of assets
- costs of operation and maintenance
- costs associated with obtaining development approvals
- costs associated with the preparation of this application
- projects seeking retrospective funding for project activities that have commenced prior to the executed funding deed
- projects that are more appropriately funded through other funding sources i.e. state or Commonwealth programs.

## Eligible costs – Stream 2 – Investment Ready

The project costs must support the objectives of the program. The following types of project costs are eligible for funding for the Stream 2 – Investment Ready:

- construction costs for infrastructure development, expansion or upgrades that would not be considered business-as-usual activities and operations
- purchase of plant and equipment (including technology or software) that need additional workers to operate or retain jobs
- expanding built infrastructure to enable job creation activities or industry diversification
- program/training event delivery costs (i.e. facilitator, venue hire and workshop materials).

The total funding requested can include up to:

- a maximum of 20 per cent (20%) of the total funding requested for contingency; and
- a maximum of 10 per cent (10%) of the total funding requested for project management and administration costs.

## **Ineligible project costs – Stream 2 – Investment Ready**

The following project costs are ineligible for funding in Stream 2 – Investment Ready:

- costs associated with the purchase of, or improvement to, irrigation infrastructure, assets or equipment
- costs related to buying or upgrading non-fixed equipment, supplies or vehicles such as cars, trucks and vans, unless considered essential to the overall project delivery and are incidental costs to the project budget
- financing and loan costs, including debt financing, insurance or rental costs (including equipment rental)
- costs relating to depreciation of plant and equipment beyond the life of the project
- advertising costs, including marketing campaigns, unless considered essential to the overall project delivery
- purchase of land or buildings
- costs associated with the preparation of the application
- regular or ongoing events or activities usually funded through other sources
- operational expenditure including wages and utilities or costs that would be considered business-as-usual activities and operations
- operational expenditure, including but not limited to regular repairs, maintenance and administration
- funding for ongoing staff or staff not directly related to the project
- costs associated with early project planning and future planning, (i.e. business case development, economic/financial or feasibility analysis, strategies or plans)
- costs associated with obtaining development approvals
- ongoing or recurrent funding that is required
- retrospective project costs incurred prior to the executed funding agreement
- costs already funded by insurance or other South Australian or Australian Government programs for the same project activities and outcomes
- projects that are more appropriately funded through other funding sources i.e. state or

## Commonwealth programs

- retrospective funding, where projects have been completed or have commenced prior to the application being approved by the Minister
- purchase of alcoholic beverages
- activities for which participants pay an attendance fee
- costs associated with exiting an industry or business
- project management and administration costs that exceed 10 per cent (10%) of the total funding requested; and/or
- project contingency costs that exceed 20 per cent (20%) of the total funding requested.

## Merit assessment criteria

Applications that have met the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the merit assessment criteria. Merit assessment criteria apply to both Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility and Stream 2 – Investment Ready. Applicants must address both the ‘community need and strategic alignment’ and ‘value for money’ criteria. Merit criteria will be weighted equally.

### Community need and strategic alignment

Applications must demonstrate the:

- degree of alignment of the project to the objectives of the program:
  - retain and create new jobs within the local economy
  - support the establishment of new and emerging industries
  - support existing local businesses and industries to grow, diversify and value add
  - invest in key community infrastructure that enhances liveability, social wellbeing and resilience whilst supporting economic growth
  - upskill the local workforce to build capacity to proactively manage impacts of water recovery
  - alignment of the project with local, regional or state strategic priorities, i.e. aligning with First Nations, supporting existing regional development plans, or the Regional Drought Resilience Plan
  - result in a diversification of economic activity away from heavy water consumption activities.
- demonstrable support from within the Local Government Area or broader region e.g. written letter/s of support or identification of community need within a relevant community plan

- the extent of the project contributing to overall community wellbeing and prosperity.

### **Value for money**

Overall, applications should demonstrate that the project will deliver value for money for the Government of South Australia. Applications should identify that funding will be used in an efficient, effective, economical and ethical manner and deliver the outcomes of the program.

This may involve illustrating that project costs will be reasonable compared to industry benchmarks, that an acceptable level of project planning has been undertaken to ensure that the project will be delivered on time and within budget, and that open and competitive procurement processes will be employed to deliver the project. Applications must demonstrate:

- the ability of the project to deliver measurable economic and/or broad community benefits
- the extent of public benefit as a result of the project or initiative during and beyond the project
- the inclusion of local procurement approaches
- accessibility and inclusivity are considered in the project design and scope
- why the private sector could not deliver the project without Government support.

### **Project delivery**

Applications for the Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility and Stream 2 – Investment Ready must demonstrate:

- the applicant has the capacity, skills, expertise and experience to deliver the project within budget and on time
- adequate resources are in place to deliver the project, including suitable staff and project management personnel with relevant qualifications, skills and experience
- the project budget contains recent quotes and evidence of the applicant's ability to contribute any co-contributions to the project.
- the project is supported by a risk register that sufficiently identifies project risks, mitigation and contingency. For Stream 2 – Investment Ready this should include consideration of ongoing asset lifecycle management implications (i.e. maintenance and operations) which are the responsibility of the applicant – refer to Ineligible Project Costs.

Stream 1 – Investment Feasibility applicants must also:

- demonstrate how the work being undertaken for Stream 1 will lead to, or is needed for, a project to be submitted under Round 2 of the program.

Stream 2 – Investment Ready applicants must also:

- demonstrate appropriate project designs and approvals are in place
- provide a project management plan that details clear actions and timelines for each phase

of the project (refer to example on the website)

- where relevant, the project management plan must address design, approvals, procurement and construction stages (as required) in sufficient detail proportional to the requested funding and project complexity.

# Applications

## How to apply

Applicants can submit one application to each funding stream only. Applicants must submit their application together with all supporting documentation to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) using the online application form.

Applications for both streams will open on 15 January 2026 and close on Tuesday 31 March 2026 at 5:00 pm ACDT.

No late applications will be accepted. Applicants cannot amend applications once the application process has been completed and the application submitted.

Applications must be accompanied by all documentation requested in the application form including:

- evidence of current public liability insurance
- evidence of co-contribution (if required)
- evidence of financial viability
- landowner consent if the land is not owned by the applicant (if required)
- planning approvals if applicable (e.g. council development and building approvals etc)
- evidence of regulatory approvals (if required)
- partnership deed/agreement to confirm partners and signatories for partnership entities
- where applicable, current trust deed confirming signatories for trust entities
- proof of incorporation for community groups
- evidence of community support for the project
- recent evidence to support the costing of project activities (i.e. quotes)
- project plan that includes major milestones and project budget.

## False and misleading information

By signing the application form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true, accurate and not misleading about a material fact.

Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may result in an offence being committed and serious penalties may apply.

If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against the applicant, including action to recover

the funds.

## Assessment of applications

Determining which applications are successful involves these stages:

- eligibility assessment
- merit assessment
- decision-making.

Please note that PIRSA typically receives far more applications than it can support. Applicants are not guaranteed funding even if the application is of high merit. Successful applications may not be funded to the full amount requested.

At any stage, applicants may be referred to other more suitable South Australian Government programs. Applicants may need to update their applications to meet the criteria of the referred program.

PIRSA may seek advice from other South Australian Government agencies and other sources, such as probity advisors, to ensure decisions are made with integrity, fairness and accountability and value for money.

PIRSA may contact applicants seeking clarification of information in their applications or further supporting material.

### Eligibility assessment

PIRSA will assess each application against the eligibility criteria identified in these guidelines and provide a recommendation to the assessment panel. The assessment panel will determine the eligibility of each project. Applications deemed ineligible will not be considered for further assessment.

### Merit assessment

PIRSA will assess each application against the merit assessment criteria listed in these guidelines and may use relevant subject matter experts from within the Government of South Australia.

PIRSA will form an assessment panel comprising senior government and independent representatives with expertise in regional economic development and irrigation.

The assessment panel will consider the relative merits of each application against the:

- outcomes of the eligibility assessment
- outcomes of the merit assessment
- any personal, business and/or probity issues and risks that could cause reputational or other risk to the Government of South Australia.

The assessment panel may request further details from applicants to clarify information provided in their application. PIRSA will notify applicants if additional information and supporting material is required and the timeframes in which it is required.

The assessment panel will form a list of projects that are recommended and/or not recommended for funding consideration.

The assessment panel may recommend partial funding for projects where there is insufficient funding available for the whole project or where only a component of the project is considered eligible or suitable for funding.

Partial funding will only be granted if the project can be completed within the identified funding amount or where the project can be staged.

The assessment panel may also recommend specific funding condition(s), where appropriate (such as engaging a third-party to manage the project delivery).

The assessment panel may defer a recommendation pending further information or may take other factors into consideration when recommending an application for funding, including but not limited to the:

- total amount of funding available
- level of impact of the project on the relevant local community
- importance of the project to the local economy or local community
- geographical distribution of projects across the eligible Local Government Areas
- suitability of a project for other government funding opportunities
- other factors that are deemed relevant such as alignment with existing Government of South Australia policies and strategies.

The assessment panel will make recommendations to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The Minister will make the final decision on approval of all applications.

### **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 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 PC 027 Disclosure of Government Contracts (see General Information Section for additional information).

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 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.

### **Clarification process**

In the event that there are omissions or inadvertent errors, PIRSA may seek clarification via email during the assessment period and request that further information be provided to resolve these issues. New information provided by the applicant that is not requested by PIRSA during the assessment period will not be accepted.

Should the requested information not be provided within five business days from the date of the request, the application may not be considered in the assessment process.

### **Assessment panel**

An Assessment Panel will undertake a full review of all applications and refine the list of projects that will be recommended for funding. The Assessment Panel will seek to maximise the benefits of the program by giving due consideration of each project against the Sustainable Communities Program criteria.

The Sustainable Communities Assessment Panel comprises members that are suitably qualified to provide recommendations to the Minister (or delegate) for funding.

## **General information**

### **Industry Participation Plans**

The South Australian Industry Participation Policy applies to grants offered under this Program. The Policy and Procedural Guidelines can be accessed via the following link:

[South Australian Business | Industry Advocate](#)

Section 3.9 of the Procedural Guidelines requires grant applicants who seek grant funding of \$500,000 (GST exclusive) or more, to complete the Industry Advocate Sourcing Checklist. This checklist can be found at: [The Industry Advocate - Industry Participation Plan](#)

Not for Profit applicants do not need to comply with this requirement.

## 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 invited to participate in public announcements about the Sustainable Communities Program.

PIRSA may negotiate with applicants on the project details to be recorded in a funding agreement to ensure the applicant can meet any specific requirements imposed as a condition of funding and the proposed milestones. 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.

If successful, 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 conditions of the provision of funding. All funding agreements are subject to the Government of South Australia's Disclosure of Government Contracts 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 PIRSA.

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

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 agreement
- seek prior consideration and approval from the Minister (or delegate) before making any changes to the project
- acknowledge the contribution of the Government of South Australia and the Australian Government on any promotional material
- provide opportunities for Minister/s or a representative to take part in any formal project milestones.

Note: Grants may be subject to GST and income tax. Applicants should consider seeking advice on these and other tax implications from their tax adviser/accountant prior to applying.

## 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](#).

## More information

The [Sustainable Communities Program](#) website will be updated with the latest information throughout the program.

For further information on Round 1 of the Sustainable Communities Program, please contact: PIRSA Recovery, Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

- Phone: 1800 931 314
- Email: [pirsa.scp@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.scp@sa.gov.au).

### First Nations

A service to support First Nations applicants to make applications is available. For more information, please contact the Recovery Hotline, Department of Primary Industries and Regions:

- Phone: 1800 931 314 or
- Email: [pirsa.scp@sa.gov.au](mailto:pirsa.scp@sa.gov.au).

## Definitions and links

ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.
ABARES Vulnerability Index	<p>Measures the sensitivity of basin communities to changes in water access and their adaptive capacities, or ability and resources to cope with and respond to those changes.</p> <p>Baseline relative community vulnerability and adaptive capacity – Murray-Darling Basin:</p> <p><a href="#">Baseline relative community vulnerability and adaptive capacity—Murray-Darling Basin.</a></p>
Application form	The online application form applicants use to apply for funding under the Sustainable Communities Program.
Australian Government’s Regional Investment Framework	<a href="#">Regional Investment Framework: the Australian Government’s approach to supporting strong and sustainable regions.</a>
Community wellbeing	The social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions that help support communities to thrive.
Eligible applicant	A legal entity that meets the requirements set out in the Eligible Applicants section of these guidelines.
Assessment Panel	An Assessment Panel comprising requisite technical, legal, environmental and regional skills and knowledge to assess applications submitted under this program.
Eligible costs	Costs that meet the requirements set out in the eligible costs section of these guidelines.
Feasibility	<p>To determine whether a project is reasonable, practical and can be successfully achieved by undertaking a time limited in-depth analysis which may include the following types of investigations/evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical/scope definition</li> <li>• Financial analysis</li> <li>• Operational capability</li> <li>• Market research</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks.</li> </ul>
First Nations	First Nations groups in the South Australian River Murray
Funding Deed/Agreement	The legally binding contract to be executed between the Minister and a successful applicant.
GST	Goods and services tax.
Guidelines	Current version of Program Guidelines applicable to the current advertised round of funding.
Industry Participation Policy	<p>The South Australian Industry Participation Policy (SAIPP) is a framework designed to ensure South Australian businesses have a full, fair and reasonable opportunity to participate in major government funded contracts and projects. For additional information:</p> <p><a href="#">South Australian Business   Industry Advocate</a></p>
In-kind contributions	<p>In-kind contributions include the commitment of non-monetary resources, (for example, labour, equipment use, time etc) to complete a project.</p> <p>In-kind contributions must be relevant to the work included in the activities of the project.</p> <p>When stating the value of an in-kind contribution, applicants must ensure that it is done at a competitive commercial rate.</p>
Investigations	<p>Investigations undertaken and/or data analysis to determine a project's feasibility, potential challenges and risks. May include the following types of investigations/evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical/scope definition</li> <li>• Financial analysis</li> <li>• Operational capability</li> <li>• Market research</li> <li>• Risks.</li> </ul>
Legal entity	A statutory corporation, incorporated association, cooperative as defined in the <i>Co-operatives National Law (South Australia) Act 2013</i> or company registered under the <i>Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)</i> and includes a partnership comprising legal entities or the trustee of

	a trust.
Minister	The Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.
Murray-Darling Basin	The Murray-Darling Basin located in Australia's southeast is Australia's largest river system comprised of interconnected rivers of lakes that spans southern Queensland to the east of South Australia.
Partnerships	Collaborative arrangements between two or more parties to develop or deliver a project.
PIRSA	Department of Primary Industries and Regions.
Program	Sustainable Communities Program.
Project	An activity, a suite of activities or a project for which Program funding is sought through the application and assessment process by the applicant.
Public benefit	A project needs to demonstrate that it will provide benefits to the broader economy and or community beyond the financial return to the project's proponent.
Region	Refers to local government areas, Gerard Community Council and Riverland Unincorporated Area as defined in 'South Australian River Murray communities.'
Restoring our Rivers Framework	Details how the Australian Government proposes to meet the 450GL Murray-Darling Basin Plan target:  <a href="#">Framework for delivering the 450 GL - DCCEEW</a>
Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program	The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program supports regionally based partnerships to develop drought resilience plans. These plans identify and guide innovative ways to withstand future droughts, with a focus on agriculture and allied industries.  The specific Murraylands and Riverland Plan is available at the following link:  <a href="#">Murraylands and Riverland Regional Drought Resilience Plan</a>
South Australian River Murray communities	Includes South Australian River Murray communities located within:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Renmark Paringa Council</li><li>• Berri Barmera Council</li><li>• District Council of Loxton Waikerie</li><li>• District Council of Karoonda East Murray</li><li>• Mid Murray Council</li><li>• Rural City of Murray Bridge</li><li>• Alexandrina Council</li><li>• Coorong District Council</li><li>• Gerard Community Council</li><li>• Riverland Unincorporated Area.</li></ul>
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