

Apiary Industry Fund

Management Plan 2023-24 to 2027-28

Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Apiary Industry Fund) Regulations 2016

Apiary Industry Fund Management Plan 2023-24 to 2027-28

Enquiries

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https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/livestock/apiary_industry_fund

Document History

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Introduction

The [Primary Industry Funding Schemes Act 1998](#) (the Act) provides South Australian primary industries with a legislative based ability to raise money within their sector to deliver activities and services that support the sector.

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) is the Administrator for funds established under the Act, which ensures appropriate accountability for the application of funds for the benefit of those industries. The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) manages the operations of the funds for the Minister. The Minister is required to report annually to Parliament on the operation of each fund and its accounts.

The Apiary Industry Fund (the fund) is established by the [Primary Industry Funding Schemes \(Apiary Industry Fund\) Regulations 2016](#) (Regulations).

Contributions to the fund are payable at the rate prescribed in Regulation 5. Beekeepers with more than 5 hives at the time of registration¹ contribute at a rate of \$1 per hive. Contributions are collected by PIRSA at the time of registration and paid into the fund account managed by PIRSA on behalf of the Minister.

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 the Regulations.

This management plan is required by the Act and is the responsibility of the Minister as the person administering the fund. This management plan update has been developed in consultation with the South Australian apiary industry via South Australian Apiarists Association (SAAA) and Beekeepers Society of South Australia (BSSA). The plan covers a five-year period and will be revised by the Minister annually in consultation with industry members. The Minister may also update this plan at any time.

This management plan guides the operation of the fund and helps contributors understand how their contributions are to be used.

This management plan should be read in conjunction with the Act and Regulations.

It is the intent of the apiary industry to develop an apiary industry strategic blueprint over the next 12 months (2023/24) that will inform the future five-year apiary industry fund management planning cycles.

¹ Registration as a beekeeper as defined under section 17 of the *Livestock Act 1997*.

Estimate of contributions to the fund

The Regulations require registered beekeepers keeping 5 or more hives at the time of registration to contribute to the fund.

The contribution rate is set in Regulation 5 and is \$1.00 per hive kept by the person at the prescribed date.

The estimated contribution income for the current and the next five financial years is provided in Table 1. Industry contribution estimates have been derived based on the number of registered hives in South Australia belonging to persons keeping 5 or more hives at the time of registration.

Table 1 – Contribution Rates and Estimated Contribution Income

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Contribution rate (per hive)	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Estimated number of apiarists hives kept with 5 or more	71,000	71,000	73,000	75,000	75,000
Estimated income	\$71,000	\$71,000	\$73,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

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.

Purposes of the fund

Payments from the fund must be made in accordance with Regulation 6:

6 – Application of Fund

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

- (a) the undertaking of programs relating to the apiary industry or apiary products or any other aspect of the apiary industry that the Minister considers will benefit the apiary industry;
- (b) payment of the expenses of administering the Fund;
- (c) repayment of contributions to the Fund under regulation 5.

Eligible activities

Eligible activities must comply with the Regulations and this management plan.

Activities currently being considered for funding under this management plan include, but are not limited to;

- Funds to support the development of an Apiary Industry Strategic Plan (Blueprint)
- Funds to support the industry associations (SAAA/BSSA) in preparing for and/or responding to an exotic pest/disease biosecurity incursion within South Australia impacting the apiary industry.

Eligible activities will be assessed against the following criteria:

- benefit to the SA apiary industry
- direct benefit to fund contributors (beekeepers)
- support from industry stakeholders
- value for money (cost of the program compared to the outcomes it will deliver)
- leverage of the fund
- innovation in program delivery
- the organisation's capability and capacity to undertake the program

Funding guidelines

Eligible organisations

Unlike many of the other PIFS funds, the *Primary Industry Funding Schemes (Apiary Industry Fund) Regulations 2016* do not permit payment to a 'body' who in the opinion of the Minister represents industry.

As such applications to the fund are accepted from any legal entity who is proposing a project that will directly benefit contributors to the fund. Applications can be submitted using the process below.

Application process

Applicants are encouraged to consult with the industry associations and contact PIRSA early in the development stages of the application to discuss the proposed project (enquiry details on page 2).

An application form is available on the PIRSA website.

Application timelines

Applications can be prepared at any time; however, applications will only be accepted once applications open. The following flow chart outlines the key dates within the application and project process.

Table 2 – Approximate timeframes for applications to fund	
Timing (estimate)	Activity
1 March	Applications Open
30 March	Applications Close
15 April	Applications Assessed and advice provided to Minister
1 June	Applications approved and successful applicants notified
1 July	Projects commence and are managed as per funding agreement

Under extenuating circumstances, the Minister may consider applications for funds at other times.

These timelines are dependent on the timely review and approval of the associated Management Plan.

Application assessment and approval

The Minister will assess and approve applications in line with the regulations and this management plan.

Prior to approving applications, the Minister or delegate, will convene an assessment committee consisting of representation from SA Apiarist Association (SAAA) and the Bee Society of South Australia (BSSA). Recommendations of the assessment committee will be considered by the Minister for approval.

Formal funding agreements will be executed between the Minister and the successful applicants.

Once approved, details of successful projects will be posted on the Apiary Industry Fund page of the PIRSA website and may be posted on the organisation's website so that it is publicly available for contributors to view.

Payment terms

Payment and milestone schedules will be negotiated directly with fund recipients and will reflect the project milestones outlined in the funding application.

Reporting requirements

Reporting schedules will be negotiated directly with fund recipients and will reflect the project milestones outlined in the funding application. Required reports will include:

- Progress Report/s: Report on progress of activities/projects aligned with agreed funding progress milestones.
- Final Report: provide a report within six weeks of the end of the funded project, which shows the activities carried out and/or outcomes achieved (against project objectives) with monies from the fund and include a statement of acquittal showing how funds were spent and identifying any unspent funds.

Fund administration

Changing the contribution rate

The fund contribution rate is established by the Regulations.

A change to the contribution rate may be initiated by the Minister or by industry but can only be made following consultation with the industry. Acceptable evidence of support for a variation to the contribution rate includes results of any contributor survey held for the purpose and any other consultation conducted with industry. The evidence must demonstrate a genuine attempt to engage with most contributors.

Prior to implementation of a new contribution rate, sufficient notice will be provided to beekeepers.

Updating the management plan

Section 9 of the Act requires that this management plan is updated annually; that industry is consulted when preparing the management plan; that the revised plan is presented at a public meeting at least once per year; that it is available for public inspection; and that it may be updated at any time.

The updated management plan will be presented at a public meeting. The management plan will then be posted on the PIRSA website to meet the requirements 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'.

Table 3 – Revising the Management Plan

Timing (estimate)	Activity
November/December	Consultation with industry on revised management plan
February	Minister approval of management plan
February/ March	Advertise public meetings (2 weeks in advance)
March	Public meetings to present management plan, each to be hosted by respective industry association (BSSA and SAAA).