

Construction Softwood Transport Assistance Program (CSTAP)

Program Guidelines – July 2023

Please note the Program will close when funding is exhausted or 5pm, 30 June 2024, whichever occurs first.

1. Aim of the program

The Construction Softwood Transport Assistance Program (CSTAP) is a transport assistance package available to South Australian sawmills (“applicant”) that can mill additional structural timber for the South Australian house construction industry.

The CSTAP was initially open from 6 October 2021 until 30 June 2023. The program has been extended, with \$200,000 available from the State, which is being matched by the Australian Government, bringing the total to \$400,000. The program is managed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA).

| Key dates | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Application eligibility open | 1 July 2023 |
| Applications close | 30 June 2024 or prior if funds fully expended before this date. |
| Assessment | Applications will be processed in the order they are received. |

2. Assistance available

The CSTAP is available as two components:

- A maritime component, where a total of \$30 per tonne assistance for transport from anywhere on Kangaroo Island to the South Australian mainland, plus
- A road component, where 10 cents per tonne per kilometre travelled by road from the first port of landing on mainland South Australia (SA) to a South Australian sawmill, commencing after the first 200 road kilometres travelled.

To receive assistance, log consignments must be for eligible sawlogs delivered to applicants from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

3. Assistance Limits

- The scheme will close when funding is exhausted or 30 June 2024, whichever occurs first.
- Multiple applications can be made to the Program however, each application must be expended before reapplying.
- Assistance availability is subject to funds being available for the Program.

4. Eligibility

South Australian sawmills who have an ABN and are registered for GST can apply for the CSTAP assistance.

An applicant contribution is not required, however applicants must bear log haulage and shipping charges and apply for payments made in arrears with the required supporting documentation.

Applicants must have immediate processing capacity or arrangements made under the Additional Structural Timber Supply Grant – Stage two.

Eligible sawlogs are:

- 2019-20 bushfire-affected softwood logs suitable for processing into additional structural timber for the domestic housing market.
- Logs delivering additional structural timber for the domestic market through increased or unused sawmill processing capacity. It must not be replacing a sawmill's existing access to green resource.
- Logs that do not have costs already covered and/or claimed by the applicant under insurance or other State or Commonwealth programs.

5. Ineligible activities

Funding will not be provided for the following ineligible activities:

- Applications for haulage undertaken prior to the commencement date
- Haulage to interstate sawmills
- Applications that are unable to demonstrate all aspects of sawlog eligibility and destination market.

Any costs for which you are seeking the CSTAP assistance that have been or will be funded under another government program.

6. Applications

Applications will be reviewed against the criteria outlined in these Guidelines. Applicants should carefully consider activities against the eligibility criteria set out in the Guidelines before submitting an Application.

Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.

As part of the application assessment process, PIRSA may seek further information or seek to clarify information provided in applications. Any requests for additional information or to clarify information provided in an application should be responded to in a timely manner – any delay may result in an extended timeframe in the assessment of applications.

Applicants are required to warrant that the information provided in the application form is true and correct in every particular.

Approved applications may be subject to audit to determine compliance with Guidelines.

How to apply

Applicants must submit a completed CSTAP application form to PIRSA and include all supporting documentation.

Applicants will be required to provide the following information in their application:

- Business details including:
 - sawmill location (must be operating in South Australia)
 - Australian Business Number (ABN)
- Evidence of the:
 - softwood logs being bushfire-affected
 - structural potential of sawlog and/or grade of final timber product
 - supply contract or agreement with growers
 - planned tonnage of sawlogs
 - planned maritime and land routes and distances
 - planned timing and volume of log movements
 - expected claim dates and amount
 - planned delivery locations to South Australian sawmills
 - timber being intended for the domestic market

Where to submit the application?

Enquiries to clarify eligibility are welcome, contact Rob Robinson via email Rob.Robinson@sa.gov.au or phone 8429 0432.

Applications are available for download via the PIRSA Website.

Applications need to be submitted to Pirsa.grantsenquiries@sa.gov.au.

Closing date

Application eligibility is open from 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024 or prior if funds are fully expended before the closing date.

7. Assessment and payment processes

PIRSA reserves the right to request further information from you to assist with the assessment of your Application or to verify any information provided in your Application.

The Minister (or Delegate) will make the final decision on approval of all Applications.

Applicants should understand their legal rights and obligations under this program. Before applying for financial assistance under this Program or making any decision to accept a payment, applicants should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine their eligibility for and the terms of the financial assistance.

Payments will be made in arrears following the provision of evidence including:

- softwood logs being bushfire-affected
- structural potential of sawlog and/or grade of final timber product
- actual date and tonnage of log movement
- actual maritime and land routes and distances
- transport costs incurred
- delivery locations to South Australian sawmills

Assistance grant administration process

Payment will be made following an assessment of the Application, including applicant eligibility, receipt of evidence of expenditure incurred based on evidence provided in the supporting documentation. GST expenses incurred by the Applicant will be excluded from the calculation.

8. Other information

Applicants will be required to retain documentation related to the purchase, transport, processing, and ultimate sale of timber until at least 30 June 2026 for auditing purposes.

Applicants must consent to a PIRSA officer or delegate, if required, undertaking an inspection of the property and auditing records to verify the claim; and conducting an inspection and/or audit after the payment has been made to verify the monies have been utilised for the intended purpose.

If a claim is found to not be supported by sufficient evidence, the Government may seek legal redress to recoup monies paid to the Applicant.

Participating sawmills must provide prior advice of the date of first shipment of logs off Kangaroo Island to facilitate appropriate media opportunities. Similarly, participating sawmills must provide prior advice of the date of first consignment of formed structural construction timber.

Note: The assistance is assessable income and must be declared to the Australian Taxation Office as part of your taxation reporting. Financial assistance under the CSTAP may be subject to GST and income tax. Applicants should seek independent legal and financial advice concerning the tax consequences of their participation (including advice concerning income tax, capital gains tax and goods and services tax).

More information

For further information please contact Rob Robinson phone 8429 0432 or by email Rob.Robinson@sa.gov.au