

Thriving Communities Program

2022-23 Guidelines



Government of South Australia
Department of Primary Industries
and Regions

These guidelines are subject to change. If you are unsure if this is the latest version of the guidelines please contact your relevant Regional Coordinator or email PIRSA.RegionsSA@sa.gov.au to obtain a copy of the latest version.

Disclaimer

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The Program will close when funding is fully allocated or at 5.00 pm, 30 June 2023, whichever occurs first.

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 local Regional Coordinator:

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

Eyre and Western – Karen Hollamby
Phone: (08) 8688 3467
Mobile: 0459 897 020
Email: karen.hollamby@sa.gov.au

Kangaroo Island – Lyn Dohle
Phone: (08) 8553-4999
Mobile: 0419846204
Email: lyn.dohle@sa.gov.au

Murraylands and Riverland – Barb Cowey
Phone: (08) 8595 9153
Mobile: 0488 951 790
Email: barbara-ann.cowey@sa.gov.au

Limestone Coast – Jennifer Schilling
Phone: (08) 7133 7562
Mobile: 0472 743 465
Email: jennifer.schilling@sa.gov.au

Yorke and Mid North – Angela Ruddenklau
Phone: (08) 8842 6260
Mobile: 0417 519 228
Email: angela.ruddenklau2@sa.gov.au

Far North – Melissa Horgan
Phone: (08) 8214 6075
Mobile: 0447 046 786
Email: melissa.horgan2@sa.gov.au

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) 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 Thriving Communities Program (TCP).

2. Key features

- The aim of the TCP is to build social capital through facilitating community group participation, a sense of belonging, and equity of access. This is achieved through supporting infrastructure, services, and wellbeing outcomes.
- This is a non-competitive program with applications received on an ongoing basis until 30 June 2023.
- Assessment of projects will be informed by the ability to meet eligibility criteria.
- Equitable distribution of funds across regional South Australia may influence allocation of funds to successful applicants.
- Support for projects that can be delivered within a 12-month timeframe.
- Grants will range between \$20,000 minimum up to a \$50,000 maximum.
- An applicant co-contribution is desirable but not essential. Applicants are encouraged to leverage co-contributions from other sources including leveraging Commonwealth, State and or local government grants Applicants are encouraged to specify any in-kind contributions to the project.
- 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 of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (the Minister) satisfaction and paid. Upfront payments may be considered up to 10% of the value of the grant.
- The project must be located within South Australia with the outcomes and benefits in regional South Australia.
- Applicants eligible to apply is limited to community groups ie Incorporated associations (Community Clubs, Ag Bureaus, Show Societies, Chambers of Commerce, Industry or interest groups etc) and Registered Charities.

3. Program objectives

The funding will be available for projects that meet the aims of the program.

This may include:

- Physical infrastructure (new & expanded)
- Plant & equipment
- Events to enhance community wellbeing and engagement (including promotional expenses but cap 10% of grant)
- Training (first aid/ mental health first aid, child safe, cultural awareness & inclusion)

4. Eligibility criteria

The assessment will consider the following criteria:-

- Social and wellbeing benefits resulting from the project for the relevant region, and the broader community benefit beyond the applicant.
- Project can be delivered within a 12-month timeframe and applicant has the capability, resources and approvals available to deliver the project within agreed timelines
- The extent of benefits arising from the project will address the relevant regional priorities

The assessment will also consider the following information to be provided by the applicant to confirm:

- Finalised project designs and costings
- The land or infrastructure owner has given approval to undertake the project at the nominated site(s)
- Confirmed funding contributions from all sources and can provide formal documentation to verify those contributions with your application
- Project can commence within six months of approval and fully completed within twelve months
- Identified and prepared submissions for all required regulatory and/or development approvals or have already submitted and/or obtained those approvals
- Have undertaken appropriate stakeholder and or community engagement where necessary and able to demonstrate strong community support to the extent of community participation arising from the project
- Demonstrate the capacity to manage the costs of the project until key milestones are completed to the Ministers satisfaction and paid.
- Adequate insurance is held

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 include Incorporated Associations ie community / industry group, registered charity. Local Government authorities may auspice an application on behalf of a community / industry group.

Companies, Partnerships, Sole Traders, Co-operatives, Regional Development Associations and State Government agencies are not eligible to apply.

6. Application Process

- Applications will be received until 5.00 pm, 30 June 2023, or when funding is fully allocated, whichever occurs first.
- Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by PIRSA.
- Eligible applications will be progressed to the Minister (or delegate) for approval.
- The Minister (or delegate) will then advise applicant of decision.

7. What will the grant fund?

Funding will be provided for projects that deliver tangible benefits to the wellbeing of regional South Australia. Projects must closely align to 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:

- Costs associated with the preparation of the application
- Regular or ongoing events / activities normally funded through other sources
- Operational expenditure, including wages and utilities
- 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 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.
- Alcoholic beverages
- Activities where participants have to pay an attendance fee.

The Minister (or delegate) 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?

Applicants will be required to provide the following information with your application:

- Documents that demonstrate that the applicant is a legal entity eligible to apply, is registered for GST, and has an Australian Business Number (ABN).
- An outline of the applicant's Corporate Structure (ownership and governance structure).
- Evidence of project need, which may include community consultation or letters of support, and any assumptions that underpin the project.
- Documentation to confirm planning and development approvals held, or significantly progressed and likely to be achieved within the next six months (if relevant).
- Project plan that includes project scope, capex, major milestones, timelines and budget.
- 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 1-2 financial years*, preferably audited, but if not, independently prepared for the applicant and any associated entities.
*Note: Interim financial statements for the financial year 2021-22 will be accepted.
- 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>

Closing date

Applications close **when funding is fully allocated** or **5.00 pm, 30 June 2023**, whichever occurs first. 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 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?

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 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 for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

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 for Primary Industries and Regional Development 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 TCP 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.

Office of the Industry Advocate

Phone: 8226 8956

Email: oa@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.

Enquiries can be directed to the Parliamentary Officer:

Phone: 8237 9223

Email: PWC.Assembly@parliament.sa.gov.au