

2023-24 Application Guidelines

Coast Protection Grants

The Government recognises that South Australia's coasts are at risk of coastal hazards such as erosion, flooding and sand dune drift and that these risks are being exacerbated by rising sea levels.

Coast Protection Grants can help coastal councils better manage and protect South Australia's valuable coast and marine assets and contribute to managing coastal climate change risks at a local scale.

Coast Protection Grants

Coast Protection Grants are managed by the Coast Protection Board with the support of the Department for Environment and Water.

Grant funding is available for coastal councils to undertake projects or studies that address coastal hazard risks or repair damage caused by coastal hazards.

High priorities for funding are works that address risks such as erosion or flooding, including foreshore protection, dune rehabilitation and coastal maintenance, along with strategic studies which inform decision-making through data collection and analysis, vulnerability and hazard assessment and/or provide coastal adaptation options.

The types of projects that have received grants in the past include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Construction of erosion control or flood protection works such as seawalls or levees,
- Cliff stability studies and works,
- Repair of storm-damaged protection structures,
- Beach replenishment for coastal protection purposes,
- Preparation of coordinated (e.g. whole-of settlement, regional) coastal adaptation strategies.

Eligibility

All South Australian councils with a coastline are eligible to apply for a Coast Protection Grant.

The purpose of coast protection funding is defined in the Coast Protection Board's policy document¹.

Grant funding is intended for situations that have arisen because of some previous mistake or lack of understanding about coastal processes. The grants are not intended for protection of development approved unwisely and against the Board's or Department's advice.

The Board also requires that any grant-funded protection works have outcomes that benefit the general public, such as maintenance of public access along the coast.

The Board's policy not to protect private property was affirmed by State Government in 1980 and has been applied since then.

¹ Coast Protection Board Policy document available at:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/coasts/coast-protection-board-policy-document-gen.pdf>

The types of projects that are ineligible include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Protection of private property,
- Protection of development approved unwisely and against the Board's or Department's advice,
- Protection of coastal property and installations owned by other government agencies,
- Purchase of equipment.

Please contact the Coast Protection Branch if you would like to discuss potential projects prior to submitting your application at email DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8124 4928.

Applications

Application forms are provided to Councils via email when applications are invited.

Applications need to be submitted using the **2023-24 Coast Protection Grant Application Form**. Any applications received using previous versions of the form will need to be transferred to the current form before they can be assessed.

If your application for grant funding in 2022-23 was unsuccessful and you would like the project to be considered for funding in 2023-24, please contact DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au.

Assessment

Project proposals are evaluated against the Coast Protection Board's established assessment criteria by a panel of coastal management experts.

The assessment is based on a risk-benefit analysis which takes into account the likelihood and consequences of the coastal hazard(s) being addressed against the following criteria:

- **Likelihood of coastal hazard**
 - Considers the frequency of risk. For example: a risk may commonly occur several times per year, or it may be expected only once in 100 years.
- **Consequences of inaction**
 - Considers legal/regulatory responsibilities and social, economic and environmental impacts.
- **Benefits of the project**
 - Considers time scale of benefit (i.e. long-term versus short-term) and scale of benefit (i.e. wide-scale versus isolated benefit).

Applicants have the opportunity to provide information to address these criteria in the application form.

Projects addressing the highest risks and projects demonstrating the most benefit will receive the highest scores. Projects are prioritised according to these scores and funded until available funds are allocated.

Notification of outcomes

All councils will be advised on the outcomes of applications in writing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What types of projects are not eligible for funding?

The types of projects that are ineligible include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Protection of private property,
- Protection of development approved unwisely and against the Board's or Department's advice,
- Protection of coastal property and installations owned by other government agencies.

We lodged an application for grant funding last year, but our project was not successful. Do we need to apply again?

Yes. Please submit your application to DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au.

We were successful in obtaining grant funding last year, but our project was unable to go ahead. Do we need to apply again?

Please contact DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au to discuss.

Can we submit multiple applications?

Yes. However, councils should consider their ability to contribute funding and staff resources for all projects applied for in the event that multiple applications are successful.

Is there a minimum or maximum grant funding amount?

No. Grant amounts are determined by the Coast Protection Board on a case-by-case basis.

How much does Council need to contribute?

In accordance with the *Coast Protection Act 1972*, the Board can provide grants of *up to* 80% of the total cost of approved coastal projects. Councils must contribute a minimum of 20% of the total project costs, through cash and in-kind support.

Council administration, resource and project management costs associated with delivery of the project or purchase of equipment can form part of Council's in-kind contribution.

Are in-kind contributions accepted? If so, how do we calculate in-kind support?

Yes. Councils must justify in-kind contributions to the project by providing information on how the in-kind contribution has been calculated (e.g. information on labour rates or material costs).

Please contact DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au if you need further information on calculating in-kind project contributions.

Will successful applicants receive funding to the full amount requested?

Not necessarily. The Coast Protection Board may offer an alternative amount. If the grant fund is over-subscribed, the Board and/or the Minister may provide a lesser amount.

If the application meets all the assessment criteria, is a grant guaranteed?

No. Applications are assessed using the Coast Protection Board's established risk-benefit assessment methodology. Scores are based on the likelihood of the hazard, the scale of consequences of the hazard and the benefits of the proposed project. As demand for grant funding has historically always exceeded the amount of funding available, projects are scored and prioritised to ensure that the most urgent and the most beneficial projects are funded.

If our application is unsuccessful, can the decision be appealed?

No, the decision is final and cannot be appealed. Staff from the Department for Environment and Water will provide verbal feedback to unsuccessful grant applicants on request.

Do projects need to be finalised within the financial year?

Not necessarily. Projects must be completed in line with the milestone and deliverable dates outlined in the Grant Agreement.

Are grants paid upfront or on project completion?

Grant funding is paid in full once the Grant Agreement has been executed. Projects must be completed by the date specified in the Grant Agreement. Unspent grant funds must be returned to the Coast Protection Fund within three months of project completion.

If we are unable to complete the project this year, can we defer it to next year?

Yes, however funding will not be guaranteed. Each year, allocations will be made on the basis of priority ranking. If higher priority projects exist in the next round, the project may miss out.

Who is responsible for the physical asset and/or ongoing maintenance that the project creates?

Councils are responsible for any created assets, including all ongoing operational and maintenance costs.

What happens if we decide to change an aspect of the project for which the grant was provided?

All project variations (such as changes in scope, methodology, timing, due dates, project outcomes) must be requested and formally approved in writing via DEWCoasts@sa.gov.au.

What approvals and licences do I need?

Councils are responsible for ensuring all necessary approvals and licences are obtained in order to comply with all legislation and regulations relevant to the project.

Contact us

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