



2025-26 Application Guidelines

Coast Protection Grant

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 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.

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,
- Coastal hazard risk assessment and adaptation planning

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 to support responses to issues that have arisen due to environmental changes, or previous development decisions made without adequate understanding of coastal processes, such as erosion, tidal movement, or sediment transport. Funding is not available for projects that seek to protect developments that were knowingly approved contrary to the advice of the Board or Department, particularly where risks to coastal stability or environmental impact were clearly identified at the time of approval. 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.

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

- The protection of private property unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Board that it has outcomes that benefit the public.
- Outlets or other works associated with stormwater drainage.
- Protection of coastal property and installations owned by other Government agencies. Where Government installations (e.g. ports or drainage outlets) adversely affect the coast, such as by interrupting alongshore sediment movement, the agency responsible will be expected to arrange and fund remedial measures, such as sand bypassing.
- Boat ramp, marina or harbour facilities, including upgrades, maintenance, protection, removal and works such as sand bypassing.
- Protection of development undertaken against, or not in accord with, the advice of the Board.

Please contact the DEW Coast staff if you would like to discuss potential projects prior to submitting your application CoastProtectionBoard@sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8124 4928.

¹ Coast Protection Board Policy document available at: [CPB-Policy-October-2022.pdf \(environment.sa.gov.au\)](#)

Applications

Applications need to be submitted via the SmartyGrants portal, the link will be available at <https://environmentsa.smartygrants.com.au/> from the round opening date.

A SmartyGrants help guide and FAQs are available to assist with applications.

If your application for grant funding in 2024-25 was unsuccessful and you would like the project to be considered for funding in 2025-26, please contact CoastProtectionBoard@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, this includes works intended solely to safeguard private homes, commercial buildings, or privately-owned land from coastal hazards such as erosion or inundation. Projects that primarily serve the interests of individual landowners, without providing a clear and demonstrated benefit to the broader public (e.g., improved public access or environmental restoration), are not eligible for funding.
- 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.
- Protection of private property, this includes works intended solely to safeguard private homes, commercial buildings, or privately-owned land from coastal hazards such as erosion or

inundation. Projects that primarily serve the interests of individual landowners, without providing a clear and demonstrated benefit to the broader public (e.g., improved public access or environmental restoration), are not eligible for funding.

- Outlets or other works associated with stormwater drainage.
- Protection of coastal property and installations owned by other Government agencies. Where Government installations (e.g. ports or drainage outlets) adversely affect the coast, such as by interrupting alongshore sediment movement, the agency responsible will be expected to arrange and fund remedial measures, such as sand bypassing.
- Boat ramp, marina or harbour facilities, including upgrades, maintenance, protection, removal and works such as sand bypassing.
- Protection of development undertaken against, or not in accord with, the advice of the Board.

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 via SmartyGrants: <https://environmentsa.smartygrants.com.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 CoastProtectionBoard@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 details in the **application form** on how the contribution was calculated (e.g., information on labor rates or material costs).

Please contact CoastProtectionBoard@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 CoastProtectionBoard@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.

Prepared by:

Department for Environment and Water
Climate Change, Flood Risk and Coast Branch
Environment, Heritage and Sustainability



www.environment.sa.gov.au

With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia | 2025

Contact us

Coast Unit

Climate Change, Flood Risk and Coast Branch
Department for Environment and Water

www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts

Email: CoastProtectionBoard@sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8124 4928

Published by the Department for Environment and Water.
Government of South Australia
date to be provided

Climate Change, Flood Risk and Coast Branch
81-95 Waymouth St
ADELAIDE SA 5000
ABN 3670209324