

Coast Protection Grants Program 2026-27 Guidelines

2026-27 Coast Protection Board Grants Program

The Coast Protection Board offers an annual Grants Program for coastal councils to undertake projects that address coastal hazard risks or repair damage caused by coastal hazards.

In 2026-27, projects that deliver a stage of Coastal Hazard Adaptation Planning (CHAP) or implement an adaptation action derived from an endorsed CHAP stage will be prioritised.

Other project proposals in accordance with the Board's Coast Protection Policy Document 2022¹ will be considered.

Eligibility

South Australian councils with a coastline are eligible to apply. Coastal councils may wish to submit a joint application.

Administration

Coast Protection Board Grants are managed by the Coasts Unit within the Department for Environment and Water (DEW).

Please contact the DEW Coasts via CoastProtectionBoard@sa.gov.au or (08) 8124 4928 if you would like to discuss potential projects prior to submitting your Expression of Interest (EOI).

Applications

Applications for 2026-27 funding will be assessed in two phases:

Phase 1 - Expression of interest

Phase 2 - Detailed project scope and costing

Expressions of interest (Eoi) should be submitted via [SmartyGrants](#).

Applicants with successful Eois will be contacted and asked to proceed with detailed project scoping and costings.

Assessment

Project proposals will be assessed by a panel of DEW staff using the Board's established grant assessment criteria based on a risk-benefit analysis which takes into account the following:

- **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 consequences if no action is taken.
- **Benefits of the project**
 - Considers time frame of benefit (i.e. long-term versus short-term) and scale of benefit (i.e. broad or diverse benefits versus isolated benefit).

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

¹ [Coast Protection Board Policy October 2022](#)

Notification of outcomes

Applicants will be advised of the outcome in writing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Coastal Hazard Adaptation Planning (CHAP)?

The SA Climate Ready Coasts program is delivered by the Local Government Association (LGA) in partnership with several key organisations. The program supports and accelerates coastal hazard adaptation planning across South Australia. CHAP helps identify and manage current and future risks from coastal hazards, such as erosion, inundation and sea-level rise. For more information about CHAP, visit the LGA website.

[About coastal hazard adaptation planning | LGA South Australia](#)

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, including 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 such as improved public access or ecosystem restoration.
- Protection of development approved against Board advice.
- Purchase of equipment.
- Protection of coastal property and installations owned by other Government agencies.
- Maintenance, protection, removal or upgrade of ports, boat ramps, marina or harbour facilities, or drainage outlets that adversely affect the coast such as by interrupting alongshore sediment movement.

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

Yes. Please submit a new application via [SmartyGrants](#).

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, but please consider capacity to contribute funding and staff resources for projects in the event that multiple applications are successful.

Is there a minimum or maximum grant funding amount?

Yes. The Board's total funding allocation for this grant program is \$1 million. Applications should not exceed this amount.

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 an approved project. Councils should contribute a minimum of 20% of the total project costs, calculated through cash and in-kind support.

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

Yes. Council staff time for administration and project management costs associated with delivery of the project or the purchase of equipment may form part of council's in-kind contribution.

Councils must justify proposed in-kind contributions to the project by providing details on how the contribution was calculated (for example, 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 Board may offer an alternative amount, and if the total funding allocation is over-subscribed the Board may provide a lesser amount.

Is a grant guaranteed?

No. Applications are assessed using the 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. Feedback can be provided on 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. Regular progress reports are required. Unspent grant funds must be returned to the Coast Protection Board within three months of project completion.

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

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 owns and is responsible for any physical asset and any ongoing maintenance?

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

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

Any proposed variations (such as changes in scope, methodology, timing, due dates, or project outcomes) must be approved prior to implementation. Requests for a variation to a Grant Agreement should be sent to 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.

Contact us

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Biodiversity Science, Coasts and Information Branch

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