

SA Arid Lands Grassroots Grants

2026-27 Guidelines for applicants

Grassroots Grants funding is provided by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board's (SAAL Landscape Board or 'the board') regional landscape levy. Funding is available for projects between \$1,000 and \$20,000 (+ GST) for the 2026-27 financial year.

Funding will be awarded on merit to projects that demonstrate the best value for money and delivery of benefits in-line with SAAL Landscape Board priorities. Applications will be reviewed against eligibility and assessment criteria included below.

Applications open on 16 March 2026 and close at 4pm on 11 May 2026.

It is strongly recommended you discuss your project idea with a staff member before applying. Section 9 provides a list of staff ready to help

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¹ The Board reserves the right to allocate funding as it sees fit. Grassroots Grants could be awarded to specialist, emergency relief projects as required e.g. fire or flood recovery.

1. Introduction

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) states that all regional landscape boards hold an annual Grassroots Grants Program to support individuals, volunteers, community organisations and other bodies working at the local level on a not-for-profit basis² for natural resource management activities.

Funding is available for a range of sustainable land management and environment protection and enhancement projects that address one or more of the board's five priority issues across the region. For 2026/27 the Board is offering \$150,000 for grants.

2. Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria will need to be met. The applicant will need to:

- be an individual, volunteer, community organisation or other body working at the local level
- be undertaking natural resources management activities that help to achieve sustainable environmental and agricultural benefits at the local level
- be a legal entity or be sponsored by a legal entity
- where required, attach a sponsor support letter from a sponsor to the application, agreeing to be financially and legally responsible for this project
- have the agreement of any partner/s and provide a letter of support with the application form
- ensure that proposed project activities are not part of any other funding agreement
- ensure written approval for any planned works undertaken on land owned by another person/entity, other than the applicant, is included in the application
- ensure a quote and/or justification of budget costs is included
- be undertaking project activities within the SAAL Landscape Board region (See Appendix A for a map of the region)

3. SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Priorities

Eligible projects will contribute to one or more of the priorities of the SAAL Landscape Board, identified within the board's [Regional Landscape Plan](#), a five year strategic plan for 2021-2026.

² 'For-profit' organisations can apply for funding as long as the project is not-for-profit



Climate resilient region

Resilient landscapes, communities, and enterprises are mitigating and adapting to climate change.



Water Management

The region's water resources are managed judiciously.



Sustainable Land Management

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity.



Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced.



People and Partnerships

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes.

4. Funding

Funding will be offered to individuals, volunteers, community organisations and other bodies working at the local level on a not-for-profit project, on the following basis:

- For grants up to \$10,000 full payment will be made upon signing of grant agreement and receipt of an invoice, prior to the project commencing. For grants over \$10,000 a payment schedule will be created with you based on completing milestones. Milestones may include signing the grant agreement, ordering materials, completing different stages of work and completing the work.
- Projects are to be completed by 14 June 2027 and reporting completed by 25 June 2027. An extension or roll over may be granted if circumstances beyond the grantees control see the project unable to be completed in the agreed timeframes eg weather events.
- Timeframes and milestone reporting will be outlined in grant agreements.
- Projects that may be subject to requirements under the Water Affecting Activity (WAA) Control Policy will need to be assessed before works commence. Applications must identify if any of the works within the project may impact or occur within watercourses, lakes or other water resources requiring a WAA permit and an assessment (more information [here](#)). If a permit is required, this will be identified in the Grant Agreement along with any appropriate conditions or the board may apply a permit exemption as part of the grant approval.
- Successful projects will be required to acknowledge the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board in their promotions and publications, and are encouraged to send the board news articles both from the original and extended/shared news source. Logos and branding information will be supplied upon request.
- Funding will not be provided for projects that have already commenced.

5. Eligible Expenditure

Only expenditure incurred by the funding recipient, directly related to the approved project, will be considered eligible expenditure.

Eligible expenditure cannot be incurred before the grant agreement has been signed by both parties.

Eligible expenditure must be incurred on or before the project completion date, or any approved variations.

Funding is provided strictly to support the project and its core activities as per the grant application and any approved variations.

6. Ineligible Expenditure

For the purpose of assessing a project proposal, ineligible activities and items include but are not limited to:

- projects which propose to use funds to pay the grant recipient's wages
- activities causing or with the potential to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly
- preparation of the original grant application, variations or reporting
- routine administration expenses including but not limited to accommodation, office computing facilities, legal and accounting fees and bank charges
- purchase of assets which could be used for personal benefit
- Repairs of roads, unless it is upgrading roads to minimise impacts of future rain events by undertaking strategies outlined in the "[Managing Outback Roads](#)" handbook
- Replacement of fences and other infrastructure, unless being renewed in a different way that can demonstrate improved environmental outcomes

This list is not exhaustive. Other activities or specific expenditure may be ineligible where the board determines they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes of the project or that they are contrary to the spirit and intention of the funding and the board's priorities.

7. How will your application be assessed?

Project proposals will be assessed against how well they address the following:

- a. How does this project meet one or more of the board's investment priorities?
- b. How does the project deliver good value for money? (Cost, in-kind and co-contributions, volunteer contribution, outcomes etc.)
- c. How does the project involve community or build other people's skills and knowledge?
- d. How does the project benefit the community?
- e. Does the project involve Traditional Owner partnerships and/or opportunities to involve Traditional Owner groups?
- f. The project has clear measurable deliverables
- g. Appropriate supporting documentation is attached to the application

Grants that involve multiple properties or stakeholders will be viewed more favourably, especially for grants greater than \$10,000.

8. Application for funding and project delivery

Stage 1

It is **strongly recommended** that applicants discuss their project ideas with a Community Landscape Officer (listed in Section 8) before completing an application. This will assist in ensuring the priorities of both the applicant and the board are aligned, and clarify any questions about the project or applicant eligibility.

Stage 2

Once the project has been discussed with a Community Landscape Officer and you feel the project is eligible and meets the board's priorities, further scope out your project and gather together information you require such as quotes, support letters and any required permits ready to prepare your application submission.

If you are applying for a grant across multiple properties, agree with participating properties/organisations who is the project lead and will coordinate and report on the project outcomes.

Applications must be submitted via the online platform SmartyGrants. All grants will be managed through this system.

[Click here](#) to access the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board grant application portal.

If you are having difficulties accessing SmartyGrants and require a hard copy application form, please call 8429 9666.

The closing time and date for applications will be 4pm on 11 May 2026.

Stage 3

Projects will be assessed against a set of pre-determined criteria by an assessment panel including SAAL Landscape Board staff and Board representation. A site assessment may also be conducted as part of the assessment process. A staff member would be in contact to organise if an assessment is needed.

Recommended successful applications will be submitted to the board for approval.

Stage 4

Applicants will be notified by mid July 2026 of a successful application and will receive a Grant Agreement via email. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email. If the grant is successful, the grant agreement must be signed by both parties before any work is commenced. Grant funding will be paid when a compliant Tax Invoice is received.

Stage 5

Projects will begin and meet the agreed deliverables and any conditions outlined in the grant agreement. A mid-term update will be provided via SmartyGrants.

Grantees are encouraged to invite SAAL staff and/or board members to their activities to

build relationships and promote Grassroots Grants. Once the project has commenced, if there are any proposed changes to the project this must be first approved by the board.

Stage 6

The project will be completed and reported on by 25 June 2027, unless otherwise negotiated, and final reporting will be done in SmartyGrants. Board staff may follow up on grant outcomes in the short and medium term, which includes site visits.

9. Assistance with project submissions and further information

Assistance in developing project ideas can be provided by the staff listed below. This will ensure that project outcomes are aligned with the SAAL Landscape Board's priorities. The SAAL Landscape Board office can also be contacted on 8429 9666.

Region and support	Contact
Kingoonya and Marla Oodnadatta Community Landscape Officer <i>Grassroots Grants general advice</i>	Tori Love Victoria.Love@sa.gov.au 0408 807 498
Gawler Ranges Community Landscape Officer <i>Grassroots Grants general advice</i>	Nick McInerney Nicholas.Mcinerney@sa.gov.au 0477 307 038
Marree-Innamincka North Flinders Community Landscape Officer <i>Grassroots Grants general advice</i>	Alice Allington Alice.Allington@sa.gov.au 0436 403 682
North East Pastoral Community Landscape Officer <i>Grassroots Grants general advice</i>	Ryan Hayward Ryan.Hayward@sa.gov.au 0459 762 603
Port Augusta - Quorn Community Landscape Officer <i>Grassroots Grants general advice</i>	Brett Devitt Brett.Devitt@sa.gov.au 0409 753 495
Water Project Officer <i>Water Affecting Activity permit advice</i>	Julia Short Julia.Short@sa.gov.au 0409 896 402
Sustainable Agriculture <i>On-ground works advice</i>	Matthew Westover Matthew.Westover@sa.gov.au 0438 816 210

10. Appendix

Map of the region

