

ALGAL BLOOM INDUSTRY SUPPORT GRANT GUIDELINES

Overview

The Algal Bloom Industry Support Grant program (the “**ABISG Program**” or “**Program**”) will secure support for South Australian commercial seafood, aquaculture and fishing industry peak bodies and/or associations (“**impacted members**”), to enhance industry participation in response and recovery activities due to the impacts of the Algal Bloom Event affecting parts of South Australia's coastline.

The Department of State Development (“**Department**”) invites proposals from eligible South Australian peak bodies and associations in these industry sectors for the provision of services and supports for the benefit of impacted members and their businesses.

This Program is seeking to enhance the support available for impacted members by enabling their peak bodies or associations to maintain essential services, better coordinate member support, and deliver industry sector-wide response activities during and after the Algal Bloom Event response and recovery in order to:

- promote timely and accurate information flow between industry bodies, businesses and government;
- enhance coordination of support activities and reduce duplication;
- support tailored, industry sector-led response and recovery planning for the benefit of impacted members; and
- build trust and resilience within the commercial seafood, aquaculture and fishing industry sectors.

One or more applicant(s), or consortium(s) of them (as set out in these Guidelines), will be selected through a competitive grant process.

The ABISG Program will be administered by the Department on behalf of the Minister for Small and Family Business (“**Minister**”). Capitalised terms in these Guidelines have the meaning given in **Appendix 1: Definitions**.

Proposals/Applications

The Department is inviting proposals/applications from applicants that include, but are not limited to (“**proposal**” or “**application**”):

- Strengthen and enhance the capacity and capability of commercial seafood, aquaculture and fishing industry peak bodies or associations to support impacted members to manage implications of the Algal Bloom Event.

- Provide flexible funding to support continued operations and service delivery during disruption.
- Support coordinated industry-led communication, intelligence gathering, and response efforts.
- Build industry capacity to inform government policy and program responses.
- Enable targeted administrative and project support to maintain stakeholder engagement.
- a detailed budget aligned with the delivery of the Program.

The Program funding is to provide a meaningful level of support to industry bodies/associations to partner with the Government of South Australia (“**State**”) to ensure a strong and cohesive response to the Algal Bloom Event for the benefit of impacted members.

Program Objectives

The objectives of the Program are to (“**Program Objectives**”):

- Improved industry responsiveness to Algal Bloom impacts through strengthened capability of peak bodies to provide timely support and advocacy for affected commercial seafood, aquaculture and fishing operators.
- Enhanced policy and program outcomes through industry-informed advice that shapes targeted and effective government response and recovery efforts.
- Increased agility in response delivery by enabling access to flexible administrative and project funding that supports urgent industry needs during the disruption.
- Stronger coordination and intelligence-sharing mechanisms to support a unified industry-led response, ensuring timely communication and situational awareness across government and sector stakeholders.
- Maintained continuity of essential industry services despite operational and market challenges, supporting economic resilience and recovery.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for grant funding, an applicant must declare that it meets the following eligibility criteria in its proposal/application and must:

- be based in and operating from South Australia;
- be a legal entity incorporated in Australia and have an active Australian Business Number (ABN);
- be registered for GST;
- be either a registered industry/business association or a registered peak body; and

- represent the interests of members in the commercial seafood, aquaculture and/or fishing industry sectors including, but not necessarily limited to, wild catch, aquaculture, and fish processors, and have demonstrated capacity and capability in serving the interests of its members and providing support and services to them.

Available Funding

Funding

A total of up to **\$500,000.00** (GST exclusive) in funding is available for registered South Australian commercial seafood, aquaculture and fishing industry associations or peak bodies that represent members and businesses that have been significantly impacted as a result of the Algal Bloom Event.

Any projects/programs/support must be undertaken in South Australia and must be able to demonstrate that they align with the Program Objectives.

Up to **\$50,000.00** (GST exclusive) is available for applications from individual applicants and up to **\$500,000.00** (GST exclusive) is available for consortium applications. A consortium application is where a group of applicants come together in partnership to deliver a joint or industry wide response. Consortium applications will appoint a project lead that will enter into an agreement with the Minister (as set out below) and will be responsible for delivering the agreed project outputs and outcomes.

Successful applicants will be provided with up to **six (6) months** from entering into a grant agreement to deliver grant activities (see further below).

Not-for-Profit Sector Indexation

Applicants who qualify as 'not-for-profit entity' (as set out in [Premier and Cabinet Circular PC 044 – South Australian Funding Policy for not for profit sector](#)) must ensure their request for funding in their Proposal/application is inclusive of indexation as required by the [Department of Treasury and Finance](#).

How funding may be used

Funding under the Program can only be used for Eligible Expenditure. This may include the following activities:

- **Administrative Support** - temporary staffing, coordination, project management support and operational continuity during crisis response;
- **Member Engagement & Communications** - industry updates, coordination of feedback, stakeholder meetings and briefings, provision of technical advice, and information dissemination;
- **Industry Intelligence Collection** - gathering of operational, economic and supply chain impacts to inform government and support needs;
- **Travel and Accommodation** – with an expectation of service delivery and engagement in regional South Australia, reasonable travel and accommodation costs are eligible for inclusion;
- **Policy & Program Advice** - preparation of advice to government on industry needs and recovery pathways; and
- **Program Management** – funding to support program management and reporting.

Assessment Criteria

Applications/proposals will be assessed on their merits against the following assessment criteria by a panel of staff or representatives of the Department, which must be addressed (and substantiated) with evidence:

- **Outcomes:** the outcomes and benefits for the industry and impacted members as a whole, including flow on benefits for the State;
- **Value For Money:** the proposal is fairly and sustainably priced relative to comparable projects, including the appropriate use of public funds and in-kind support (whether cash or in-kind) from the applicant and any third party if applicable;
- **Demand:** demonstrated industry support and demand from impacted members for an applicant's proposed activity/ies;
- **Capability/Capacity:** demonstrated expertise to deliver the Program in partnership with the State government and industry as set out in the eligibility criteria, including the capacity and capability of the applicant (and any third party if applicable) and/or demonstrated past experience (*note: this includes consideration of the applicant's financial position and the proposed project/program/services structure and its appropriateness*);
- **Specificity:** activities support tailored, sector-led response and recovery planning; and
- **Reach:** achieves geographic reach and diversity in delivery of support for the Program.

Applications/proposals must outline how many impacted members are expected to benefit from the Program and explain, where relevant, any assumptions made, other funding or costs to impacted members. Applications/proposals will not be considered or supported where:

- the Program Objectives are not addressed or achieved;
- retrospective funding is sought (being Ineligible Expenditure);
- other funding sources are deemed better suited (e.g. funding under existing programs or services in the nominated region and/or for the nominated industry sector);
- the applicant has already received a grant from the State government or Commonwealth of Australia for the same activity; and
- the application is for an initiative that directly duplicates an existing initiative or service, without demonstrated demand for increased capacity.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department with any questions regarding the eligibility of a proposed initiative at the details below.

Key dates

Applications open	12 August 2025
Applications close	5.00pm ACST on 18 August 2025

How to apply

To be considered, applicants for the Program are required to submit an online application/proposal at: <https://mybusiness.smartygrants.com.au/Algabloom-Industrysupport>

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria and the assessment criteria and must be submitted by the closing date specified in these Guidelines. Applicants will then be notified of the outcome of the application process by email on the date specified above.

If you require further information regarding the Program, please contact Bodhi Edwards, A/Director, Trade bodhi.edwards@sa.gov.au or call 0404 708 048.

Terms and conditions

Participation in the Program is conditional upon the following terms and conditions:

- applicants must retain all records required for assessment purposes under the Program until five (5) years after the closing day for applications;
- applicants must consent to the Department conducting an audit of documentation used to support an application or proposal to verify information provided, which may include contacting the nominated qualified accountant to verify the financial information provided;
- if information in the application is found to be untrue or misleading, the matter may be referred to law enforcement authorities of the relevant Australian, state or territory government and penalties may apply; and
- eligible applicants entering into a grant agreement on terms and conditions determined by the State as a condition of accessing any grant funding (if approved).

Successful applicant(s) will be advised of the process for negotiating any grant agreement, which will set out agreed periodic reporting, milestones/KPIs, outcomes for the Program and potential clawback of funds in the event of a breach of the agreement.

As part of any grant agreement, successful applicants will also be required to:

- provide streamlined reporting on key aspects of the Program at appropriate intervals (such as outcomes, summary of activities, demographics, evidence of expenditure) as well as an acquittal for grant funding; and
- survey impacted members to gather data for quantitative and qualitative reporting purposes at various stages of the Program (start to post-completion).

Please note that no approval of an application, nor any notification to an applicant that their application is successful, nor any invitation to negotiate will be effective to constitute a contract or to create any legitimate expectation unless the agreement is executed by both parties.

Freedom of information

Applicants should be aware that all documents in the possession of the government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (SA) (“**FOI Act**”). Information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the FOI Act.

The FOI Act gives members of the public a legally enforceable right to apply to access documents – subject to certain exemptions – held by government agencies, local government authorities, statutory and regulatory bodies and South Australian universities.

Privacy and information policy

The Department complies with the State’s Information Privacy Principles Instruction. The Department collects information (including personal information) as reasonably necessary for the purposes and functions of:

- administering our grants and funding programs;
- keeping you informed about the Program, relevant upcoming events, grant funding;
- initiatives and outcomes, our services, special events or client feedback surveys, as well as our activities in general; and/or
- improving our websites and other services.

The collection and use of information extends to use of such information by the Minister for the purposes as outlined above.

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.

Any information contained in or relating to an application, including information identified by an applicant as confidential information for the purposes of applying for funding under this Program, may be disclosed and/or used by the Minister (acting through the Department):

- to its employees, advisers or third parties in order to manage the program, including but not limited to, for the purposes of evaluating and assessing the application;
- for the purposes of verifying any information contained in an application – the Department may provide information to other agencies or third parties nominated in your application including, but not limited to, RevenueSA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions;
- for due diligence, monitoring, reporting and audit purposes;
- within the State where this serves the legitimate interests of the Minister;
- in response to a request by a House or Committee of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia or South Australia;
- for training, systems testing and process improvement, including compiling statistics and reports;

- if an application is successful, for promotion of outcomes;
- where information is authorised or required by law to be disclosed; or
- where the information is already in the public domain.

It is the intent of the State to be transparent with regards to financial assistance provided to industry. The State intends to publicly disclose details of all financial assistance provided by the government for this Program (which will include, but is not limited to, the name of the successful applicant, the description of any grant agreement and amount of grant funding).

Reservation of Rights

The Minister reserves the right to:

- administer the Program and conduct the process for the assessment and approval of applications to the Program in such manner as they think fit;
- change the structure, procedures, nature, scope or timing of, or alter the terms of participation in the process or overall Program (including but not limited to these Guidelines, eligibility, timeframes, terms and conditions, submission and compliance of applications), where in such circumstances notice will be provided to applicants on the Department's website; and
- consider or accept, or refuse to consider or accept, any application which:
 - is lodged other than in accordance with these Guidelines; or
 - is lodged after the relevant closing date; or
 - is otherwise non-conforming in any respect.
- without limitation, offer funding at a different level than sought, in instalments, or not at all;
- where approval of an application has been communicated to an applicant, withdraw such approval in the event facts or information come to the attention of the Department (whether known at the time of the application or not) which in their reasonable opinion: (a) are material to their assessment of the application or (b) mean the application is made other than in accordance with these Guidelines or non-confirming in any respect; and
- abandon or close the Program as they think fit.

Disclaimer

No responsibility for any loss or damage caused by reliance on any of the information or advice provided by or on behalf of the State, or for any loss or damage arising from acts or omissions made, is accepted by the State, its instrumentalities, officers, servants or agents.

Copyright

By applying for financial assistance, applicants will be taken to:

- license the State to reproduce for the purpose of this process, the whole or any portion of

application or proposal despite any copyright or other intellectual property right that may subsist; and

- transfer ownership in the documents and any other materials constituting the application to the Minister on behalf of the State.

Appendix 1: Definitions

Algal Bloom Event means: the naturally occurring, algal bloom event that is affecting parts of the South Australian coastline as of July 2025.

Department means: the Department of State Development acting on behalf of the Minister.

GST means: goods and services tax levied under the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth).

Eligible Expenditure means: expenditure that is both (a) a direct cost of the Program and (b) incurred between the commencement date and end date for funding ("**funding period**") under any grant agreement (if approved), and is limited to:

- salaries and consumables;
- hire of facilities to deliver any services;
- fees to professional service providers;
- costs associated with the development and production of resources directly related to the delivery of this Program;
- Program administration;
- promotional activities and business engagement (directly associated with the initiative); and
- other costs outlined in the application or proposal document if approved by the Department,

but does not include Ineligible Expenditure.

Impacted members means: the impacted members of South Australian commercial seafood, aquaculture and fishing industry associations or peak bodies. Members may themselves be peak bodies or the businesses they represent.

Ineligible Expenditure means the following excluded items of expenditure:

- costs incurred prior to the commencement date of the funding period (i.e., retrospective funding);
- any activities not directly and wholly related to the delivery of support/services under this Program;
- costs for catering involving alcohol;
- costs for accredited training or course delivery;
- business-as-usual activities;
- the purchase of capital equipment; and
- any other costs determined by the Department.

Minister means: the Minister for Small and Family Business.

Program or **ABISG Program** means: this "*Algal Bloom Industry Support Grant*" program.

State means: the Government of South Australia.