

ALGAL BLOOM RESILIENCE GRANT GUIDELINES

Overview

The Algal Bloom Resilience Grant program (“**the ABRG Program**”) is part of the South Australian Government’s Summer Plan released in response to the **Algal Bloom event** occurring across South Australia’s coastline.

The ABRG Program is designed to assist **South Australian commercial fisheries and aquaculture licence holders** impacted by the continued presence of the current algal bloom, to implement resilience projects to preserve their ongoing viability.

The Department of State Development (“**DSD**”), working in collaboration with the Department of Treasury and Finance (“**DTF**”), will administer the ABRG Program, on behalf of the Treasurer of South Australia (the “**Treasurer**”).

The Treasurer and any delegate (if appointed) has full discretion to vary eligibility for the ABRG Program and any other terms and conditions applicable to the ABRG Program.

Bolded terms in these Guidelines are defined throughout these Guidelines or in Attachment 1: Definitions.

Available funding

One-off grants of between **\$25,000** and **\$150,000** (GST exclusive) will be available for eligible **South Australian commercial fisheries and aquaculture licence holders**, subject to a merit -based assessment process. A total of \$3 million is allocated to the ABRG Program.

Assistance provided through the ABRG Program is not intended to be ongoing. Funding will only be provided to projects which align to the ABRG Program objectives and can be sustained beyond the assistance period. Thus, the assistance is designed to meet only the transitional costs associated with any submitted project proposal.

There is no requirement for applicant co-contributions towards projects under the ABRG Program.

Funds are made available on a first come first served basis, subject to meeting the Eligibility Criteria and endorsement by the Assessment Panel following a merit-based assessment against program objectives and requirements.

Prior to receiving funds, and before the project work commences, successful grant applicants must execute a grant agreement stipulating the obligations of the applicant and the conditions under which any assistance is given, including, where relevant, payment milestones, clawback and reporting requirements.

Payments will only be made after successful achievement of agreed milestones to the satisfaction of DSD.

Projects must have commenced and be substantially progressed within six (6) months and completed within twelve (12) months of the grant agreement being executed, unless otherwise agreed.

The grant is a voluntary payment by the **State** to assist parties impacted by the Algal Bloom event. It may not meet all costs of the proposed project.

Only one application can be submitted per aquaculture or fisheries licence or per **Australian Business Number (“ABN”)**.

The Treasurer, or their delegate, may in their absolute discretion designate multiple applicants to be a **Grouped Entity** for the purpose of considering eligibility to apply for funding from the ABRG Program.

Objectives

The ABRG Program is designed to assist eligible impacted **South Australian commercial fisheries and aquaculture licence holders** invest in projects that build business resilience, take advantage of new opportunities and create or help protect jobs, through:

- improving and developing new capabilities, processes, products and/or services;
- improving the productivity, efficiency and sustainability of existing operations;
- expanding business capabilities/operations to create new revenue streams or to mitigate risks from persistent, or future, Algal Bloom events; or
- retain and create new employment opportunities within the business.

Grants are intended to support resilience or capability building efforts that support or supplement existing business operations or activities. Whilst this may involve expansion into new markets, it is not intended to support businesses seeking to exit current industries completely or cease business/operations in South Australia.

Eligibility criteria

In addition to demonstrating the project aligns with the objectives of the ABRG Program, the applicant must also demonstrate the following:

- be a legal entity established in Australia (a sole trader, company, partnership or trustee of a trust). Incorporated entities must be incorporated in Australia;
- be a **South Australian commercial fisheries or aquaculture licence holder** (if the South Australian commercial fisheries or aquaculture licence that the applicant trades through is not in the name of the applicant, the applicant must have authority from the licence holder to apply for a grant using that licence to meet these eligibility criteria);
- have held an active ABN since 1 January 2025;
- be registered for GST at the time applications opened (21 October 2025)

- be currently operating (in any capacity) e.g. businesses that are not harvesting may still be incurring overheads such as insurance, rent utilities;
- submit a **Resilience Plan** for the project;
- commence the project within 6 months, and deliver the project (installed and operating as applicable) within twelve (12) months, of the grant agreement being executed, unless otherwise agreed;
- not be an **excluded entity**; and
- be impacted by the **Algal Bloom event**, demonstrated by either:
 - having been approved to receive/received a grant under the Algal Bloom Fisheries and Aquaculture Assistance Grant (“**ABFAAG**”) program; **OR**
 - having had licence fee(s) waived by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (“**PIRSA**”) under the Algal Bloom Fee Relief Program (“**Fee Relief Program**”).
- demonstrate minimum **business turnover** of \$75,000 in financial year 2023-24 or 2024-25;
- have an **Australia-wide grouped payroll** not greater than \$10 million in the financial year 2024-25 *[Note: the information you provide with your application will be verified against information held by Revenue SA]*; and
- derive at least seventy-five per cent (75%) of **business turnover** directly from commercial activities under the commercial fisheries or aquaculture licence(s).

Businesses may be assessed for exceptional circumstances eligibility where they do not explicitly meet the specific Eligibility Criteria outlined in this section but have been materially impacted by the Algal Bloom event.

Eligibility under exceptional circumstances will be considered by the Treasurer, or their delegate, on a case-by-case basis. The Treasurer, or their delegate, is not obliged to approve any application.

How funding may be used

Eligible Project Expenditure

Eligible project expenditure includes direct project-related costs, including any third-party arms-length service providers engaged. It includes, but is not limited to:

- purchase of new equipment, including freight and installation costs;
- payments to consultants (e.g. designers, engineers and technical specialists), training organisations, research providers and other service providers for capability development, mentoring and research and development work undertaken on the project;
- costs of training/re-skilling of existing staff;

- for aquaculture licence holders, costs associated with clean-up and repair of damaged harvest area infrastructure as a result of the Algal Bloom event; or
- replacement or upgrades to existing equipment which substantially improve resilience, expand business capabilities/operations or support clean-up and repair of damaged harvest area infrastructure.

Ineligible Project Expenditure

Applicants will need to meet the cost of any ineligible project expenditure associated with their project. Among others specified as ineligible in the grant agreement, grant funding will not be awarded for (or applied against) any of the following:

- ongoing business as usual activities, including but not limited to:
 - salaries and wages for new or existing staff (except where they are wholly and directly engaged in the project for a defined period of time)
 - payments to owners, partners, directors, shareholders of the applicant (“**Personnel**”) and/or any **Related Entity**; and
 - general operating costs such as maintenance, upgrades, communications, websites, marketing, utilities, accommodation, general computing purchases and software, printing and stationery, postage, travel, routine training, legal, banking and accounting fees.
- work completed by the applicant, a **Related Entity** or any Personnel or employee of any of them;
- financing, leasing, interest or insurance costs;
- early-stage proof of concept activities, feasibility studies or investments;
- land purchases;
- business cases, costs associated with preparing applications, project management fees and costs to submit an application to the ABRG Program or any other program;
- projects that are being undertaken to directly or indirectly meet a legal or contractual requirement;
- replacement or upgrades to existing equipment which do not substantially improve resilience, expand business capabilities/operations or support clean-up and repair of damaged harvest area infrastructure;
- retrospective funding, where project costs have been incurred and/or paid prior to either submission of the application, or announcement of the program;
- projects that require ongoing recurrent State Government funding; and or
- projects undertaken on behalf of third parties.

Key dates

Applications open	21 October 2025
Applications close	31 March 2026 or when funding is exhausted (whichever occurs first)
Grants paid	Applicants will be paid the grant in instalments, in accordance with milestones specified within the executed grant agreement. Payments will be processed within fifteen (15) days following achievement of agreed milestones. This includes the provision of suitable evidence by the applicant and acceptance by DSD.

Applications will be assessed as and in the order in which they are received.

How to apply

All applications to the ABRG Program will need to be submitted via the online application portal at: <https://mybusiness.smartygrants.com.au>.

Applications must be submitted by the closing date to be considered, noting funding is awarded on a first come first served basis.

If you require further information regarding the ABRG program, please contact algalbusinesssupportgrants@sa.gov.au or call (08) 8429 7700.

What to submit

In addition to completing the online application form, applicants must declare that they meet the Eligibility Criteria when submitting the application and provide the following evidence and/or information in support of their application:

- a Resilience Plan for the proposed project (a template is available [HERE](#)) which includes:
 - details of business (e.g. location, size, structure, position in market) and strategy/vision;
 - details of the project scope;
 - details of how the project will deliver any/all of the following:
 - improve and develop new capabilities, processes, products and/or services;
 - improve the productivity and efficiency of existing operations;
 - expand business capabilities/operations to create new revenue streams or to mitigate risks;
 - retain or create employment opportunities within the business; and
 - maintain or increase business turnover/profitability.
 - market analysis (including opportunities, trends, size, competitors, barriers to entry);
 - detailed project budget/costs, including in-kind or other financial contributions;
 - profit and loss and cash flow projections (including key assumptions) for:
 - the project construction/implementation phase; and

- operational phase for at least three years.
- details of other project financing (if relevant);
- project timeline; and
- key risks to delivery/project dependencies

[Note: The amount of detail provided in a Resilience Plan should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant funding amount requested.]

- the most recent two years of financial statements and reports (displaying financial outcomes for at least three (3) full years), including a Profit and Loss Statement and a Statement of Financial Position, which identifies both assets and liabilities, prepared by a **registered tax agent**;
- copies of project quotes;
- details of all State and Commonwealth grants and loans received in the past two (2) years and any pending applications for grants and loans;
- any other supporting project preparation documentation (e.g. cost-benefit analysis, project scoping, options studies, design and other relevant work) demonstrating compliance with the Eligibility Criteria; and
- any other information requested from time to time by DSD or DTF through the application process.

Assessment

Assessment and approval

A multi-agency State Government Assessment Panel has been established to assess ABRG Program applications on a case-by-case merit basis, against the Eligibility Criteria, objectives and other program/evidence requirements.

The **Assessment Panel** will comprise senior South Australian Government officials or employees from DSD, DTF and PIRSA. Independent experts may also be invited to participate in the assessment process.

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis, in the order as they are received.

Prior to an application being assessed by the Assessment Panel, DSD will undertake a preliminary assessment of the Eligibility Criteria. Applicants will be advised if they do not meet the Eligibility Criteria or if there is any missing or further required information, and will be provided with an opportunity to provide or update information (if required). However, if information is not provided or updated promptly, it may lead to other applications being assessed in priority to it.

Following preliminary assessment, DSD will refer eligible applications to the Assessment Panel for formal evaluation and assessment against the Assessment Criteria outlined below. Applications under exceptional circumstances eligibility will only be progressed to the Assessment Panel with support from Chair of the Assessment Panel.

The Assessment Panel will make a recommendation to the Treasurer, or their delegate, to approve or reject an application based on the formal evaluation and assessment.

Final decisions as to which projects will be supported through the program will be made by the Treasurer, or their delegate.

The Treasurer, or their delegate, is not obliged to approve any application and also reserves the right to award a lower grant amount than sought by the applicant or award a grant on conditions.

Potential applicants should note that information received in connection with an application may be used and communicated to other South Australian Government agencies, or external non-government organisations for due diligence purposes. Information received may also be provided to the Australian Government and third parties engaged by DSD to assist with the assessment of the applications received, together with program monitoring, reporting and evaluation purposes.

Assessment Criteria

In addition to meeting the overarching Eligibility Criteria for the ABRG Program, the Assessment Panel will evaluate applications against the criteria outlined below.

The Project

- Overall alignment with ABRG Program objectives;
- Robustness of Resilience Plan i.e. extent to which it addresses elements outlined at section “What to submit”;
- Benefits to the South Australian economy, and specifically the fisheries and aquaculture industry; and
- Competitive neutrality – that is, the project will not be to the economic detriment of other **South Australian commercial fisheries and aquaculture licence holders**.

Financials

- Robustness of project costs and likelihood project can be delivered on budget;
- Reasonableness of financial assumptions/projections;
- Financial viability/sustainability of the business proposition over the long term without further government assistance; and
- Value for money (justification of the requested grant amount against the projects expected benefits and results).

Project Delivery

- Likelihood the project will commence, and be completed, within twelve months of any funding agreement;
- Managerial capability and financial capacity to implement the project without further assistance; and
- Business capability or expertise in relation to the new business opportunities.

Applicants should note that irrespective of eligibility and merit, there is no guarantee that an offer of funding will be made. The Treasurer, or their delegate, reserves the right to award a lower grant funding amount than sought by the Applicant.

Terms and conditions

- Applicants must retain all records required for assessment purposes under the ABRG Program until five (5) years after the closing day for applications.
- Applicants must consent to DSD conducting an audit of documentation used to support an application 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.
- All grants are conditional upon eligible Applicants entering into a grant agreement on terms and conditions determined by the **State**.

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

DSD and DTF comply with the State's Information Privacy Principles Instruction. DSD and DTF collect information (including personal information) as reasonably necessary for the purposes and functions of:

- administering our grants and funding programs;
- keeping you informed about the ABRG 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 Treasurer and Minister for Small and Family Business ("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 by DSD or DTF to, or used by DSD or DTF:

- to its employees, advisers or third parties in order to manage the ABRG Program, including but not limited to, for the purposes of evaluating and assessing the application;
- for the purposes of verifying any information contained in your application – DSD or DTF may provide information to other agencies or third parties nominated in your application including, but not limited to, RevenueSA and PIRSA;
- for the purpose of economic, policy or other modelling, including sharing with third parties, consultants or advisers engaged by DSD or DTF for that purpose;
- for due diligence, monitoring, reporting and audit purposes;
- within the **State** where this serves the legitimate interests of DSD or DTF;
- 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 government to be transparent with regards to financial assistance provided to industry. The government intends to publicly disclose details of all financial assistance provided by the government for the ABRG Program (which will include, but is not limited to, the name of the successful applicant, and amount of grant funding).

Reservation of Rights

The Treasurer reserves the right to:

- administer the ABRG Program and conduct the process for the assessment and approval of applications to the ABRG 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 ABRG 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 DSD 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.
- 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 DSD or DTF (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 an applicant will be taken to:

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

Attachment 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.

Assessment Panel means: the senior South Australian Government officials or employees from DSD, DTF and PIRSA who will assess eligible applications to the ABRG Program on a rolling basis.

Australia-wide grouped payroll means: the payroll for all members of a group for payroll tax purposes under Part 5 of the *Payroll Tax Act 2009* (SA).

Business turnover means: total business or gross income from everyday business activities, including sales made over the internet, income from sales (cash and electronic) and foreign income. It excludes all the following:

- GST included in sales to your customers;
- sales to associates that aren't for payment and aren't taxable;
- sales not connected with an enterprise you run;
- input-taxed sales you make;
- sales not connected with Australia; and
- value of gifts made to you.

Excluded entity means: the following organisations which are not eligible for assistance:

- public companies within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (other than an unlisted public company);
- tax-exempt entities (except for registered charities that are income-tax exempt);
- Local Government and Councils;
- Local Government Associations;
- Industry Associations; or
- State or Federal Government agencies.

Grouped Entity means: a group of applicants which are taken to be one applicant for the purposes of the ABRG program. An applicant may be grouped together with another applicant that is considered a **Related Entity**.

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

Not-for-Profit Organisation means:

- a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission; or
- a not-for-profit organisation which provides services to the community and doesn't operate for the profit or personal gain of its individual members, such that profits made must go back into the services the organisation provides and mustn't be distributed to owners, members or other private people- e.g., most sporting and recreational clubs, community service organisations, professional and business associations and social organisations.

Registered tax agent means: a currently registered member of a professional accounting body (i.e. CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand or the Institute of Public Accountants).

Related Entity means, in relation to the applicant ('First Entity'):

- an entity which is a related body corporate to the First Entity within the meaning of s 50 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- an entity which controls the First Entity or their business, or which is controlled by the First Entity or their business within the meaning of s 50AA of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- where the First Entity or their business is controlled by an entity (the 'Principal Entity'), any other entity which is controlled by the Principal Entity within the meaning of s 50AA of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- an entity which has an investment in the First Entity or their business
- an entity in which the First Entity or their business has an investment
- an associate of the First Entity within the meaning of s 50AAA of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
- any officer or employee of the First Entity
- any other entity which, in the opinion of the Treasurer or their delegate, is related to the First Entity or their business.

Resilience Plan means: the resilience plan submitted by the applicant in completing the online application which plan addresses the information identified in the "What to submit" section of these guidelines.

South Australian commercial fisheries or aquaculture licence holder means: a business (including **not-for-profit organisations**) that as at 28 July 2025:

- holds a valid South Australian commercial fisheries or aquaculture licence issued by PIRSA;
- is currently conducting its business or operations in South Australia;
- when aggregated as a whole with its Related Entities, conducts its business or operations predominantly in South Australia; and
- has its principal place of business and head office registered at a premises within South Australia.

State means: the Government of South Australia.