



Guidelines for South Australian Supporting Regional Aviation Program (SASRAP) Round 11 2026-2027

1. Introduction

SASRAP is a competitive grants program contributing State Government funding towards infrastructure improvements in the regional aerodrome network. Funded upgrades will improve safety and accessibility, help aerodromes comply with regulatory requirements, accommodate changing airline fleets and regional market growth, and deliver regional economic and social benefits through improved aerodrome infrastructure.

Round Eleven of the South Australian Supporting Regional Aviation Program (SASRAP), providing grant funding in the 2026-2027 year, will open for applications via the Smarty Grants portal on 13 May 2026 and close 5 June 2026.

Grants of up to \$150,000 are available to successful applicants. The funding period is 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. Project start dates will be no earlier than 1 July 2026. Projects must be completed, and all grant funds expended by 30 June 2027.

2. Eligible applicants

Only owners of existing publicly owned airports / aerodromes in regional South Australia are eligible to apply. Privately owned airports/aerodrome are ineligible.

Location of the project site (airport / aerodrome) must be inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote South Australia, as determined by the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard – Remoteness Area* <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/australian-statistical-geography-standard-remoteness-area>) as at the opening of the round for applications.

Applicants must have an Australian Business Number to be eligible.

3. Eligible project activities

To be eligible for funding the project must be capable of completion by 30 June 2027 at the latest. You must incur the project expenditure between the project start and end date for it to be eligible.

Funding for projects will be based on eligible costs contained in the project application. Grant funding may only be used for expenses directly associated with approved infrastructure project delivery activities and incurred by the grant recipient with evidence produced for audit purposes.

Examples of suitable infrastructure projects include:

- Asset sustainment works that will prevent deterioration of aerodrome infrastructure to a point where simple repairs will not be sufficient.
- Works to improve aircraft safety and all weather capability of the aerodrome such as sealing, resealing, resheeting of pavements, repair, restoration and/or reconstruction of airstrips, taxiways, and/or aprons, and associated drainage works,

- Works to enhance safety for aircraft operations such as animal proof fencing, markers and navigational aids, illuminated wind direction indicators, aircraft tie downs, windssocks and gable markers.
- Works to enable night operations such as Pilot Activated Lighting systems and other lighting, power, back-up generators and basic shelter.
- Works needed to comply with CASA requirements, or meet operational needs of the RFDS, CFS and/or other vital service providers (e.g. ambulance shelter to support patient health in transit, basic shelter for operational personnel).

4. Ineligible project activities

Grant funding will not be considered for, and is not to be used for:

- Research activities, investigations, feasibility studies, development planning, master planning, project design, operational and/or training manuals, or training for operational personnel.
- The purchase of motor vehicles, heavy plant or equipment (excluding generators for back-up power).
- Aerodrome operating costs which the aerodrome owner and/or operator might normally be expected to meet such as communications, accommodation, administration, inspections, ongoing or minor maintenance works such as slashing and mowing, inspection, maintenance, replacement or remediation of aviation fuel facilities, or other core activities of the applicant, contractors, or suppliers.
- Retrospective costs. Applicants must not commence work on or order any goods or services associated with the project identified in their application prior to execution of a grant funding agreement between the applicant and the State Government.
- Contributions towards Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (RAUP) or other Commonwealth funded projects. State Government co-contributions should be applied for as part of the funding application to the Commonwealth Government, and not through SASRAP.

5. Applicant co-funding contributions

Project circumstance	Applicant co-funding requirement	Total SASRAP funding up to \$150,000 per project¹
Project located in an area classified as Inner or Outer Regional	1:1 ratio (for every \$1 of grant funding requested you must contribute at least \$1)	Up to 50% of eligible project costs
Project located in an area classified as Remote or Very Remote	3:1 ratio (for every \$3 of grant funding requested you must contribute at least \$1)	Up to 75% of eligible project costs
Project granted an exceptional circumstance co-funding exemption. (See section 6 below)	Exempt from above co-funding (although some contribution is encouraged)	Up to 100% of eligible project costs
Project costs exceeds initial estimate	Applicant will need to meet any project cost overruns	Grant amount as above.

In-kind contributions by local agencies may be permitted, the value of which must be expressed in monetary terms at current market rates, substantiated on request, and agreed by the Department. These must not be any of the ineligible costs listed in Item 4 above. Administration and inspection costs are considered routine aerodrome operating costs and will not be recognised as an in-kind contribution toward the project costs.

6. Exceptional Circumstances Co-funding Exemption

It is recognised that some applicants may be experiencing circumstances resulting in a limited capacity to meet the co-funding requirement. Where you can demonstrate that you are experiencing these circumstances, you may seek an exemption from the co-funding requirement.

If you seek an exemption, you must submit a supporting case which includes **evidence demonstrating the exceptional circumstances** you are experiencing and how this prevents you from meeting the co-funding requirement. This **must** also include evidence to demonstrate the capacity to maintain and fully utilise the project.

The Panel will consider all requests for exemption. If an exemption is granted your application will be considered to have met the requirements under section 5 above. If an exemption is not granted your application will be ineligible.

Before you consider seeking an exemption, note:

- Exemptions will only be granted in very limited circumstances.
- If an exemption is not granted your application will be ineligible and there will be no opportunity to resubmit your application in the same funding round.

The following will be considered for exemption:

- Drought / flood / bushfire and / or declaration of disaster.
- Limited financial capacity.
- Significant recent change in population or community demographics.
- The risk of suspension of emergency medical evacuations, aeromedical flights and other critical services.

7. Lodgement of applications

All applications are to be submitted using the SmartyGrants online grant application portal. You will need to register as an applicant before you can make an online submission. To make an application go to <https://dit.smartygrants.com.au/SASRAPRound11>.

8. Assessment of applications

An Assessment Panel will assess all eligible projects competitively on their ability to achieve the following outcomes:

- a) Improves aerodrome safety and/or accessibility.
- b) Improves connectivity to intrastate, interstate, or international markets or routes.
- c) Economic and/or social benefit to the regional community and/or State as a result of the project (e.g. health outcomes, Closing the Gap, firefighting capacity, regional tourism).
- d) Any other key benefits (e.g. addresses maintenance or regulatory requirement).

Each criterion will be scored as follows:

- 0 (not met)
- 1 (minimal benefits)
- 2 (moderate benefits)
- 3 (significant benefits)

9. Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest may exist, for example, if the applicant or any of its personnel:

- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal or financial gain because of the granting of funding.

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- Has a relationship (whether professional, commercial, or personal) with a party who is able to influence the application assessment process.
- Has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicant in carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently; or

Each applicant will be required to declare as part of their application existing conflicts of interest or, that to the best of their knowledge, there is no conflict of interest that would impact on or prevent the applicant from proceeding with the project or any funding agreement it may enter into with the State Government.

Where an applicant subsequently identifies that an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest exists or might arise in relation to this application for funding, the applicant must inform the Department in writing immediately.

10. Notification

Applicants will be advised of the funding decision by email.

11. Funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to sign an acceptance of grant offer, and acknowledgement of grant terms and conditions (including reporting and expenditure requirements, and payment terms).

- Grants will be paid upfront in one lump sum upon receipt of a valid invoice.
- 40% of the project budget needs to be expended by 31 December 2026.
- 80% of the project budget needs to be expended by 30 April 2027.
- All projects to be completed and all funds expended by 30 June 2027, or the unexpended portion of the Grant needs to be returned.

12. Reporting

A mid project progress report will be required by 31 December 2026. A project completion and acquittal report will be required by 30 June 2027.

13. Questions

If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact Peter Liu during business hours on 0406617997 or email peter.liu@sa.gov.au and quote your submission number.