



Guidelines for Support Regional Aviation Program Round Five 2020-21

1. Introduction

The Support Regional Aviation Program is an annual subsidy scheme that contributes State Government funding towards minor regional airport/aerodrome infrastructure upgrades. The purpose is to improve the regional airport/aerodrome network and deliver regional economic and social benefits through improved air services. The total value of the program this year is \$451,000. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to successful applicants.

2. Eligible applicants

Owners and/or operators of existing airports/aerodromes in regional South Australia that are not privately owned are eligible to apply. Only applicants with an Australian Business Number may apply. Eligibility criteria has been broadened this year and airports/aerodromes do not need to be registered to be eligible.

3. Additional eligibility criteria due to COVID-19

To be eligible for funding projects must meet the following conditions:

- Be shovel ready and capable of completion no later than 30 April 2021.
- Must be deliverable without the need for any interstate travel by contractors, to avoid delays caused by border closures.

4. Non-eligible project activities

Funding will not be considered for:

- The purchase of motor vehicles, heavy plant and equipment.
- Ongoing or minor maintenance works such as slashing and mowing.
- Aerodrome operating costs for which the aerodrome owner/operator might normally be expected to meet, such as administration and or inspections.
- Research activities.

5. Eligible co-funding and contributions

Co-funding requirements are summarised in the following table.

Project circumstance	Co-funding requirement	Total SA Government funding (including this grant) which will not exceed \$100,000* per project
Projects which have already attracted Commonwealth	Half of the unfunded component (for every \$2 of	Up to 25 per cent of eligible project cost, where

funding from Regional Airports Program or other programs (excluding Remote Airport Upgrade Program)	Commonwealth funding awarded the applicant must contribute at least \$1, i.e. match it by 50%)	Commonwealth funds 50 per cent of project cost
Projects 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 per cent of eligible project costs
All other classifications	1:1 ratio (for every \$1 of grant funding requested you must contribute at least \$1)	Up to 50 per cent of eligible project cost
Projects granted an exceptional circumstance co-funding exemption (See section 6 below)	Exempt from co-funding (although contribution is encouraged)	Up to 100 per cent of eligible project cost

* Maximum amount sought must be no more than \$100,000. Owners will be asked to meet any project costs over this amount.

** Remoteness is determined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard – Remoteness Area (refer <https://www.health.gov.au/health-workforce/health-workforce-classifications/australian-statistical-geography-standard-remoteness-area>) as at the date of the call for submissions.

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.

Administration and inspection costs will not be recognised as an in-kind contribution toward the project costs. Funding for projects shall be on the basis of eligible costs contained in the project application.

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 they are preventing 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.

All applications, including those granted an exemption, will be assessed against each of the Assessment Criteria (refer section 9 below).

The following will be considered for exemption:

- Drought and/or disaster declaration.
- 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.
- The extent to which the project contributes to delivering outcomes under the Closing the Gap framework, including improved service delivery to remote Aboriginal community locations.

7. Ineligible costs and contributions

Funding is only to be used for costs directly associated with approved project activities. It is not to be used for ongoing operational costs or other core activities of the applicant or other third party contributors.

Funding will not be available for retrospective costs. Therefore 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 funding agreement between the applicant and the State Government.

8. Lodgement of applications

All applications are to be submitted using the SmartyGrants online grant application service. You will need to register as an applicant before you can make an online submission. Application forms can be accessed at

<https://dit.smartygrants.com.au/SupportRegionalAviationProgramRound5>

9. Assessment of applications

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

- a) Safety or accessibility
- b) Improved 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
- d) Any other key benefits (e.g. address maintenance or regulatory requirement)

Each criteria will be scored as follows:

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

- 3 (significant benefits)

The total score for each project will be the sum of the above.

10. Conflict of interest

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

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

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.

11. Notification

Applicants will be advised in writing of the funding decision.

12. Funding agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a written funding agreement with the State Government within one month from a letter of offer of funding. The funding agreement is a legally enforceable document that sets out the terms and conditions of the funding, including agreed project outcomes, project management and payment schedules. Works on the project are expected to be undertaken and completed and all funds expended by 30 April 2021.

13. Questions

If you have any questions about these guidelines please contact Cherill Watkins on 08 7109 7207 during business hours or email cherill.watkins@sa.gov.au and quote your submission number.