



# Northern Water Community Grants Guideline



Government of  
South Australia

“Unlocking opportunities and empowering the community”

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## FOREWORD

Northern Water is an exciting project that will open up a range of future opportunities for South Australians directly and through the projects it can enable.

For the Northern Water to enhance its benefits to local communities, we have created a grant program to support initiatives that will enable the project to create a meaningful legacy for local community.

We are excited to launch Northern Water Grants to support programs that will increase the local on ground benefits from the Northern Water project.

If you are an eligible organisation with a vision to enhance the environmental, social or community benefits from the Northern Water project I encourage you to apply for funding to support your initiative.

The Northern Water team looks forward to supporting you, and working with you to realise significant local benefits!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Conway', written over a light background.

**Jeremy Conway**  
CEO, Infrastructure SA

## KEY DATES

<b>Opening dates</b>	Check Northern Water's website <a href="https://northernwater.sa.gov.au">northernwater.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Closing date and time</b>	The first round closes at 6pm on 31 May 2024. Following this, applications for each round will close at 6pm on the last day of July, October, January and April (respectively).
<b>Enquiries</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:northernwater@sa.gov.au">northernwater@sa.gov.au</a> Phone: (08) 8429 4650 Questions should be sent no later than two weeks prior to the submission date for the grant.
<b>Date guidelines released</b>	April 2024
<b>Type of grant opportunity</b>	Open competitive

## ABOUT NORTHERN WATER COMMUNITY GRANTS

Northern Water Community Grants are administered by Northern Water within Infrastructure SA.

The grants provide one-off funding to eligible organisations for initiatives to significantly improve local benefits from the Northern Water Project. In the areas of social, environmental, community and economics.

There are two categories of grants under the Northern Water Community Grants:

- Community Investment Program
- Local Grants Program.

Grants will be assessed quarterly.

Multiple grants may be awarded up to a total value of \$30,000 in each round. Northern Water Community Grants will be available throughout the planning and construction of the project.

While sponsorship is not included in the grants framework, you may forward your sponsorship prospectus to [northernwater@sa.gov.au](mailto:northernwater@sa.gov.au) for consideration.

## GRANTS AT A GLANCE

**Table 1: Grants at a glance**

Purpose	Location eligibility	Eligible entities	Funding amount	Criteria
<b>Community Investment Program</b>				
Investment in community-led initiatives to directly benefit the project’s objectives and/or build community capacity for involvement in the project and/or reduce the project’s potential community impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upper Spencer Gulf</li> <li>Eyre Peninsula</li> <li>Far North</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government</li> <li>community organisations</li> <li>business associations</li> <li>not-for-profit groups</li> <li>individual private entities are eligible where a wider community benefit can be demonstrated.</li> </ul>	Up to \$10,000 at project discretion.	<p>At the project’s discretion, community investment must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate direct relevance to project - add value to project outcomes (e.g. shared data platform);</li> <li>assist the community to be more involved in the project (e.g. schools-based project learning); or</li> <li>provide a community benefit in areas related to the project.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Grants Program</b>				
Grants program open for all community groups seeking to invest in community capital, enhance community resilience and/or reduce the project’s potential community impacts.	Communities directly affected by plant and/or pipeline location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>community groups</li> <li>individual private entities are eligible where a wider community benefit can be demonstrated.</li> </ul>	Up to \$5,000.	<p>Community must be directly affected by the plant and/or pipeline. Applications will be assessed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>local impact for wider community</li> <li>proportional relevance to project</li> <li>extent of alignment with potential project benefits and impacts</li> <li>scalability (e.g. potential to act as seed funding).</li> </ul>

# NORTHERN WATER COMMUNITY GRANTS PROCESS

## The Northern Water Community Grant is designed to meet Northern Water project objectives.

By supporting local community led initiatives that will enhance local benefits from the Northern Water project or an outcome that reduces or counter balances potential project impacts.

**1**

### The grant opportunity opens

Visit [northernwater.sa.gov.au/grants](http://northernwater.sa.gov.au/grants)

**2**

### Complete and submit your grant application

Complete your application form addressing all of the eligibility and assessment criteria for consideration.

**3**

### Grant applications assessed

Applications are assessed against eligibility criteria, then considered in relation to assessment criteria including the overall value with money, then compare it to other applications.

**4**

### Grant recommendations made

We provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application. The decision maker is the CEO of the entity responsible for the delivery of the Northern Water project.

**5**

### Grant decisions made

The decision maker selects successful applications.

**6**

### You are notified of the outcome

We advise you of the outcome of your application. Grant agreements may be executed with successful applicants prior to notification to unsuccessful applicants.

**7**

### A grant agreement is entered

We will enter into a grant agreement with successful applicants. The type of grant agreement is based on the nature of the grant and will be proportional to the risks involved.

**8**

### Delivery of grant

You undertake the grant activity as set out in your grant agreement. We (or other entity if applicable) manage the grant by working with you, monitoring your progress and making payments.

**9**

### Evaluation of the program/grant opportunity

We evaluate your specific grant activity and the program/grant opportunity as a whole. We base this on information provided by you together with data collected from various sources.

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## OUTCOMES

Northern Water Community Grants invest in community led initiatives to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- contribute to creating and strengthening Northern Water’s positive legacy in the local community
- enhance community resilience in areas potentially impacted by the project
- enhance local economic benefits from Northern Water through improved participation by local workforce or industry
- address areas of community need likely to be impacted by Northern Water
- on ground programs to increase the local benefit from Northern Water.

### Community Investment Program

The purpose of the Community Investment Program is to support community-led initiatives of direct benefit to the project’s objectives, and/or building community capacity for involvement in the project, and/or offset the project’s potential community impacts.

### Local Grants Program

The Local Grants Program is open to all community groups that seek to invest in community capital, enhance community resilience and/or offset the project’s potential community impacts.

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## ELIGIBILITY

There are geographical and organisational eligibility criteria for Northern Water Community Grants.

### Community Investment Program

#### Geographical eligibility

Grants are targeted at the regional areas impacted by Northern Water, eligible regions include Eyre Peninsula, Upper Spencer Gulf and Far North South Australia.

#### Organisational eligibility

Eligible organisations include Local Government, community organisations, business associations and not-for-profit groups.

Individual private entities and state and federal government organisations are only eligible where a wider community benefit can be demonstrated. Where government, private or for-profit entities seek to apply for a grant through Community Investment Program, the entity must demonstrate an equal or greater contribution towards the project for which the grant is sought.

### Local Grants Program

#### Geographical eligibility

Grants are targeted at the regional areas impacted by Northern Water. Impacts could be direct or indirect.

#### Organisational eligibility

Eligibility for the community organisations.

Individual private entities are only eligible where wider community benefit can be demonstrated along with a level of co-contribution.



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## HOW TO APPLY?

You can access the grant application form on the Northern Water website  
[www.northernwater.sa.gov.au/grants](http://www.northernwater.sa.gov.au/grants)

Applications must be submitted online, by the advertised closing date/time.

Once we receive your grant application we will confirm receipt of the application.



## HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

Applications are assessed for consistency with the objectives of the grant. The assessment process is rigorous, consistent and transparent.

The evaluation panel will comprise at least three members. Once applications have been assessed, the evaluation panel will provide advice to the decision maker on the merits of each application.

The decision maker is the CEO of the entity responsible for the delivery of Northern Water.

### Mandatory criteria

Grant applications will be assessed where the applicant demonstrates adherence to the eligibility criteria.

### Assessment criteria

Applications meeting the mandatory criteria will be assessed against the weighted criteria dependent on the relevant Community Grant.

There are two Community Grants categories:

- Community Investment (up to \$10,000)
- Local Grants (Up to \$5000)

### Community Investment Program (up to \$10,000) weighted criteria

Weighted criterion	Guidance	Weighting
<b>Demonstrate direct relevance to project</b>	Review scope and direct relevance of the outcomes for the Northern Water project.	20
<b>Add value to project outcome</b>	Understand the initiatives' ability to add value to Northern Water and/or how funding this program/project will allow sharing or support of facilities or programs and/or other beneficial outcomes (e.g. shared data platform).	20
<b>Assist greatest community involvement in the project</b>	Review the likelihood of community influence and participation. This may include school-based learning projects etc.	20
<b>Alignment with areas of community interest in Northern Water</b>	Review details provided to understand the alignment between the proposal and areas of community interest.	20
<b>Likelihood of achieving proposed outcomes</b>	Review of the proposal for achieving the objectives and capability of the applicant to successfully deliver the planned approach.	20
<b>Risk assessment</b>	The risk assessment considers possible mishaps, their likelihood and consequences of the program/projects.	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>120</b>

**Local Grants Program (up to \$5,000) weighted criteria**

<b>Weighted Criterion</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>Local impact for wider community</b>	Review the application in relation to the initiatives ability to provide a beneficial outcome for the community.	30
<b>Proportional relevance to project</b>	Review the scope and outcomes of the initiative and its relevance in alignment with Northern Water.	30
<b>Likelihood of achieving proposed outcomes</b>	Review methodology for achieving the objectives and applicant's ability to successfully deliver the planned approach.	20
<b>Risk assessment</b>	The risk assessment considers possible mishaps, their likelihood and consequences of the program/projects	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

## FUNDING AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT

Successful applicants will enter a grant funding agreement with Northern Water.

The funding agreements will specify the terms of the grant, where the funds are to be paid, and how funds may be used.

Following the execution of the funding agreement, funds will be distributed in accordance with the agreement terms and conditions.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

Grantees are required to report to Northern Water detailing grant expenditure, ensuring funding use, timelines and reporting requirements are in line with the agreement.

Grant agreements may change during the grant period. Grant program objectives should be considered when determining changes/amendments to grant agreements. Appropriate changes and variations to grant agreements should be agreed by the Northern Water, documented and recorded.

Grantees are required to provide reporting to ensure the grant is fully acquitted following funded works completion. Unacquitted grants may affect an organisations ability to apply for future grant funding.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Community Grants Program will be reviewed quarterly through an evaluation report in alignment with the grant round schedule, to assess the:

- processes and criteria improvements
- continued relevance of the grant program
- effectiveness of the grant program in achieving its purpose.

Recommendations on improving effectiveness of the program, or alternative approaches, will be provided.



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### Acknowledgement of Country

Northern Water acknowledge and respect the First Peoples of this land and their deep ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to Country. We will work together with our First Nations to share our collective knowledge and recognise the enduring impact of infrastructure on Country.

## Further information

### Northern Water

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W [northernwater.sa.gov.au](http://northernwater.sa.gov.au)



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