

Nature-based Tourism Co-investment Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is nature-based tourism important for South Australia?

Tourism is an economic priority for South Australia.

A thriving tourism sector in SA helps to create more exciting and liveable cities and towns. It sustains community life as it creates jobs, provides recreation opportunities, improves health and connection, and fosters a sense of purpose, pride and much more.

Nature-based tourism is all about offering visitors special experiences in natural areas that nurture and broaden their environmental and cultural understanding and appreciation for conservation.

A flourishing nature-based tourism sector can create advocacy for conservation. It also provides a setting where Aboriginal people can showcase their vibrant cultures and heritage.

It provides opportunities for built heritage to be used and enjoyed in daily life, and for nature to be deeply experienced and cared for.

What are the application timeframes for the co-investment fund?

Applications for the Nature-based Tourism Co-Investment Fund are open from 24 May 2020 until June 2022, or until funds are exhausted.

Applications will be processed as they arrive.

When will I hear back about my application?

Applicants will be contacted within three business days of submitting an application and provided with expected timeframes.

Do all applications need to adhere to the fund guidelines?

DEW is bound to administer the program in accordance with the fund guidelines. As such, no exemptions apply.

Is grant funding subject to tax?

Grant funding is likely to be subject to tax. However, before applying, it is recommended that applicants seek advice on tax implications from their tax advisers or the Australian Taxation Office.

Can a project be in multiple locations?

Projects can include multiple, eligible locations. Further information about eligible sites and locations can be found in the guidelines.

Can applicants be interstate?

Applicants do not need to be based in SA. However, the project must be located in SA (in the eligible sites and locations listed in the guidelines) and the project must benefit the state.

Can a project be seasonal?

Applicants may propose a project that operates seasonally or only on particular days of the week.

This is a business decision that applicants must consider in preparing their proposal.

Applicants should identify these types of operating requirements in their application.

Will all eligible applications be funded?

All applications will be assessed based on eligibility and scored against the selection criteria.

This means that while an application may be considered eligible, if it does not score strongly against the selection criteria it will not be successful in gaining funding.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure their applications have strong claims, supported by evidence, against all five of the assessment criteria.

Do relevant approvals and authorities need to be in place before applying?

Applications can be submitted without the applicant having gained the relevant project approvals.

Applications should include the latest plans for the project with the final costings. Where appropriate, applicants should supply letters or documentation confirming that relevant approvals or authorisations are in place or progressing.

Preference may be given to applications for projects that can be delivered within the six months of applying.

Can I apply if I have received funding from another government source?

You can still apply for the co-investment fund while using funds received from another government source, as long as it is for a different project outcome.

Each funding source and the project outcome it relates to should be clearly identified in the co-investment fund application

Can I apply if I have not yet secured the co-contribution funding?

Applicants need to demonstrate they have the capacity to complete the project, which includes being financially equipped to deliver.

If an applicant is independently borrowing funds for their share of the co-investment, the applicant must provide a copy of the letter of offer from their financial institution.

Can in-kind contributions be considered in my financial contribution?

In-kind contributions can not be included in calculating the applicant's financial contribution to the project.

Note: An in-kind contribution means support, other than money, provided by the applicant towards the project, and can include voluntary hours or donated goods and services.

If my application is successful, will I be offered the grant amount I requested?

Despite the funding amount requested by the applicant, the Minister for Environment and Water decides how much is offered to successful applicants.

The assessment process will take into account a number of factors that may result in a successful applicant being offered a different amount to what was requested.

How will funding be administered?

The South Australian Government Financing Authority will negotiate the schedule of a standard Crown-approved Funding Deed with successful applicants.

Can I apply for funding if my project has commenced?

Applications will not be eligible for funding if the project has been completed or project works have commenced for the same project outcomes prior to the application being approved by the Minister for Environment and Water.

How will I know if the land I am interested in developing is government land that is eligible for funding?

Contact the [NBT Co-Investment Fund Support Service](#) for advice on whether land you are interested in is eligible.

Can funding be used for projects on privately owned land?

Projects solely on private land are not in scope for funding under the NBT Co-investment Fund.

For projects that span across private land and public land, funding may be eligible for the portion of the project on eligible public land.

Are transport assets (bus/boat) eligible for funding if the project outcome is to conduct tours?

Transport assets may be eligible for funding if the asset is an integral part of the proposed project and linked to nature-based tourism.

Operational expenses that are not an integral part of the funded project are ineligible.

Is funding only available for infrastructure developments, or can it be used for tours and guides?

New and improved tourism experiences are also eligible for funding. This may include designing and delivering new commercial tour experiences

Refer to sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the Guidelines for more information.

What happens to infrastructure constructed on government (Crown) land at the end of the lease?

In most cases, infrastructure will revert to government ownership at the end of a lease. In some cases, depending on the development, the leaseholder will be required to remove the infrastructure at the end of the lease.

If my application is approved, what will be the term of my lease?

The approval for an NBT Co-investment Fund grant is separate to the contractual arrangements and other approvals required for your project.

For example, a lease on Crown land would be negotiated by DEW on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Water. Minimum lease periods and renewal options would be discussed further during the lease negotiation.

Is eco-tourism accommodation being considered?

New or improved tourism infrastructure, facilities or capital works are eligible for funding through the NBT Co-investment Fund. This includes establishing and/or upgrading ecologically sensitive accommodation.

Do private sector businesses need to go through the development approval process?

Development by a private sector business on Crown land or in a national park requires development approval through the normal planning processes.

For more information on development applications and how they are assessed, visit the [DEW website](#).

Can I add information or make changes to my application once I have submitted it?

To amend a submitted application, the application needs to be withdrawn, amendments made and the application resubmitted.

Once submitted, however, you may be asked to clarify elements of your application during due diligence. In this case, you will just need to provide the information requested to clarify your application.

How do I withdraw my application?

To withdraw your application email DEWNewBusiness@sa.gov.au and provide your application's project title and name.

You will receive an email confirming the withdrawal of your application within 2 or 3 business days.

More information

Email: DEWNewBusiness@sa.gov.au or

Call: (08) 8124 4066 (between 9am and 5pm on weekdays).

Note:

All information in the FAQs is provided for the convenience of applicants only. Applicants should make their own enquiries and satisfy themselves in respect of all matters in relation to the Nature Based Tourism Co-investment Fund. Please refer to the Guidelines for the full terms and conditions.

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