

Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants

The Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery (RTBR) Grants program is a \$10 million program announced under the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery Fund. This program forms part of the Australian Government's \$76 million tourism recovery package to protect jobs, small businesses and local economies. The RTBR Grant has been developed in consultation with the National Bushfire Recovery Agency, and will be administered by Austrade.

There are two streams available to eligible Local Government Authorities and Regional Tourism Organisations under the program.

Objective and goals of the Grant

The RTBR Grant will support fire-affected regions to assist with the recovery efforts, and encourage international and domestic visitors to come back to the regions.

Stream 1 — Will support small-scale events (including the promotion of these events). Applicants may apply for more than one grant in this stream, up to a total value of \$30,000 per applicant.

Recognising potential applicants may seek to hold events as early as mid-March to early-April 2020, applications in excess of \$30,000 will be considered for Stream 1 under exceptional circumstances.

Stream 2 — Will support larger events (including the promotion of these events). Applicants are advised to make their proposals scalable as they may not receive the full amount they are seeking.

Eligible activities under the Grant are, including but not limited to:

- Funding for bespoke events, concerts, festivals and/or other permanent visitor attractions such as art installations and tourist walks.
- Business events such as conferences.
- Social media, promotional and public relations activities including visitor guides, video, photography and other media to support the eligible activities.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants under the program are Local Government Authorities and Regional Tourism Organisations operating in local government areas activated by state or territory governments for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements assistance for the 2019-20 bushfire season.

Individual organisations are not eligible to apply.

Applying for a Grant

Local Government Authorities and Regional Tourism Organisations have been formally invited to apply online. Applicants are strongly encouraged to partner with other eligible organisations within their region to lodge joint applications. Applicants are also encouraged to partner with community and industry groups where relevant.

Stream 1 — Applications will be assessed as they are submitted. Applications close 5:00pm (AEDT) Friday, 20 November 2020.

Stream 2 — Applications will be assessed following the close date. Applications close 5:00pm (AEDT) Friday, 20 March 2020.

If your organisation has not been formally invited we encourage you to partner with an eligible organisation. A list of eligible organisations can be found in the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants Program Guidelines at www.austrade.gov.au/bushfirerecovery

Applications

Applications must be submitted online via the SmartyGrants portal. A preview of the application form for both Stream 1 and Stream 2 is available at www.austrade.gov.au/bushfirerecovery. If you are not listed as an eligible applicant, you may wish to review the application form before consulting with a potential partner organisation.

Assessment

The Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment the Hon. Simon Birmingham has appointed an expert panel to work with eligible organisations and encourage partnerships in tourism regions. The Panel will also provide advice to the Austrade Delegate on assessments for Stream 1 and Stream 2 applications.

Applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria and an overall demonstration of value for money. Stream 2 is a semi-competitive round and applications will be assessed on merit and considered need and impact in different areas.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

1. Project alignment with program objectives and outcomes (50 points)
2. Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project (50 points)
3. Overall demonstration of value for money.

Questions

For Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant Program enquiries please contact Tourism Programs by phone on 1800 048 155 or by email at rtbr@austrade.gov.au