



Australian Government

Austrade

an initiative of the

**National Bushfire
Recovery Agency**

Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility

1. How do I apply for a grant?

Eligible applicants will be invited to apply by email. The email will include a link to the application form on Smarty Grants. Applications for the program opened at 2pm on 17 February 2020.

2. Who can apply?

For Stream 1, local government authorities (LGAs) and regional tourism organisations (RTOs) operating in local government areas activated by the state/territory governments for Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for the 2019-20 fire season. These entities will be listed in Annexure A of the guidelines.

For Stream 2, local government authorities and regional tourism organisations (in NSW the RTOs are the Destination Networks) operating in local government areas eligible for Category D assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for the 2019-20 fire season. Category D. This category is applied in exceptional circumstances where assistance is required beyond categories, A, B, and C. Eligible entities will be listed in Annexure B of the guidelines.

3. Why are individual businesses or community groups not eligible?

LGAs and RTOs know their community. They are well placed to co-ordinate and prioritise proposals for events and attractions from community groups and businesses. Individual businesses and community groups are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the relevant local government authority or regional tourism organisations, however the eligible applicant will have the final decision on which project to seek funding through the program.

4. Can I apply for both streams?

If your organisation meets the eligibility criteria of both Stream 1 and Stream 2, and received an invitation letter accordingly, you can apply for both streams. You can apply for a capped amount in Stream 1 for as many applications as you wish as long as the total does not exceed \$30,000. In Stream 2 only one application can be submitted but it can contain multiple projects.

5. As an RTO or local council, do I make an application on behalf of community groups or event organisers and administer funding?

Yes. Indicative application forms that you can provide to community groups/event organisers to enable them to assist in application preparation are available at austrade.gov.au/bushfirerecovery.

6. How have you contacted eligible applicants?

Eligible applicants were invited to apply by Austrade via email. A list of eligible applicants is available in the guidelines at Annexure A for Stream 1 and Annexure B for Stream 2.

Eligible applicants have also been provided with a link to the application portal for the relevant stream.

7. What happens if an entity is eligible after applications open?

If an entity becomes eligible during the application process Austrade will invite the entity to apply.

8. What happens if an entity's category of DRFA assistance changes during the application process and assessment process for Stream 2 applicants?

For Stream 2 if an eligible entity is no longer entitled to Category D assistance the entity will not be eligible to submit an application and will be advised by Austrade. If an entity becomes ineligible after applications close during the assessment period the application will not continue to be assessed and will be ineligible. If this occurs you will be notified by Austrade.

9. As an RTO applicant does my event or project need to be within the bushfire declared LGAs within my area?

Yes, as the intent of the program is to bring visitors back to impacted regions.

Submitting applications

10. Can I submit more than one application under Stream 1 and 2?

For Stream 1, you can submit multiple applications up to \$30,000 per eligible applicant. For Stream 2, you can only submit one application. Austrade recommends you include multiple events, projects and/or partners for your region in Stream 2 applications (if possible).

11. Can I submit a late application if my entity becomes eligible after applications close?

No, if an entity becomes eligible after applications close the entity cannot submit a late application.

12. Can my application include multiple projects or events?

Yes, one application can include different events or projects. You will need to clearly identify in the application form the different activities or events you are seeking funding for and respond to the assessment criteria for each different event or project. For Stream 2, we also recommend each project or event is scalable.

13. If I am partnering with another organisation, should they be listed in my application?

Yes. Any organisations you are partnering with to administer funding (including eligible and non-eligible entities under this program) will need to be included in your application.

14. When do applications close?

Applications for Stream 1 close on 18 December 2020.

Applications for Stream 2 close on 8 May 2020.

15. How will my application be assessed?

Applications are assessed by Austrade against the eligibility and assessment criteria, with advice provided by the expert industry panel. The assessment criteria are in Section 6 of the guidelines.

16. How long will the assessment process take?

Stream 1 applications will be assessed as they are received within a timeline of 1-2 weeks. There is no comparative assessment of Stream 1 applications.

Stream 2 applications will be assessed after the closing date of 8 May 2020. The assessment process will take 4-6 weeks. All applications within Stream 2 will undergo a comparative assessment.

17. Will the assessment process take into account other shocks on the tourism industry in the region such as COVID-19?

The COVID-19 impacts are separate to the bushfires and will not be assessed in this program.

18. Who makes the final decision on grant applications?

Austrade will consider your application against the assessment criteria, including taking advice from the Expert Panel, other relevant sources and the availability of grant funds.

19. Are there any resources that can assist me to write my application?

Austrade staff are available to answer any questions about the application process and eligibility. An expert industry panel has also been appointed to work with eligible applicants and provide advice on ways to improve applications. Austrade staff and the expert panel cannot assist in actually writing the application, this must be done by the eligible entity. Austrade will also provide tips on the website on how to write a good application.

Funding

20. What types of projects will be funded under the program?

Stream 1 will support smaller scale events (including the promotion of these events), concerts, festivals and/or visitor attractions (such as art installations and tourist walks). Applicants may apply for more than one grant in this stream up to a total value of \$30,000 per applicant.

Stream 2 will support larger events (including promotion of these events), concerts, festivals and/or other visitor attractions (such as art installations and tourist walks).

\$2 million has been allocated to Stream 1 and \$7.5 million to Stream 2.

21. How much does a large scale event cost?

Smaller scale events could cost from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and larger events from \$250,000 to \$500,000. Austrade encourages you to apply for what is appropriate to your event or area.

The information you put in your application for cost needs to be backed up by statistics and evidence. Your regional tourism organisation or Destination Network, Tourism Research Australia (TRA) or Tourism Australia will be able to assist.

You can call TRA for historical data to assist in building an evidence base. If you are applying for higher amounts, you need to explain and prove why your application will generate that interest. Call TRA on 02 6272 6968 or email tourism.research@tra.gov.au.

22. Is there a maximum amount for applications under Stream 2?

No there are no amounts set. Stream 2 is a semi-competitive grant and applications will be assessed together when the round closes on 8 May 2020. The selection criteria outlined in the guidelines will be used to do a comparative assessment on each application. Projects with the greatest economic impact for bushfire affected regions will receive funding. \$7.5 million has been allocated to Stream 2.

23. Are there any requirements for matched funding?

No, matched funds are not required. Austrade encourages you to partner with other eligible entities where applicable to increase the available funds for the project. You can also partner with non-eligible entities to help assist to deliver the project. Austrade can only fund projects submitted by eligible entities.

24. Are grant payments subject to GST?

Yes, where applicable Austrade will add GST to your grant payment further information is covered in the guidelines at Section 10.4.

Eligible expenditure

25. Can I apply for funding from another Commonwealth or state/territory government program for the same project?

Yes, provided the funding from the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant is not used for the same activities or items that are funded under a different program.

26. Can I apply for a grant under the program if I have received another Commonwealth grant for bushfire assistance for my project?

Yes, provided the funding from the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recover Grant is not used for the same activities or items that are funded under another bushfire assistance program.

27. Can my application be for a marketing campaign?

No, however you can have reasonable marketing and promotional costs as part of a project (such as promoting an event or marketing for a visitor attraction).

28. Are business events famils eligible activities?

Business conferences and events are eligible but business events famils are not.

29. Can I do renovations on buildings?

No, these are ineligible activities under the guidelines.

30. Are industry development initiatives eligible under Stream 2

Industry development initiatives may be eligible if they directly relate to eligible activities such as events, concerts, festivals and/or other visitor attractions. Applicants would also need to demonstrate how the initiative meets the objectives of the program.

Successful applicants

31. If I am successful, will I receive the grant in one lump sum payment?

Payments up front will be made based on the level of complexity for the project. An initial amount of grant funding (dependant on the cost of the project) will be paid on executing the funding agreement. The remaining funds will be paid after Austrade has accepted the final report for the project.

32. When can I commence work on my project?

Once the funding agreement has been signed, work can commence. Any work carried out prior to the funding agreement being signed will not be funded.

33. When does my project need to be complete?

All projects under Stream 1 and Stream 2 must be complete by 28 February 2022.