

Tasmanian Bushfires 2018 - 2019 Economic and Community Recovery Initiative

Guidelines for Economic and Community Recovery Grants

OVERVIEW

The Tasmanian Government is providing grants to eligible organisations as part of an Economic and Community Recovery Initiative. This initiative is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments under the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018*.

Grants may be provided under the program to eligible organisations for projects and initiatives that will assist the communities most affected by the Tasmanian Bushfires of December 2018 and January 2019.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the Economic and Community Recovery Grants are, to:

- support current economic and community recovery needs;
- revitalise the local economy; and
- build community resilience and capacity to respond to and recover from future disasters.

ELIGIBILITY

The following organisations are eligible to apply:

- local government agencies and bodies;
- incorporated, non-profit organisations; and
- businesses with an Australian Business Number.

Eligible organisations may partner with community groups that do not meet the eligibility requirements.

Projects/initiatives must:

- relate to the declared natural disaster – the *Tasmanian Bushfires of December 2018 and January 2019*; and
- benefit affected communities in one or more of the following local government areas: West Coast, Derwent Valley, Central Highlands and Huon Valley.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications must address the following criteria:

1. The level of impact the project/initiative will have in relation to one or more of the Economic and Community Recovery Grants key objectives.
2. Value for money. The budget must accurately reflect the scope and scale of the project/initiative. (Where a project/initiative is co-funded, the applicant must be able to provide evidence of sufficient funding to successfully deliver the project/initiative).

3. How the project addresses a demonstrated community need.
4. The capacity of the applicant to successfully deliver the project/initiative within the stated timeframes.

Preference will be given to projects/ initiatives that:

- have clear and demonstrable outcomes for the community and local economy;
- provide evidence of the extent of community support;
- provide an economic benefit to the community;
- involve collaboration between multiple organisations and community groups; and
- build knowledge or capabilities within the community that support community resilience for future disasters.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the appropriate Economic and Community Recovery Grants application form:

- Application Form A – Grants up to \$10,000; or
- Application Form B – Grants over \$10,000.

Submit the completed application form and any supporting documentation to:

Bushfire Recovery Taskforce
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: recovery@dpac.tas.gov.au

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Eligible applications will be assessed against the criteria defined in these Guidelines.

The grants program is a competitive process and applications that meet the assessment criteria are not guaranteed funding. A specific amount of \$500 000 in funding has been made available for the Economic and Community Recovery Grants program and successful applicants may receive partial funding rather than the full amount requested.

PROJECT TIMEFRAMES

Projects up to \$10,000 must be completed and expenditure incurred prior to 30 June 2020.

Projects over \$10,000 must be completed and expenditure incurred prior to 31 December 2020.



Extensions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and no extensions will be granted past 30 June 2021.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients must submit quarterly progress and expenditure reports, as well as a final report on completion, to the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce, Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Taskforce may also request additional information or reports at any time.

It is expected that applications will contain project milestones. Progress against milestones must be included in the application or project plan and form part of the quarterly progress report.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Australian and Tasmanian Governments must agree on the nature and content of any public announcements relating to projects/initiatives funded through this grant program.

All public announcements, including promotional material and social media postings, must acknowledge that the project/initiative has been jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments under the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018*.

Organisations should contact the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce by emailing recovery@dpac.tas.gov.au or phoning 1800 567 567 before making any of the following public announcements:

- initial announcements of eligible projects/initiatives;
- subsequent media releases; and
- media events.

EXCLUSIONS

Grants will not be provided for:

- environmental initiatives;
- revenue loss as a result of the bushfires;
- regular day-to-day activities of the organisation or the maintenance of assets;
- projects and initiatives that require ongoing funding;
- projects that duplicate existing initiatives; or
- expenditure for which organisations would have been liable had the bushfires not occurred (for example, employment costs, rent and utilities).

These grants are not intended to replace insurance or to compensate for losses or the full extent of damage.

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

Funding agreements will be based on the information contained in the application, including any supporting documentation provided.

After grants are offered, applicants may be required to provide further details on project budgets and work plans before an agreement is signed.

Grant recipients must provide quarterly progress and expenditure reports and a final report of the project. Grant recipients must also keep evidence of all financial transactions related to the project for audit purposes. These records may be requested up to three years after the project has been completed.

Funding may be paid upfront or in instalments, depending on the project value. Any unspent monies must be returned to the Tasmanian Government.

Funding may be terminated by the Tasmanian Government if the recipient fails to adhere to the conditions of the funding agreement.

CLOSING DATE

Applications must be submitted by close of business on 7 June 2019.

Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback on their application by contacting the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce by email at recovery@dpac.tas.gov.au or by phoning 1800 567 567.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions about the program or your eligibility to apply, or require assistance completing an application form, please contact the Bushfire Recovery Taskforce by phoning 1800 567 567 or emailing recovery@dpac.tas.gov