



RURAL FINANCE

## BUSHFIRES 2009

### CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION GRANT PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The Clean-up and Restoration Grants provide one-off grants to primary producers who have suffered direct physical damage as a result of the bushfires in Victoria, for clean-up, removal of debris, animal welfare and business restoration. The grants comprise two components, an initial grant of up to \$5,000 and a supplementary grant of up to \$20,000.

The grants are not intended to replace the need for insurance and are not intended to provide compensation for losses. Insurance payments will not affect eligibility for the initial grant but will be taken into account in the assessment of the supplementary grant.

All claims for assistance are assessed on an individual basis. An invoice and receipt relating to expenditure of the grant does not need to be submitted for the initial payment but should be retained for submission on request and certainly prior to the payment of any supplementary grant, the expenditure of which will need to be supported by the submission of invoices.

#### Eligibility

The Clean-up and Restoration Grants are a discretionary payment and although not income tested are based on the needs of the applicant which must be demonstrated through an assessment process.

Primary producers must have suffered direct damage as a result of the 2009 Victorian bushfires. This may include damage to farm buildings, crops, pasture, stock, fencing and/or tools of trade (e.g. equipment, plant).

An eligible primary producer is one who is registered as a primary producer with the Australian Tax Office, has an ABN and:

- has a right or interest in land for the purpose of primary production
- contributes a significant part of his/her labour and capital to the farming enterprise, and
- derives more than 51% of his/her individual income from the farming enterprise. This means that in a normal year the farm represents the applicant's major income source.

Lifestyle or hobby farmers are **not** eligible for assistance.

#### Purpose

The Clean-up and Restoration Grants can assist with:

- clean-up costs including hire of equipment, materials and external labour
- removal and disposal of debris, dead stock and damaged goods and materials
- payment for tradespersons to conduct safety inspections
- repairs to buildings (other than housing)
- fencing not covered by any other assistance
- health maintenance for livestock
- purchase of fodder (not covered by other assistance)
- reconditioning/repairing essential plant and equipment
- purchase or hire/lease costs for equipment essential to the immediate resumption of farming
- water cartage

*Continued over page...*

## Grant Entitlements

The amount of each Clean-up and Restoration Grant is based on need. An initial maximum of \$5,000 is available for immediate clean-up and/or stock welfare. A supplementary grant of up to \$20,000 is available following a more detailed assessment which is subject to a separate application.

Payments are made by cheque or direct credit to the primary producer's nominated bank account.

## Conditions of Clean-up and Restoration Grant Assessments

Applications must be made within 6 months of the impact of the bushfires.

Any applicant found to provide information of a fraudulent nature may be liable to prosecution and will be required to repay the grant.

## Applying for a Grant

To apply for the initial grant of up to \$5,000, a *Bushfire Application Initial Clean-up and Restoration Grant – Primary Producers* will need to be completed.

To apply for the supplementary grant of up to \$20,000 the *Bushfire Application Supplementary Grant – Primary Producers* should be completed. A detailed assessment of this application may be undertaken by an officer of Rural Finance.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

Rural Finance  
PO Box 1313  
Bendigo Central 3552  
Ph: 1800 255 925  
Fax: (03) 5441 8901  
Email: [admin@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralfinance.com.au)

## Other Forms of Assistance

The Clean-up and Restoration Grants are part of the overall recovery process and there may be other assistance, information or services available for affected landholders. To find out more information contact the State Emergency Service Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

## Further Information

For more information about the Clean-up and Restoration Grants contact Rural Finance:

### Head Office

57 View St, Bendigo 3550  
Ph: 1800 255 925  
Fax: 03 5441 8901  
Email: [admin@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:admin@ruralfinance.com.au)

[www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au)