



RURAL FINANCE

## BUSHFIRES 2009

### BUSHFIRE ASSISTANCE LOANS SMALL BUSINESSES & PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Concessional loans are available to primary producers and small businesses whose properties have suffered loss or damage as a result of the physical impact of bushfires in the 2009 fire season.

The loans are administered by Rural Finance.

Any application for loan assistance will have regard for insurance recoveries and the financial resources available to affected applicants.

Loans will generally be limited to \$200,000. Adequate security will be required for any lending.

Application fees will not apply.

#### LOANS FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Loans can be considered for commercial primary producers who have suffered losses as a result of the physical impact of bushfire damage to their property and who are assessed to be in need of concessional financial assistance. Each case will be assessed on its merits.

Primary producers will need to demonstrate that the majority of their time and capital are devoted to the farming operation and in normal circumstances the major portion of their income is derived from farming. The farming business should have reasonable prospects of returning to profitable trading including a capacity to service borrowings.

Rural Finance will work closely with the banking sector to develop suitable financial packages to meet individual requirements.

Loans may be made for the replacement of lost or damaged structures, livestock, fodder and equipment as well as essential working capital finance to assist the recovery process.

Loans will attract interest at 3.2% per annum for an initial period not exceeding five years. At the end of the initial period, loans for purposes other than working capital may be extended for a further period of up to ten years, but the interest rate on any extended loan will be subject to review and will be set at, or close to, commercial interest rates prevailing at that time.



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## LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Finance can be considered for small businesses that are assessed to be in need of concessional financial assistance as a result of losses or damage caused by the physical impact of bushfire. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that the business has reasonable prospects of trading profitably in the future including a capacity to service borrowings. Each case will be assessed on its merits.

Rural Finance will work closely with the banking sector to develop suitable packages to meet individual requirements and would expect to share any funding requirements with the normal provider of finance.

Applicants may be sole owners, partnerships or owners of private companies where the major portion of their income is derived from the business and who substantially devote their time and capital to the conduct of the business.

Loans will attract interest at 3.2% per annum for an initial period not exceeding five years. At the end of the initial period, loans for purposes other than working capital may be extended for a further period of up to ten years, but the interest rate on any extended loan will be subject to review and will be set at, or close to, commercial interest rates prevailing at that time.

## PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

Affected parties seeking a Bushfire Assistance Loan should contact the Rural Finance head office or access the website [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) (under Government Schemes) to obtain an application form and any further information. Completed applications should be forwarded to Rural Finance at the address below.

If required, a Rural Finance officer will be in contact for a further discussion, which may include a personal interview or on-site visit.

## Rural Finance Office

### HEAD OFFICE

57 View Street, Bendigo  
PO Box 1313  
Bendigo Central 3552

Ph: **1800 255 925**

Ph: 03 5448 2600

Fax: 03 5441 8901

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Australian Government