RURAL FINANCE

Victorian Horticulture Producer Storm Recovery Grants 2026

APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE READ THE PROGRAM GUIDELINES PRIOR TO COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION

1. Program Summary

The Victorian Horticulture Producer Storm Recovery Grants program provides assistance for horticulture producers directly impacted by the North-West Victorian Storms, which occurred in early March 2026, to assist with the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of the horticulture production enterprise.

How the application works:

Eligible horticulture producers can apply for a grant of up to $25,000 (excluding GST). The funding is available in two stages:

Tier 1: Initial Application

Funding Available	Evidence Required
Up to $5,000	To support your initial claim, you only need to provide evidence of direct damage and a description of the eligible recovery activities you have undertaken or plan to undertake. Proof of payment is not required at this stage but ensure you retain it for Tier 2 claims or audit requests.

Tier 2: Subsequent Claims

Funding Available	Evidence Required
Up to $20,000	To access this funding, you must provide full evidence of payment for all claimed expenses. This includes providing proof of payment for items claimed in your Tier 1 application (up to $5,000), plus any new items.

Please read the Program Guidelines and refer to eligible Local Government Areas on the Rural Finance website at ruralfinance.com.au before completing this form.

2. How To Apply

You can **apply online** through the Rural Finance website at www.ruralfinance.com.au

If you are unable to submit an application online, please submit this completed application form and supporting documents to Rural Finance via:

Email: admin@ruralfinance.com.au or **Post:** Rural Finance, PO Box 1313, Bendigo Central 3552

Please contact Rural Finance if you have any questions on 1800 260 425.

3. Application Checklist

To avoid any delay in the processing of your application, please ensure you have provided all the information listed below.

- **A.** ☐ **Proof of Photo ID –** Such as valid Drivers Licence, Passport, Heavy Vehicle Licence
- **B.** ☐ **Proof of Property Location** – e.g. copy of latest Council Rates, lease documentation, share-farming contract, or other contract that confirms the place where the Horticulture Production Enterprise is operating
- **C.** ☐ **Proof of Income –** Latest available Tax Return or Financial Statements for your Horticulture Production Enterprise
- **D.** ☐ **Proof of direct impact from the March 2026 North-West Victorian Storms –** Supporting documents such as photos (jpeg or gif only) and description of direct storm impacts (refer to section 9 of this form)

If you are applying for a grant amount above $5,000 (Tier 2 funding) and already have invoices for claims, please attach evidence of expenditure:

- **E.** ☐ **Proof of expenditure –** Tax Invoices, as well as evidence of payment (e.g. bank transfer(s) and/or bank statement(s) with any relevant official receipt(s) from suppliers or contractors)

4. Business Details

Business/Trading Entity Name: **ABN:**

Sole Trader ☐ **Partnership** ☐ **Private Company** ☐ **Trust** ☐

Industry (e.g. Fruit, Vegetable, Nuts, please specify):

Gross Annual Income: **Property Size (Ha):** **Number of Employees:**

Years of Operation:

Farm Property Address:

Suburb: **Postcode:** **Local Government Area (Shire):**

5. Associated Contacts

Given Name(s): **Surname:**

Your role in the business (e.g. Sole Trader, Partner, Director, Manager etc):

Residential Address:

Postal Address (if different to residential address):

Telephone: **Mobile:**

Email:

Secondary Contact Name: **Mobile:**

Secondary Contact Email:

Have you previously applied for this grant? ☐ Yes ☐ No **Reference Number (If yes):**

6. Third-Party Authorisation (if applicable)

Name: **Financial Counsellor** ☐ **Accountant** ☐ **Lawyer** ☐

Telephone: **Mobile:** **Email:**

Do you allow for this Third-Party contact to receive correspondence relating to your application: ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. How you meet the Eligibility Criteria

Have you read and understood the Program Guidelines associated with this program?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is your horticulture production enterprise located in the defined disaster area for the eligible disaster and has suffered direct damage as a result of the eligible disaster?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Do you devote part of your labour to the horticulture production enterprise?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Do you derive at least 50% of your gross income from the horticulture production enterprise in an average year or do you generate more than $75,000 gross income from the horticulture production enterprise in an average year?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does your business hold a current Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the disaster (March 2026)?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Were you engaged in carrying on the horticulture production enterprise when affected by the disaster?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are you primarily responsible for meeting the costs claimed in the application?	☐ Yes	☐ No

8. How you meet the Eligibility Criteria (continued)

Do you believe you may be eligible on another basis in line with the Program Guidelines (for example 4.2 or 4.3 of the Guidelines)? If yes, please outline here:

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Direct Damage Caused to the Horticulture Production Enterprise

Please describe the direct damages to your horticulture production enterprise that occurred as a result of the disaster. This section should be accompanied by photos confirming the damage where possible.

10. List of costs to be incurred as a result of the disaster

Please refer to the Program Guidelines from more information about how the grant funding can be used to help pay for the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of your horticulture production enterprise.

A total of up to three claims may be submitted up to the maximum grant amount available. Should an initial application be for less than the maximum grant amount, up to two additional claims may be submitted. Any additional claims will be considered by Rural Finance on a case-by-case basis.

Grant claims can only be for costs that are not covered by insurance or other government programs.

ACTIVITIES AND WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO REINSTATE THE HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION ENTERPRISE ***(please list activities, including explanatory notes where required).***	
Activities:	Cost: ($ - Excluding GST)
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
Estimated Total Costs:	**$** 0
Total Grant Amount Sought:	**$**

11. Insurance

Has a claim for insurance been made in relation to direct damage caused by the disaster?

☐ Yes – please summarise claim below

☐ No – please indicate why below:

☐ Uninsured

☐ My/Our policy does not provide cover for the items damaged or damage caused by the disaster

12. Bank Details

Account Name:

Bank: **BSB:** **-** **Account No:**

NOTE: Please ensure bank details are correct as this is where your grant funds will be paid.

13. Privacy Consent and Declaration

We, Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria, are collecting your personal information to process your application for the Victorian Horticulture Producer Storm Recovery Grant. We will use the personal information you have provided to assess your eligibility for assistance against the scheme criteria and provide the assistance to you if applicable and for reporting, publicity, evaluation and audit purposes. You do not have to provide this information, but failure to do so means Rural Finance which is a brand used by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd ABN 11 068 049 178 ("Rural Finance") and/or Agriculture Victoria will not be able to assess your application. You authorise Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria to obtain in connection with this Application, any personal and other information about your expenditure and your business including your assets, liabilities, income and/or expenditure from third parties (e.g. your accountant).

Your personal information will be managed by Agriculture Victoria in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic.) and other applicable laws. For copies of the Privacy Policy or information on how each of Rural Finance and Agriculture Victoria manages privacy, including handling complaints, please refer to: foi.unit@deeca.vic.gov.au and/or www.deeca.vic.gov.au/doing-business-with-us/information-privacy documents. You have a right to access the personal information we hold about you and can request access to or correction of your personal information. To make a complaint contact Rural Finance by telephone on 1800 260 425, by email to admin@ruralfinance.com.au or by post at PO Box 1313, Bendigo Central, VIC, 3552. Your personal information is not disclosed to overseas recipients; however may be disclosed to staff in other divisions of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd.

By submitting an application as a sole trader, trust, partnership or private company, I have the authority to make this application on its behalf and do solemnly and sincerely declare that this application is true and correct in every particular and in accordance with the Program Guidelines. I make this declaration with the understanding that if the application is found to be untrue or misleading the matter may be referred to law enforcement and penalties may apply.

Full name:

Signature:

Date: