



RURAL FINANCE

DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS VICTORIA – BUSHFIRES 2019

SOUTH EAST VICTORIA BUSHFIRE CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION GRANTS

GRANT PURPOSE

The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to primary producers located in the local government areas of Baw Baw, Cardinia and Latrobe that were impacted by the bushfires which occurred in February/March 2019. The grant can be used to fund the cost of clean-up and recovery.

GRANT DETAILS

The maximum grant support available under this program is \$10,000.

This grant may be used to cover the expenditure involved in clean up and reinstatement of the entity, not covered through any other form of assistance, including the following items:

- equipment and materials to undertake clean-up.
- additional labour costs (above and beyond normal wage expenditure).
- disposing of damaged goods and injured or dead stock.
- cost of disposal.
- repairs to buildings (other than housing).
- fencing.
- reconditioning/repairing essential plant and equipment.
- replacement of deceased livestock.
- salvaging, or re-establishing pastures and/or fodder crops (e.g. seed and fertiliser).
- health maintenance for livestock and poultry.
- purchase of fodder.
- purchase or hire/lease costs for equipment essential to the immediate resumption of farming.
- replacement of essential water used by fire fighting.
- water cartage.

Compensation for lost income or amounts claimed under the Victorian Government State Coordinated Cleanup Program are not an eligible item for grant assistance.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for assistance under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements the primary producer must:

- have suffered the direct impact of the Bushfires that commenced February / March 2019
- be located in one of the following local Government areas; Baw Baw, Cardinia or Latrobe.
- have a right or interest in the land property affected by the bushfires (ownership or lease)
- be classified as a primary producer (refer to definitions)
- be responsible for the cost of bushfire repairs
- have re-established the primary production enterprise in the same area or intend to.

Primary producers who have applied for Concessional Loans are not precluded from eligibility.

Please note: In the case of leased land, only one grant may be paid. Under these circumstances a joint application by the owner and the lessee is to be lodged.

Grants are not intended to replace the need for insurance or to provide compensation for loss of revenue:

- Any items (as noted above) that have been covered by an insurance claim are not eligible for a grant; and
- Any grant for work that is subsequently covered by an insurance claim is to be repaid.

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

The grants are administered by Rural Finance in line with the joint State and Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

DEFINITIONS

Primary Producer

An eligible primary producer is one who:

- is registered as a primary producer with the Australian Tax Office and has an ABN,
- has a right or interest in the land for the purpose of primary production,
- contributes a significant part of his/her labour and capital to the farming enterprise, and under **normal business conditions**, derives more than 51% of his/her individual income from the farming enterprise and therefore is running a bona-fide commercial scale operation. As a guide it is anticipated that farm turnover would exceed \$50,000 per annum under normal business conditions.

Normal Business Conditions

Normal business conditions refers to a year with no adverse climatic conditions (drought/flood/fire) in which average yields/productivity is achieved. Normal year income is based on this productivity and long term achievable commodity prices.

APPLICATION AND PAYMENT PROCESS

To apply for the grant, a *South East Victoria Bushfire (2019) – Grant Application* form will need to be completed and lodged.

The completed application including the signed Statutory Declaration together with:

- supporting documents including photographs and/or other evidence of fire damage, and
- tax invoices and/or receipts to support the expenditure claimed.

Applicants may seek 'In-Principle Approval' before expenditure is committed by lodging the application without tax invoices or receipts. However, these documents must be submitted before any payment is released.

GST is excluded from any grant payment.

Payments are made by direct credit to the applicant's nominated bank account.

Completed form and attachments are to be forwarded to:

Rural Finance

PO Box 1313

Bendigo Central 3552 or governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au

Applications must be submitted by **31 May 2020**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained via

Ph: 1800 260 425

Email: governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au

Fax: (03) 5441 8901

Website: www.ruralfinance.com.au

Further financial support to assist primary producers to recover from the bushfire may be available via a Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement Concessional Loan. Please refer to the Rural Finance Website for more information.