

Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program?

- On 1 July 2021, the Australian Government announced the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants program to support the medium to long-term recovery of communities affected by the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.
 - The total funding for this Program is \$ \$391 million.
- The objectives of the Program are to:
 - support recovery and resilience of communities impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires, and
 - build stronger communities by supporting social, economic and built environment recovery.
- [Grant Opportunity Guidelines](#) were released on 1 July 2021.
 - Grants were available in all 110 local government areas that were disaster declared as a result of the 2019-20 Black Summer fires, including the ACT and three bushfire affected alpine resort areas in Victoria.
 - Applicants could seek funding of \$20,000 to \$10 million.
 - Community groups, Indigenous organisations, councils, local businesses, and other entities, were able to apply for projects, through a competitive grants process.
- The call for applications opened on 22 July 2021 and closed on 6 October 2021.
- There was significant interest in the program with more than 1,100 applications submitted, seeking more than \$1.1 billion in funding.
- On 12 February 2022, the Australian Government announced 524 community projects would be funded under the Program.

What was the outcome of the grants program?

- A broad range of recovery and resilience projects have been supported, from social and community wellbeing projects through to support for the recovery of local economies and built environments.
- The list of successful projects is available on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) website - www.nema.gov.au/programs/2019-20-black-summer-bushfires
- The NEMA is committed to providing ongoing support to affected communities. Every local government area impacted by the Black Summer bushfire disaster will benefit in some way from the funding. This will either be through projects locally in the area, or through broader projects that cross multiple local government areas.
- We also encourage communities to engage with their local Recovery Support Officer who can help recovery and resilience in communities affected by disaster or drought. More information can be found at: www.nema.gov.au/get-support/find-recovery-support-officer#/map.



Where did the funding for these grants come from?

- The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program is 100% funded by the Australian Government under the National Bushfire Recovery Fund.
- The National Bushfire Recovery Fund is a package of measures administered by the Commonwealth by specific Commonwealth agencies and delivered through a variety of means including Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Who was eligible to apply for the grants?

- To be eligible, you needed an Australian Business Number (ABN) and to be one of the following:
 - an entity incorporated in Australia
 - a company limited by guarantee
 - an incorporated association
 - an incorporated not for profit organisation
 - a non-distributive co-operative
 - an incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
 - an Aboriginal Land Council or Indigenous Corporation registered under the [Corporations \(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander\) Act 2006](#)
 - an Australian local governing agency or body as defined in Section 15 of the Guidelines (for example, a Council);
 - Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board (ABN: 93 938 780 598), the Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board (ABN: 21 789 770 569), or the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Resort Management Board (ABN: 44 867 982 534)
 - an Australian Capital Territory government agency or body.

Who was not eligible to apply?

- You were not eligible to apply if you are:
 - an entity not included in Section 5.1 of the Guidelines
 - an individual
 - a partnership
 - a trust (however, an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
 - a Commonwealth or state government agency or body (including government business enterprises) with the exception of those entities (i.e. the three Alpine Resort Management Boards, and an Australian Capital Territory government agency or body) referred to in Section 5.1
 - a Regional Development Australia Committee



- an organisation, or your project partner is an organisation, included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme' (www.nationalredress.gov.au)
- an organisation that has been named by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency as an organisation that has not complied with [Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012](#).

How were grant applications assessed?

- All applications received were assessed in accordance with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- The Business Grants Hub undertook an initial assessment of all applications to determine eligibility. All eligible applications then underwent a thorough an evaluation and assessment process based on merit. This included:
 - how well the application met the criteria
 - how it compared to other applications
 - whether it provided value with relevant money, looking at how the project contributed to meeting the overall objectives of the grant opportunity with the grant sought.
- Recommendations for projects to fund were made to Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, then Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience. On 12 February 2022 the announcement of the successful projects was made.
- The Program is being administered in accordance with the [Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines 2017](#).

We would like to make an announcement or acknowledge the funding received – what do we do next?¹

- Grantees are not to make any public announcement, including by social media, in connection with the awarding of the grant without the prior written approval of the NEMA.

- **Announcement**

If you would like to make an announcement relating to your project funded through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, please include the following statement: "This project received grant funding from the Australian Government."

Please send proposed announcements with a request for approval to:
BSBRgrantsprogram@nema.gov.au.

If the Minister for Emergency Management, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, is being included in a media release, please provide as much notice as you can so that the announcement can be considered appropriately.

- **Acknowledgement**

If you would like to acknowledge, across the life of your project, the funding received through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program, you:

- **must** include the following statement in all content: "This project received grant funding from the Australian Government."

¹ Updated 19 September 2022



- **can** include the Commonwealth Coat of Arms on collateral or signage with the statement above, or as an alternative to the text if sizing and specs do not accommodate both.

This includes acknowledgements in all material, publications, promotional, advertising materials, brochures and social media.

For further advice, including the provision of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms and clearance of acknowledgements, direct enquiries to NEMA's Corporate Communication team at corporatecomms@nema.gov.au.

We would like to invite the Federal Minister for Emergency Management to attend an event – what do we do next?²

- You **must** notify the NEMA of events relating to your project and provide an opportunity for the Minister for Emergency Management, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, or their representative to attend.
- Please send notification of the event, including date, time, location, RSVP date and any other details to BSBRgrantsprogram@nema.gov.au and BSBR@industry.gov.au.
- Please give as much notice possible of a planned event so that we can confirm availability of representatives to attend.
- If you plan to invite your local Federal Member to an event, you **must** provide the Minister for Emergency Management, or their representative (including the NEMA through its Recovery Support Officer network), with the opportunity to also attend.

Will there be another round of Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants?

- The Program funding is now fully allocated and there are no further rounds of the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program.

² Updated 19 September 2022

