

## **BCRRF FAQs – Applicants**

### **What is the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund?**

The Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF) is provided through the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

*Phase One* (also known as the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund) was delivered in March 2020 by the Department of Regional NSW, with funds made available directly to eligible councils.

*Phase Two* funding is available in two streams by an application process through Resilience NSW.

- Eligible councils have been contacted directly regarding Stream 1, which provides funding for shorter-term projects within high and moderate social impacted local councils. Payments of \$250,000 or \$100,000 are available to these eligible councils.
- Stream 2 is aimed at delivering a competitive grants program to the broader community in bushfire-affected Local Government Areas including community groups, councils, joint organisations, NGOs, and not-for-profits. It is for social recovery and preparedness projects between \$20,000 and \$300,000. Grants will be assessed with a regional lens to maximise the recovery support to communities across local government boundaries.

Refer to the BCRRF Phase 2 Stream 1 and BCRRF Phase 2 Stream 2 guidelines for further details available at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)

### **What are the application deadlines?**

#### *Stream One*

Applications open: Tuesday 29 September 2020

Applications close: Tuesday 27 October 2020 *at midday*

*Late applications may be considered, on the condition that a request is submitted in writing to [bcrrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bcrrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au) prior to the application closure date.*

#### *Stream Two*

Applications open: Tuesday 29 September 2020

Applications close: Tuesday 10 November 2020 *at midday*

*Late applications may be considered, on the condition that a request is submitted in writing to [bcrrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bcrrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au) prior to the application closure date.*

### **How do I apply for a grant?**

Applications can be made online at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)

An application process guide is available within the online portal and at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)

### **Can I submit my application by post?**

We do not accept applications submitted via post. Applications can only be made online at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)

### **Can I make changes to my application once it has been submitted?**

Changes to your submission cannot be made after you have completed the submission. Applicants can save their application as a draft and come back to it any time prior to the closure date.

### **Can I submit an application in partnership with another organisation?**

For Stream 1 only eligible councils may apply once via the application portal. Councils may partner with organisations to deliver the BCRRF funded projects.

For Stream 2 lead organisations (the applying entity) are encouraged to partner together to design and deliver the projects.

### **How are eligible applicants for Stream 1 Funding determined?**

Eligible applicants are local councils that have been determined as priority social recovery councils and have been declared in New South Wales (NSW) relating to bushfires from 31 August 2019 onwards, and are eligible for Category C funding assistance under the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. These local councils are:

- Armidale Regional
- Bega Valley
- Blue Mountains
- Central Coast
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Dungog
- Eurobodalla
- Glen Innes Severn
- Goulburn Mulwaree
- Greater Hume
- Hawkesbury
- Kempsey
- Kyogle
- Lithgow
- MidCoast
- Mid-Western
- Nambucca
- Oberon
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Richmond Valley
- Shoalhaven
- Singleton
- Snowy Monaro
- Snowy Valleys
- Tenterfield
- Upper Lachlan
- Walcha
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly

### **How will my Stream 1 application be assessed?**

Applications will be reviewed by Resilience NSW to ensure:

- All required documentation is complete and submitted,
- Proposed projects align with funding objectives and compliance requirements outlined in the guideline.

Councils will receive notification in writing advising the total funding amount they are eligible. Funding Agreements will be drafted as soon as possible. Councils will be informed in writing on the status of their application.

### **When will I be notified of the outcome of my Stream 1 application?**

Funding will be distributed as quickly as possible dependent on the funding agreement process between Resilience NSW and the receiving council.

### **How are eligible applicants for Stream 2 Funding determined?**

Eligible applicants, referred to as lead organisations, are:

- incorporated non-government organisations including not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, business chambers and industry groups/peak bodies,
- local councils,
- joint organisations of council, and
- unincorporated community groups auspiced by an organisation that is eligible to apply in their own right

Eligible lead organisations must be located within, operate within or intend to deliver the project to a NSW declared LGA(s) relating to bushfires from 31 August 2019 onwards.

### **If my Stream 2 application includes more than one entity, which should be named as the applicant?**

The applicant should be the partnership name which will be referred to as the lead organisation and to whom grant payments will be made.

One lead organisation can be nominated with acknowledgement of the partnering entities.

### **How will my Stream 2 application be assessed?**

Resilience NSW staff make an initial eligibility assessment of applications. Clarification may be sought from applicants to confirm eligibility.

A Regional panel will assess the applications and make recommendations to Resilience NSW. The Assessment Panel for each region may comprise of representatives from:

- Resilience NSW,
- Regional NSW,
- the Bushfire Regional Recovery Committee or sub-committees for the respective bushfire recovery region or equivalent

Assessment will be reviewed by Regional Panels. Please refer to the guidelines for which regional panel your LGA / LGAs that the proposed project is intended to be delivered in sits within.

**When will I be notified of the outcome of my Stream 2 application?**

Assessment and approval expected in late November, early December 2020.

**When will funds be distributed for a successful Stream 2 application?**

Funds will be disbursed to successful applicants as agreed in the funding agreement and may be received in instalments during the delivery period.

**Where can I get more information on BCRRF?**

Interested applicants are advised for complete details to refer to the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Phase Two Stream 1 Guidelines and Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Phase Two Stream 2 Guidelines available at [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au).

For further information and technical queries relating to the application form and process please contact Resilience NSW via email at [bcrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bcrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au).