



**National Bushfire
Recovery Agency**



**BUSHFIRE RECOVERY
VICTORIA**

LOCAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

**a guide to your
application**

WHAT'S THE LER PROGRAM?

The \$68.6 million Local Economic Recovery (LER) program is jointly funded by the Australian & Victorian Governments and will fund local projects vital for community recovery, support economic stimulus projects, and boost industry and jobs across bushfire-affected regions.

"Bushfire affected communities have suffered from multiple disasters this year, but we're determined to support local ideas and help these communities come out the other side better. Decisions about where this funding goes will continue to be shaped and influenced by the communities that stand to benefit."



**Commonwealth
Minister for
Agriculture,
Drought and
Emergency
Management
David Littleproud**

"We're putting the call out for big ideas to boost industry, infrastructure and tourism, and we're also putting the call out for those smaller, local community projects which build a sense of community pride and connectedness, and encourage visitors to stop by town and shop locally."



**Victorian
Minister for
Police and
Emergency
Services,
Lisa Neville**

WHERE WILL FUNDING GO?

After extensive consultation with local communities, the Australian and Victorian Governments have allocated the available funding across two streams - a local community stream and a regional economic stream:

LOCAL COMMUNITY STREAM

\$26.6 million Local Community Project Grants

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STREAM

\$34 million Regional Economic Stimulus & Resilience Grants

\$8 million Regional Economic Programs Fund

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

PURPOSE

These grants have been established to support local community recovery by funding projects that are important to achieving the aspirations and priorities of local communities. Objectives include:

- increase economic and social benefits through enabling infrastructure
- increase employment opportunities and decrease skills shortages
- increase the capacity of the business community by enhancing employment, business and economic opportunities with a focus on tourism and primary industries, including small businesses
- increase and restore visitor confidence in the region
- improve community wellbeing
- restore or improve the natural environment
- promote Aboriginal participation and ownership; protect and enhance Aboriginal culture, and more - see full guidelines

TIMEFRAMES

Five shovel-ready projects supported by communities were approved in September 2020. There will be three further rounds of funding applications:

Round 1: \$5.3 million

Grants open: **29 October 2020**
Grants close: **30 November 2020**
Grants awarded: **January 2021**

Round 2: \$14.6 million

Grants open: **15 March 2021**
Grants close: **12 April 2021**
Grants awarded: **May 2021**

Round 3: \$5.3 million

Grants open: **26 July 2021**
Grants close: **23 August 2021**
Grants awarded: **October 2021**

TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

\$26.6 million

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER GRANT

\$2 million

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

(Continued)

ELIGIBLE AREAS

- East Gippsland Shire
- Wellington Shire
- Towong Shire
- Alpine Shire
- Indigo Shire
- Mansfield Shire
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- Wodonga City
- Falls Creek Alpine Resort
- Mount Hotham Alpine Resort
- Mount Buller & Mount Stirling Alpine Resort

ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

- Community Recovery Committee (CRC)
- Local Government Authority and Alpine Resort Management Board
- not-for-profit organisation, including community groups that are an incorporated body, cooperative, association or social enterprise
- private sector businesses
- business and industry groups, including chambers of commerce and business associations, industry peak bodies, business and industry clusters and networks.
- utility and services providers and water corporations
- TAFE institution and university
- public/private partnership, through an incorporated entity
- other organisation agreed between the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and the Victorian Government.
- an auspice organisation (when a larger organisation assists a smaller organisation to fund a project.)

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Eligible projects must directly benefit one or more local communities within a fire affected region and align with one or more of the following LER Program categories:

- **Enabling infrastructure:** New infrastructure and functionality enhancements or upgrades to existing infrastructure including betterment.
- **Industry and business development:** Initiatives supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, business retention, development of regional specialisations, economic diversification, expansion and attraction, capacity building, workforce participation, skills development, small business development, and local and regional industry networks.
- **Social development:** Community development and wellbeing, social support or social development initiatives.
- **Natural environment and resource development:** Natural resource restoration and environmental improvement initiatives.
- **Built environment adaptation:** Disaster risk reduction through adapting the built environment to future climate and natural hazard conditions.
- **Aboriginal Culture and Healing:** Initiatives that value and respect aboriginal culture and promote Aboriginal participation and ownership.

LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANTS

(Continued)

HOW TO APPLY

View the guidelines

The full guidelines at www.br.vic.gov.au spell out all the criteria for this program. Bushfire Recovery Victoria administer these grants.

Speak to BRV

BRV can discuss your proposal with you. You can register your interest and request a call from a BRV staff member by visiting www.br.vic.gov.au.

Prepare application

Applications open soon at www.br.vic.gov.au. There are a number of steps you have to undertake as part of your application. Support is available by contacting BRV (details below).

HOW YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED

- **Local community benefit:** Applicants must explain how the project addresses a need of one or more communities that has arisen due to the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires, including a description of how the fires have impacted on the community targeted by the project - and more.
- **Local participation and support:** Applicants must demonstrate that the project is supported by the community (for example, through letter/s of support from the Community Recovery Committees or Municipal Recovery Committee) - and more.
- **Alignment with recovery plans:** Applicants must demonstrate how the project aligns to and supports one or more of the medium-long term recovery needs identified in the State Recovery Plan, Community Recovery Plan or Municipal Recovery Plans - and more
- **Long term outcomes:** Applicants must demonstrate clearly how the proposed project will achieve positive long-term outcomes for a bushfire affected community - and more.
- **Project feasibility and delivery:** Applicants must demonstrate: how the project will be delivered and anticipated completion date, that project costs are accurate and reasonable - and more.

CONTACT BRV

Visit the Local Economic Recovery Page at www.br.vic.gov.au to view the guidelines, book an appointment, or contact us:

- www.br.vic.gov.au
- 1800 560 760
- connect@br.vic.gov.au

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RESILIENCE GRANTS

PURPOSE

These grants have been established to support regional economic recovery by stimulating economic growth and building economic resilience in bushfire affected regions. Objectives include:

- increase economic and social benefits through enabling infrastructure
- increase employment opportunities and decrease skills shortages
- increase the capacity of the business community by enhancing employment, business and economic opportunities with a focus on tourism and primary industries, including small business or other sectors
- increase business capability, including Aboriginal businesses
- increase longer term resilience for future emergency events
- increase and restore visitor confidence in the region
- protect and enhance Aboriginal culture, and support participation and ownership, and more - see full guidelines

TIMEFRAMES

The program will be delivered through a single competitive round.

Applications open 29 October 2020

Applications close 10 December 2020

Grants awarded January 2021

TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

\$34 million

MAXIMUM FUNDING PER GRANT

\$5 million

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RESILIENCE GRANTS (Continued)

ELIGIBLE AREAS

- East Gippsland Shire
- Wellington Shire
- Towong Shire
- Alpine Shire
- Indigo Shire
- Mansfield Shire
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- Wodonga City
- Falls Creek Alpine Resort
- Mount Hotham Alpine Resort
- Mount Buller & Mount Stirling Alpine Resort

ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

- Local Government Authority and Alpine Resort Management Board
- industry organisation
- private sector businesses, including Aboriginal organisations, sole traders, micro and small businesses
- business and industry groups, including chambers of commerce and business associations, industry peak bodies, business and industry clusters and networks.
- utility and services providers and water corporations
- TAFE institution and university
- public/private partnership, through an incorporated entity
- not-for-profit organisation, including community groups that are an incorporated body, cooperative, association or social enterprise
- other organisation agreed between the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and the Victorian Government.
- an auspice organisation

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Projects are eligible if they are designed to produce an economic benefit to a fire affected region (East Gippsland and/or North East Victoria) and align with one or more of the following LER Program categories:

Enabling infrastructure

- Economic infrastructure and new infrastructure focused on functionality improvements, enhancements or upgrades to including betterment.
- Support for projects focused on micro-grids, local energy grids, that helps deliver resilience and economic value for communities.
- Industry and business development, including small business and micro-enterprises/sole traders' development.

Initiatives supporting entrepreneurship and innovation

- Development of regional specialisations and economic diversification.
- Business retention, new business development and business expansion and attraction.
- New technologies, plant and equipment and systems to improve productivity, competitiveness, and business and jobs growth.
- Capacity building, workforce participation, skills development, and local and regional industry networks.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND RESILIENCE GRANTS (Continued)

HOW TO APPLY

View the guidelines

The full guidelines are at www.br.vic.gov.au or www.rdv.vic.gov.au. Regional Development Victoria administer these grants.

Speak to RDV

Lodge your Registration of Interest with Regional Development Victoria's regional office (details below). They will conduct an initial assessment and provide you with the application form.

Prepare application

Applications open soon. There are a number of steps you have to undertake as part of your application. You need to first register your interest with RDV.

HOW YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE ASSESSED

- **Regional economic benefit:** Applicants must explain how the project will deliver regional economic benefits in a fire affected area - and more.
- **Local participation and support:** Applicants must demonstrate that the project has local participation and support showing the community was engaged at the project planning stage and/or there are identified pathways for the project benefits to be shared in the community - and more.
- **Alignment with recovery plans:** Applicants must demonstrate how the project aligns to and supports one or more of the medium-long term recovery needs identified in the State Recovery Plan, Community Recovery Plan or Municipal Recovery Plans - and more
- **Enduring socio-economic outcomes:** Applicants must demonstrate how the project supports long term socio-economic outcomes for communities in a bushfire affected region; and - and more.
- **Project feasibility and delivery:** Applicants must demonstrate how they are financially viable and have the capacity to manage and complete the project - and more.

REGIONAL RDV OFFICES

79a Wyndham Street **Shepparton**
Tel: 5895 4100
information.shepparton@rdv.vic.gov.au

1st Floor, 62 Ovens Street, **Wangaratta**
Tel: 5722 7101
information.wangaratta@rdv.vic.gov.au

33 Breed Street, **Traralgon**
Tel: 5116 7300
information.traralgon@rdv.vic.gov.au

Level 2, 111-113 Hume Street, **Wodonga**
Tel: 6059 0200
information.wodonga@rdv.vic.gov.au

REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROGRAMS FUND

PURPOSE

This fund has been established to support regional economic recovery by providing direct support to businesses in bushfire affected regions. Objectives include:

- increase employment opportunities and decrease skills shortages
- increase the capacity of the business community by enhancing employment, business and economic opportunities with a focus on tourism and primary industries, including small businesses
- increase business capability and continuity by providing increased opportunities to collaborate, innovate and drive change
- increase resilience for future emergency events
- increase and restore visitor confidence in the region
- addresses a need of the communities that has arisen due to the impact of the 2019-20 bushfires, and more - see full guidelines

MORE INFORMATION

- Applications open 29 October 2020 and close on 20 November 2020.
- \$8 million is available with a maximum of \$2.5 million for individual programs.
- Only the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions is eligible to apply for funding to deliver regional economic programs
- Eligible programs must produce an economic benefit to a fire affected region and align with industry and business development, including initiatives supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, business retention, development of regional specialisations, economic diversification, expansion and attraction, capacity building, workforce participation, skills development, small business development, and local and regional industry networks.
- Grants will be assessed under a similar criteria to the Regional Economic Stimulus and Resilience Grants