

Bushfire Business Disruption Grant

Frequently asked questions

Who is eligible for the grants?

Grants are available to small businesses that have been directly impacted and experienced a significant disruption to the day-to-day running of their business as a result of the recent bushfires. Businesses must be located, or undertake the majority of their operations in, the following four municipalities:

- Huon Valley
- Central Highlands
- West Coast
- Derwent Valley

Eligible applicants must:

1. Employ less than 20 full time equivalent employees (FTEs) or are a sole trader whose primary source of gross income (more than 50 per cent) is derived from the affected business.
2. Have been operating as a business at the time of the event.
3. Be registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN).
4. Have experienced a significant disruption to their business a direct result of the bushfires and meet the below definition.

What is a 'significant disruption' to my business?

Physical inability to operate under a normal day-to-day business arrangements for a period of two consecutive days or more as a direct result of the bushfires.

What is an FTE, and how does it apply to my businesses eligibility?

FTE = Full Time Equivalent.

If you have less than 20 FTE employees then your business meets the FTE criteria. An FTE can be made up of more than one employee where they do not work full time.

For example, 1 FTE may equal:

- 1 employee working 50 per cent of a full time employee's standard hours, plus
- 1 employee who works 20 per cent of a full time employee's standard hours, plus
- 1 employee who works 30 per cent of a full time employee's standard hours.

Am I able to claim for a grant as a not-for-profit business?

Where a not-for-profit organisation otherwise meets eligibility requirements per the Guidelines, it will be considered to be 'operating a business' for the purpose of this grant program only and will be assessed on its merits according to the Assessment Criteria.

What is business disruption insurance?

Business disruption insurance is a type of insurance that covers the loss of income that a business suffers after a disaster. If you are unsure if you have business disruption insurance please check your insurance policy or contact your insurance provider.

[If I have business disruption insurance am I still eligible?](#)

Yes, grants are available on the basis of need and do not replace insurance or compensate for losses. This information is collected for data and analysis purposes only.

[Why is a credit check required to receive assistance?](#)

A credit check may be undertaken to ensure that the business who receive a grant are a financially viable entity and the funds provided will be used to help with immediate costs like bills and to return to normal operations.

[My business has been impacted financially by more than \\$2 000, how can I get more financial assistance?](#)

It is recommended that you check with your insurance company to determine if you can claim any losses due to the bushfire.

To assist with longer-term recovery, Bushfire Business Recovery Grants of up to \$25,000 each are now available for small to medium sized enterprises to help cover demonstrated irrecoverable losses.

Concessional Business Recovery Loans of up to \$100,000 each are now available to assist business owners on an unsecured basis over a maximum term of five years.

[I am a small business that relies on work from the within the affected areas, can I claim some assistance?](#)

The grant is applicable to those businesses located, or who undertake the majority of their business operations within, the fire affected regions and have been directly impacted by the bushfires. The grant will help businesses get back to the normal day-to-day activities.

Those businesses located outside of the fire impacted regions should check with their insurance company to determine if losses can be claimed.

[What does the 'majority of business operations' mean?](#)

'Majority of business operations' means that a business not located within the fire impacted regions conducts a minimum of 75 per cent of their business in the fire impacted areas. This may be demonstrated by providing examples such as contracts, marketing, branding or advertising.

[If my business is in the region and I was able to continue to operate at a reduced capacity am I eligible for funding?](#)

Grants are available to small businesses that have been directly impacted and experienced a significant disruption to the day-to-day running of their business as a result of the recent bushfires. Businesses impacted must be located, or undertake the majority of their operations in the following four municipalities:

- Huon Valley
- Central Highlands
- West Coast
- Derwent Valley

[What is a 'significant disruption'?](#)

A 'significant disruption' is physical inability to operate under a normal day-to-day business arrangements for a period of two consecutive days or more as a direct result of the bushfires.

A significant disruption may be a result of:

- Physical damage to the business property.
- Business closure due to official road closures that prevent access to business.
- Business closure due to official evacuation of area.
- Inability to access essential supplies, equipment or products.
- Elevated levels of smoke, or public health warnings that prevented work from being undertaken.

Businesses will not be considered for funding if they:

- Have not incurred a significant disruption (refer to the definition of significant disruption).
- Are part of a national chain or company.
- Are a publicly-listed company.
- Are part of multiple businesses sharing beneficial ownership – one application applies to the principle business.
- Are a hobby business or less than 50 per cent of the business owner's gross income is derived from the affected business.

[If my application for the grant is approved how and when will I receive the funds?](#)

If your grant application is approved we will send you a letter of offer to sign and return to us. Once this letter is received payments are made within 7 days. All payments are made via electronic funds transfer directly into the nominated bank account supplied on the application form.

[I have more than one business located in the bushfire impacted area can I apply for a grant for each business?](#)

No, for business owners with multiple businesses or with shared ownership, only one grant can be provided.

[What about taxation and financial implications?](#)

Grant funds to a business may be considered taxable income and applicants should check this aspect with their accountant or financial adviser if they are unsure. If a business is registered for GST, and is approved to receive a grant, the amount will be increased to cover the GST payable component.