

Bushfire Business Recovery Grant

Frequently asked questions

Who is eligible for the grants?

Grants are available to small to medium businesses that have been directly affected by the bushfires and have experienced irrecoverable loss of current income as a result of impacts to assets, asset loss or damage.

Businesses must be located in, or conduct the majority of their operations in, the following four municipalities:

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

Eligible applicants must:

1. Have been operating as a business (not a hobby business) at the time of the event.
2. Be registered for tax purposes in Australia with an Australian Business Number (ABN).
3. Have experienced irrecoverable loss of current income as a result of impact, loss or damage to an asset.

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

Collecting the number of FTE in your business helps us to understand your business size and enables us to collect data on impacted businesses.

FTE = Full Time Equivalent.

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.

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 businesses receiving a grant are a financially viable entity and the funds provided will be used to help businesses return to normal operations.

[My business has been impacted financially by more than \\$25 000, how can I get more financial assistance?](#)

Concessional Business Recovery Loans of up to \$100,000 each are now available to small business owners or farm businesses on an unsecured basis over a maximum term of five years, to assist businesses to re-establish after being directly impacted by the bushfires.

Loans of up to \$100 000 are available on an unsecured basis with an interest rate based on the cost of funds plus one per cent (approximately 3.54 per cent as at February 2019).

Loans are available on the basis that a business can demonstrate direct impact from bushfire, can show how funds will be applied and contribute to business recovery, and demonstrate ongoing viability and business resilience.

[I run 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 in, or who undertake the majority of their business operations within, the fire affected regions and have been directly impacted by the bushfires.

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

[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 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?](#)

Applicants that meet the eligibility criteria (refer to 'Who is eligible for the grants?') will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate:

1. Impact, loss or damage to an asset caused by the bushfires, such as plant, equipment, crops, land, stock or forests, that resulted in an irrecoverable loss of current income.
2. How funds will be applied and contribute to business recovery and ongoing viability of the business.
3. How the funds will contribute towards the local economy.
4. A sound financial position, specifically, financial viability at the time of the bushfires.

[How will my application be assessed?](#)

Funding available is limited and applications will be competitively assessed against the established assessment criteria contained within the guidelines.

All applications will be assessed by an independent panel.

[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.

I have never applied for a grant before, where can I get some help?

A business grants writing handbook is available on our Business Tasmania website, or for general assistance please contact Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 or ask@business.tas.gov.au

https://www.business.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0018/162810/Business_grants_writing_handbook_for_web.pdf

How can I improve my chance of successfully being approved for a grant?

- Read the guidelines carefully, along with these FAQs, to **see** if you are eligible to apply.
- When starting your application pay particular attention to each assessment criteria and make sure you have examples and evidence for each one.
- Read each question on the application form carefully and make sure your answer matches that question.
- Aim to make your answers **clear**, convincing and to the point
- Consider writing your answers in logical order, history, current and future. Tell your story and point to your attached evidence, photos or examples.
- Look at the supporting documentation list examples in the guidelines and include as many relevant documents and photos as possible. You can also add any other documents you think will help your application.
- There are good tips in the [business grants writing handbook](#), (page 14 onwards 'Writing your Application') which may help you.
- Take your time and if possible get someone else to check your application before you send it in. This is a competitive merit based grant which means no application will be looked at until after the closing date, 31 March 2019.