

Spirit Preparedness Fund for Businesses

Frequently asked questions – Version 2



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1. Where can I find information about Tasmania's visitor economy?

The 2030 Visitor Economy Strategy (the Strategy) is a collective longer-term vision for Tasmania's visitor economy and is the latest iteration in the enduring T21 partnership. The Strategy can be found on Tourism Tasmania's corporate website: <https://www.tourismtasmania.com.au/industry/2030-visitor-economy-strategy/>

2. Will the program close before the advertised closing date?

No, the program will not close early. It will close at 2.00pm on 20 May 2025.

3. How much can I apply for?

You can apply for any amount between the minimum grant amount of \$50,000 and the maximum of \$250,000.

4. Is there a maximum total cost applied to proposed projects?

No, there is no cap on the total project cost. Applicants must be able to match the grant amount requested dollar-for-dollar at a minimum, but you are welcome to spend more on your project.

5. Can I submit more than one application using the same ABN?

No, only one application can be submitted per ABN.

6. My not-for-profit organisation is an Australian public company. Can I apply?

Item 4.4 of the Spirit Preparedness Fund for Businesses program guidelines states that you will not be eligible for this program if "you are a public company defined by the Corporations Act 2001".

The intent of this eligibility requirement, a requirement which is included in many Tasmanian Government business grant programs, is to avoid large shareholder companies from seeking government funding, as these companies are generally deemed better placed to fund their own growth strategies.

It is however available to the external assessors engaged by the Department, to consider your particular circumstances, and, if satisfied that the objective of the requirement is not compromised, to grant you an exemption. It will be important therefore to set out clearly in your application as to why an exemption should be granted.

7. Can I submit an application for more than one project?

Your application must be for one project only, however your project may contain multiple elements. You will need to describe how these different elements work together, show how they are relevant to achieving the overall objective of your project and meet the aims of the program.

8. Can a third-party submit an application on behalf of my business?

No, third party submissions on behalf of your business, for example, by your bookkeeper, accountant or a consultant, are not allowed.

9. The funds I have available to match the grant amount requested are held in a different name to the business in my application. Is this acceptable?

You must be able to demonstrate that at the time of application your business can make a cash contribution at least equal to the grant amount requested. If these funds are not held in the name of the applicant business, they must be held by a related party/parties (including, for example, a company director).

You must provide evidence in the name of the related party (be that a business entity or an individual) that the cash is available. Acceptable evidence includes one or more of the following:

- A bank statement showing the related party has the cash available to meet the co-contribution at the time of application.
- A statement for an existing loan facility showing undrawn funds available to meet the co-contribution at the time of application.
- A letter of support from their financial institution, current at the time of application.
- A letter of confirmation of equity investment.

10. I have started planning my project and have had meetings with council, contractors and suppliers. Can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply if your project is in the planning stage. We anticipate that applicants may have had initial consultations with the local council, contractors and suppliers, and that you may already have some approvals and permits in place.

11. I do not have all the required approvals and permits in place for my project. Can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply. You do not need to have all the required permits and approvals in place at the time of application. However, if you are successful for a grant, having all approvals and permits in place will be a condition to receiving a grant payment. You must also be able to complete your project by 31 December 2027.

12. What can the grant money be used for?

The grant money must only be used to cover expenses that directly relate to your approved project. The grant money cannot be used for regular operating expenses or expenses not related to your project as published in the program guidelines, *Section 5 Ineligible expenditure*.

You will not be able to use the grant money to cover any expenses that you have incurred prior to 1 December 2025, or prior to the date of entering into a funding agreement, whichever occurs first.

13. Where can I find information about “positive impact”?

The 2030 Visitor Economy Strategy contains information about positive impact. The Strategy can be found on Tourism Tasmania’s corporate website: <https://www.tourismtasmania.com.au/industry/2030-visitor-economy-strategy/>.

You can find information about accessible and inclusive tourism on Tourism Tasmania’s corporate website: <https://www.tourismtasmania.com.au/industry/inclusive-tourism/>

14. How will my application be assessed?

The assessment process will commence after the program has closed on 20 May 2025.

All submitted applications will undergo an eligibility check using the eligibility criteria published in the program guidelines under *Section 3 Eligibility Criteria* and the supporting documentation in your application.

Eligible applications will be competitively assessed by independent assessors using the assessment criteria published in the program guidelines under *Section 7 Assessment* and the supporting documentation in your application.

An independent panel of three industry experts will undertake final assessment of applications. Once panel members have completed their individual assessment of applications, they will meet and decide by consensus which to recommend for funding.

The recommendations will be provided to the Minister for Tourism for approval.

Following the Minister's decision, all applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

15. When will I be notified of the outcome for my application?

We will aim for applications to be assessed as quickly as possible while ensuring necessary due diligence is undertaken. Depending on the volume of applications received, it may take up to 6 months for assessments to be completed by the independent assessors and recommendations approved by the Minister.

Applicants who are deemed ineligible through the eligibility check will be notified earlier.

16. When will I receive my grant if my application is approved?

If approved for a grant, you will need to enter into a legally binding funding agreement with the Crown in Right of Tasmania represented by Department of State Growth.

You will not receive payments until the funding agreement is completed.

Your funding agreement will outline the terms and conditions of the instalment payments of your grant. This will depend on the grant amount and the duration of the project. Generally, the final instalment of the grant is paid once the project has been completed.

17. Can I add something to my application after I have submitted it?

We recommend that you carefully check your application, ensuring that you have answered all the questions and included all the required supporting documentation prior to submitting. If you need to add something to your application and the program is still open, please email tourism&hospitality@stategrowth.tas.gov.au to discuss.

You will not be able to add any information to your application after the program has closed, unless requested by the department.

18. Where can I get help with my application?

You are encouraged to refer to the Business Tasmania Grant Writing Handbook and other grant writing resources available [here](#).

You can also connect with one of our business advisors through our free [Tasmanian Business Advice Service](#). The advisor won't write the application for you, but they can guide you and provide advice.

19. I'm not eligible for this grant, how can I find out about other grant programs and funding opportunities?

Sign up for the regular [Business Tasmania](#) e-newsletter to receive notifications when there is a new grant program opening. The e-newsletter also includes useful articles, events and links to relevant information in relation to running a business in Tasmania. You can also refer to the [funding page of the Business Tasmania](#) website.



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