

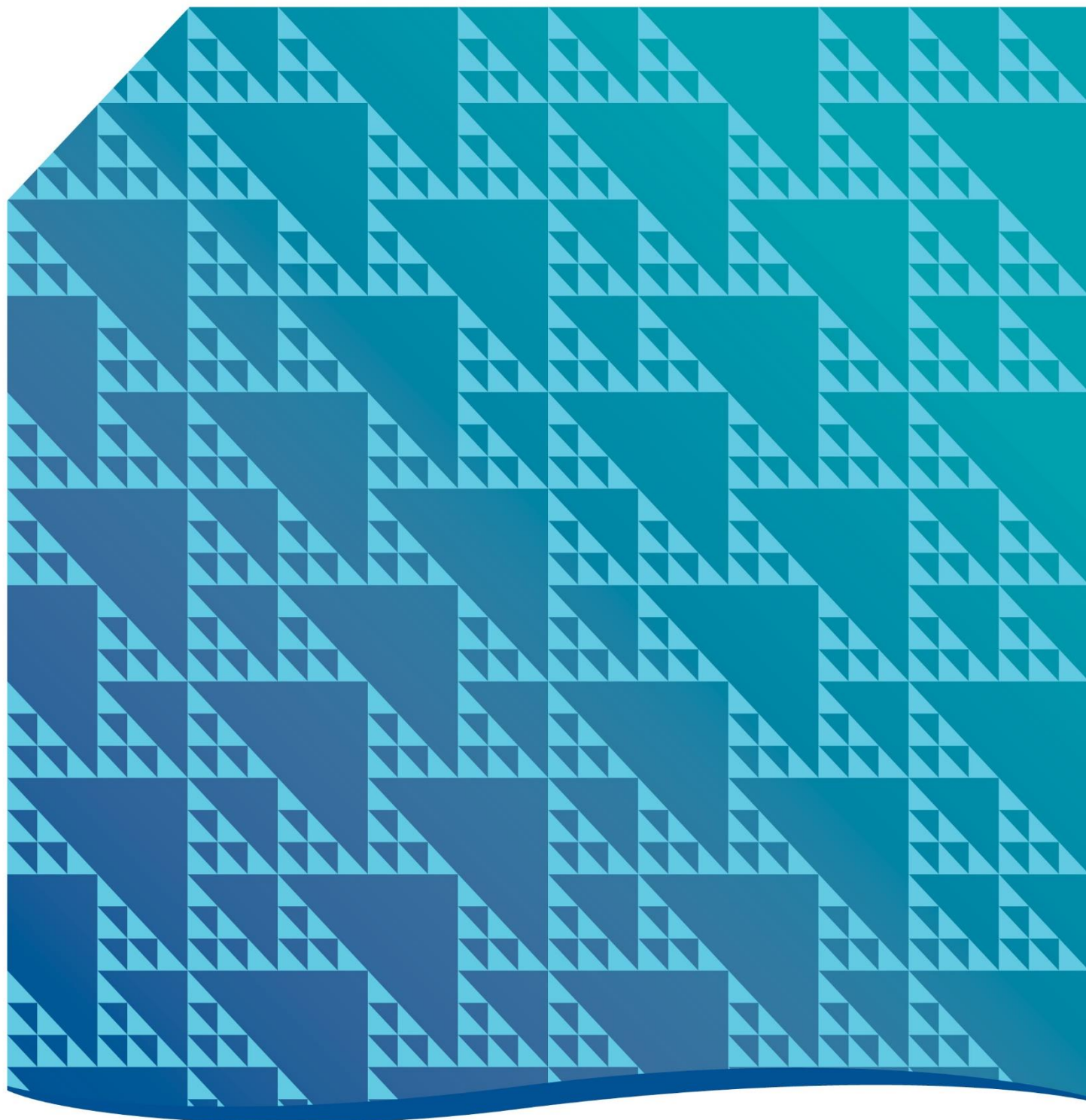
2019 Bushfire Business Disruption Grant



Australian Government



Program Guidelines



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Background

In late 2018 to early 2019 Tasmania has been impacted by bushfires which are continuing to impact the West Coast's Zeehan and Rosebery areas, Central Tasmania around the Barren Tier and Shannon area and the Southern region's Geeveston, Franklin, Lonnvale, Glen Huon and Judbury areas.

The Bushfire Business Disruption Grant is jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Bushfire Business Disruption Grants are available through the Department of State Growth to assist affected small businesses.

The grants will assist businesses who are located in the affected regions and have been directly impacted and experienced significant disruption as a direct result of the bushfires.

Eligibility criteria

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

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Must:

1. Employ fewer than 20 full time equivalent (FTEs) employees.
2. Have been operating as a business (not a hobby 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 as a direct result of the bushfires and meet the below definition:

Definition of Significant Disruption: 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.

Eligible applicants may have experience significant disruption as a result of:

- Physical damage to the business property
- Business closure or significant constraint due to:

- official road closures that prevented access to business
- official evacuation of area.
- access to utilities compromised
- inability to access essential supplies, equipment or products
- Elevated levels of smoke, or public health warnings that preventing work to be undertaken.

Eligible small businesses may include:

- Locally owned and operated franchises.
- Primary producers who demonstrate genuine need.
- Home-based businesses registered with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) (claiming only the costs directly attributable to the business), provided all other criteria are met.

Ineligible applicants

- Businesses that have not incurred a significant disruption.
- Businesses that are part of a national chain or company.
- Publicly-listed companies.
- Multiple businesses sharing beneficial ownership. One application applies to the principal business.
- A hobby business or a business where less than 50 per cent of the business owner's gross income is derived from the affected business.

Funding allocation

An amount of up to \$2 000 is available per eligible small business.

Notes:

1. *Complying with the eligibility criteria does not guarantee a grant application will be approved.*
2. *Applicants will be required to declare the extent to which the business has been financially impacted.*
3. *Where one business owner has multiple business registrations, only one business will be funded.*
4. *Home-based business must be registered with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as a home-based business and provide evidence of that registration upon application.*
5. *Applications close on 22 March 2019.*
6. *Once the Letter of Offer is received payment will be made to the applicants nominated bank account within 7 days.*

Application process

1. Potential applicants should read the Program Guidelines to ascertain eligibility and contact Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 with any queries.

2. Potential applicants should read the frequently asked questions to assist with eligibility.
3. The department may contact an applicant for additional information as required.
4. Applicants should complete and lodge an application online via the Business Tasmania website www.business.tas.gov.au. Applications close on 22 March 2019.
5. Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in writing within approximately 7 days.
6. Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer for acceptance, signature and return to the department.

Taxation and financial implications

Grants under the program attract GST. Grant payments to successful applicants are increased to compensate for the amount of GST payable.

The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the ATO. While grants are typically treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the recipient's particular circumstances.

It is strongly recommended that potential applicants consider seeking independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving the grant under the program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the ATO, prior to submitting an application.

Confidentiality

The Tasmanian Government may use and disclose the information provided by applicants for the purposes of discharging its respective functions under the Program Guidelines and otherwise for the purposes of the program and related uses.

The department may also:

1. Use information received in applications for any other departmental business.
2. Use information received in applications and during the performance of the project for reporting.

Administration and contact details

The program will be administered by the Department of State Growth on behalf of the Crown in the Right of Tasmania. Any person requiring further advice or information on the program, or submitting an application, is asked to direct enquiries to: ask@business.tas.gov.au or Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026.

Timeframes

All potential applicants must read the Program Guidelines carefully to determine their eligibility for funding under the program. Applications under the program can be submitted at any time up until 22 March 2019. Should the

assessment process require further information to support or clarify an application, this information must be provided within the requested timeframe or the application risks not being assessed.

Publicity of grant assistance

The Department of State Growth disburses public funds and is therefore accountable for the distribution of those funds. As part of the accountability process, the department may publicise the level of financial assistance, the identity of the recipient, the purpose of the financial assistance, and any other details considered by the department to be appropriate.

Right to information

Information provided to the Department of State Growth may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Personal information protection

Personal information will be managed in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*. This information may be accessed by the individual to whom it related, on request to the Department of State Growth. A fee for this service may be charged.

Disclaimer

Although care has been taken in the preparation of this document, no warranty, express or implied, is given by the Crown in Right of Tasmania, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information it contains. The Crown in Right of Tasmania accepts no responsibility for any loss or damage that may arise from anything contained in or omitted from or that may arise from the use of this document, and any person relying on this document and the information it contains does so at their own risk absolutely. The Crown in Right of Tasmania does not accept liability or responsibility for any loss incurred by an applicant that are in any way related to the program.



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