

# Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Grants Program

## General Information

These updated guidelines provide information about the Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Grants Program, administered by Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC) in response to the Tathra and District bushfire of March, and the Yankees Gap bushfires of August and September 2018.

### Overview

The Recovery and Resilience Grants Program was developed to complement the work already undertaken by community members and volunteers across the Shire, offering additional support so that individuals and groups can initiate community recovery activities that may not otherwise be delivered.

Under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) local councils are able to provide funding and resources to groups or individuals to undertake activities that they may or could not have otherwise done themselves.

Funds are provided to support the ultimate achievement of the Bega Valley Fire Recovery Action Plan.

## Specific Program Information

### BVSC Responsible Section

Community, Environment and Planning

### BVSC contact officer and details

Name: Anne Leydon

Phone: 6499 2475

Email: [recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au)

### Funds available

- \$50,000 over two rounds.
- Funds are paid by electronic funds transfer, not in cash. Bank details must be provided.
- Non-incorporated groups may apply for up to \$1000 in funding, and incorporated groups may apply for up to \$5000

## Background

The Tathra and District Recovery and Resilience Activities Program was developed in response to the March 2018 bushfires.

The program has since been expanded to include those impacted by the Yankees Gap fires of August/September 2018. It is proposed that funding will facilitate social engagement activities to assist members of Tathra and District and Yankees Gap communities to link back into their support networks, tell their experiences, address issues arising from the disaster and build a greater sense of future safety.

The program supports community building activities that foster social cohesion, resilience and wellbeing in residents and home owners through a variety of methods including events, support groups, volunteering and other projects.

Activities must be driven by local people and groups with the purpose of assisting affected communities to heal and grow stronger into the future.

Activities may include:

- Arts and cultural events or activities which provide opportunities for people to reflect and express their recent experiences of the disaster
- Social activities or events that create opportunities for disaster-affected communities to connect with each other and with services
- Remembrance anniversary activities

## Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Grants Round 2

- The Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Program Grant Round 2 comprises \$36,972 of available funds for allocation to successful applicants planning to undertake short or longer term recovery and resilience activities which must commence from April 2019, and may include 12-month commemorative events or activities.

## Overall program objectives

The Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience Program aims:

- Meet the diverse and changing needs of the Tathra and District and Yankees Gap fire affected communities as they recover from the March, August and September 2018 bushfires;
- Assist groups and communities to develop local solutions that build on and/or enhance the wellbeing of the Tathra and District and Yankees Gap fire affected communities;
- Identify opportunities and develop strategies that nurture the ideas and aspirations of residents of the bushfire affected communities;
- Support whole communities or specific groups within communities; and
- Promote positive images of Tathra and Districts and Yankees Gap, Numbugga, Bemboka Districts to residents and visitors.

## Round 2 Application guidelines

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible you must:

- be an individual or a not-for-profit group from any of the following fire impacted communities: Tathra, Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge, Dr George Mountain, Tanja, Kalaru, Yankees Gap, Numbugga or Brogo; or,
- be an auspice group within the Bega Valley Shire whose project is led by a community champion who is a resident/home owner within one of the above communities;
- deliver all activities within one or more of the above towns/ localities;
- complete your project before June 2020; and
- submit at least one letter of support with your application, which must be written by a resident, group or agency from the above listed districts.

The following activities **are not eligible**:

- major capital works projects;
- individual supports such as educational scholarships, financial assistance for home rebuilding, or case management brokerage for individuals or families;
- activities that take place outside of the above listed districts;
- activities that are for-profit or private gain (some exclusions apply);
- activities seeking support for ongoing staff salaries or existing funded activities;
- retrospective activities; or
- activities that negatively impact on existing services or livelihoods occurring locally.

### Selection Criteria

Funding is targeted to projects that:

- are locally driven and delivered;
- respond to a demonstrated need, gap or opportunity relating to recovery and resilience after the March, August and September 2018 bushfires;
- offer benefits to multiple people and groups;
- promote community healing, wellbeing and disaster resilience;
- improve resident and visitor experience in the above listed districts;
- show innovation and leadership;
- do not duplicate existing services available in the above listed districts;
- demonstrate funding equity and cost effectiveness; and
- are free to all participants and encourage diverse participation.

Priority will be given to activities that:

- can demonstrate measurable outcomes relating to the disaster recovery and resilience of groups and communities in the above listed districts;

## Round 2 Application information

- Round 2 of the Bega Valley Fire Recovery and Resilience grants will open in January 2019.
- All activities must be completed before July 2020 with a final report completed within 3 months of this date. Funding is finite and will cease at the conclusion of Round 2.
- Applicants from the above listed fire affected districts may apply and submit multiple applications in round 2.
- Submitting an application form does not guarantee funding.
- Applications are assessed on their merits based on the eligibility criteria and selection criteria.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 8 weeks of the closure of round 2.
- You are required to disclose alternative funding sources.
- Applications will be assessed by a panel with a recommendation being presented to the General Manager for approval.
- Groups and individuals must provide details of public liability insurance cover if projects involve public land or volunteers and/or take place on public land.
- Appropriate Risk Management must be undertaken by all groups, sponsoring organisations, contractors and volunteers to ensure safety.
- For events or activities held on public land, applicants must demonstrate that approval from the relevant authority is in place before they are held.

## Program timelines

Steps	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	July 2020	Oct 2020
ROUND 2						
Advertise						
Applications open						
Applications close						
Assessment Committee Review						
Final report						
Advise applicants and complete agreements						
Complete all Grant activities						Submit Final Reports
Project reports / acquittals	Acquittals must be completed within 2 months of project/event/activity completion. Non-incorporated bodies/individuals receiving funding of under \$1000 will not be required to complete an acquittal but must still complete a project report.					

## Program Categories

Program category	Funding amount	Description	Recognition of BVSC
Local Event/activity	Up to \$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An event or activity which supports the recovery and resilience of a whole community or multiple communities in Tathra, Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge, Dr George Mountain, Tanja, Kalaru, Yankees Gap, Numbugga and Brogo</li> <li>Flexible date: may commence and cease any time prior to June 2020</li> <li>May include events commemorating specific dates or anniversaries of the 2018 bushfires.</li> <li>Non incorporated groups or individuals may need to be auspiced by an incorporated body for public liability purposes. This will be determined by the type of activity and location. Please contact Council officers for advice.</li> </ul>	Sponsor
Local Project	Up to \$1,000 for non-incorporated groups Up to \$5,000 for incorporated groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be a short, medium or long term project</li> <li>Supports the recovery and resilience of groups, a whole community or multiple communities in Tathra, Reedy Swamp, Vimy Ridge, Dr George Mountain, Tanja, Kalaru, Yankees Gap, Numbugga and Brogo Districts</li> <li>Flexible dates: may commence and cease any time prior to June 2020</li> </ul>	Sponsor

## Successful application requirements

Successful applicants in the Bega Valley Recovery and Resilience Program will need to meet the following terms and conditions:

- Successful applicants for the Bega Valley Recovery and Resilience Program will be required to sign a Program Agreement that will create a binding obligation between BVSC and the signatory;
- The funding must be used for the activity which it is provided;
- Any change to the proposed use of the funds must be agreed in writing by BVSC;
- If the funds are not spent in accordance with the agreement (or as amended with BVSC's written agreement) the full amount is repayable to BVSC;
- The funds do not commit BVSC to future support for the activity or any other activity run by the applicant;
- Any unspent funds must to be returned to BVSC;
- In-kind or non-cash support may be available, but will only be provided if resources and operational requirements allow;
- An acquittal will be required within three months of completion of the activity (donations for activities under \$1000 will not require an acquittal). Appropriate records including receipts and photos must be kept; and
- Applicants should acknowledge the grant on any promotional material.
- All activities must be completed before June 2020 with a final report completed within 2 months of this date. Funding is finite and will cease at the conclusion of Round 2.

## **Help or further information**

The BVSC Contact Officer (on page 2 of this document) can be contacted to discuss ideas and proposals prior to lodging applications. If in doubt contact Anne Leydon on 6499 2475.

## **Dispute resolution**

Program decisions made by the Council of the Bega Valley Shire are final and will not be reviewed.

Decisions made by officers are open to the normal BVSC complaints process. Information is available on Council's website at [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au).