

## Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants<sup>i</sup>

### Bega Valley Shire Council Application – Expression of Interest (EOI) Guidelines

EOI opening date:	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
EOI closing date:	Open until further notice
EOI notification of outcome date:	To be determined
EOI maximum funding request:	\$5,000
Application submission:	Email your completed EOI to: <a href="mailto:grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au">grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au</a>
Enquiries:	If you have questions contact April or Jayde on 6499 2222 or <a href="mailto:grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au">grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au</a>

**Note:** Due to COVID- 19 implications the guidelines of the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants program and the Expression of Interest have been changed. Any changes are highlighted.

#### 1. About the grant program

Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants (the program) will run approximately from February 2020 to **30 June 2022**. The program was announced as part of the Australian Government's \$76 million Rebuilding Australian Tourism Package. There are two streams under the program Stream 1 and Stream 2 with a total of \$10 million, \$7 million available in 2019-20 and \$3 million in 2020-21. All eligible applicants will be invited to apply.

##### 1. 1 Objectives of the program are to:

- Restore visitor levels to areas impacted by bushfires by supporting events, concerts, festivals and/or other visitor attractions (such as art installations and tourist walks) and other tourism initiatives in those areas.
- Promote the uniqueness of affected local communities.
- Assist with the recovery of regional tourism.
- Attract overseas, interstate and intrastate visitors as a direct result of the project.

The intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are:

- Revive local communities with revitalised ability to attract international and/ or domestic visitation.
- Direct visitor spend in bushfire affected areas.

## 1.2. Stream 1

Stream 1 of the program is specifically to support smaller scale events to be held by 30 May 2022.

Bega Valley Shire Council is able to apply for up to a total value of \$30,000 for a support a package of smaller scale events within the Shire.

## 2. About the Expression of Interest

Application to the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants program is by invitation only. In the Bega Valley area Bega Valley Shire Council (Council) and Destination Southern NSW are the only invited applicants who are able to apply under this program.

To extend grant the opportunity to the Bega Valley community the Council is seeking expressions of interest from community groups, not for profits and businesses to support up to \$5,000 smaller scale events across the Shire. The events will need to meet the objectives of the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants program and occur before the 30 May 2022. When applying you can include a date range for when the event will occur, for example from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2020. It is recommended for projects to be scalable, noting projects may not receive the full amount of funding requested.

Expressions of interest open on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and will remain open until further notice. To apply complete the EOI form and email to [grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au) by the closing date. A grant panel will assess the EOI's against criteria noted in item 4 of these guidelines. If your EOI is successful it will be included in Council's Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants Stream 1 application. The outcome of Council's Stream 1 application will be assessed by the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants program's independent assessment panel. The outcome of the assessment is not guaranteed and projects included in Council's application may be funded, part funded or not funded.

## 3. What the grant money can be used for

### 3.1. Eligible activities

To be eligible your project must:

- Be aimed at assisting with recovery of regional tourism in bushfire affected regions by supporting existing impacted events, creating new tourism events or attractions like art installations or tourist walks, and promoting those events or the uniqueness of the region to bring international and/ or domestic visitors back to the region and increase visitation.

Eligible activities may include

- Funding for new ongoing or one-off events such as concerts, festivals
- Funding for existing events

- Applications for one-off events will need to demonstrate the benefit to the community, e.g. media exposure, promotion of local businesses and international and/ or domestic visitors from outside the region.
- Should your event be ongoing (e.g. annual), where practicable, you will demonstrate the long term benefits (as above) and clearly outline your strategy to fund the event in future years without Australian Government funding.
- For expanding existing events, the benefits will require clear demonstration.

### 3.2 Eligible expenditure

To be eligible, expenditure must:

- be a direct cost of the project
- be incurred between the project start and end date

Eligible expenditure items are:

- Direct labour costs of employees you directly employ on the core elements of the project. We consider a person an employee when you pay them a regular salary or wage, out of which you make regular tax instalment deductions.
- Up to 30 per cent labour on costs to cover employer paid superannuation, payroll tax, workers compensation insurance, and overheads such as office rent and the provision of computers for staff directly working on the project.
- Contract expenditure, the cost of any agreed project activities that you contract to others.
- Reasonable marketing and promotion costs directly related to the project.
- Reasonable insurance costs directly related to the project - (participants must effect and maintain adequate insurance or similar coverage for any liability arising as a result of its participation in funded activities).
- Leasing of equipment directly related to the project (for example, temporary equipment needed to hold an event).
- Sponsorship or prizes for events to replace lost or boost existing sponsorship. To claim this expenditure you will need explain how the sponsorship or prize will increase visitation.
- Other eligible expenditure as approved by the program delegate (please contact April or Jayde to discuss on 6499 2222 or email grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au).
- If your expression of interest is successful, we may ask you to verify project costs that you provided in your application. You may need to provide evidence such as quotes for major costs.

### 3.3 What you cannot use the grant for

Examples of ineligible expenditure include:

- Activities, equipment or supplies that are already being supported through other sources.
- Costs incurred prior to us notifying you that your application has been successful.
- Any in-kind contributions.
- Financing costs, including interest.
- Capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, printers or photocopiers and the construction, renovation or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories.
- Costs involved in the purchase or upgrade/hire of software (including user licences) and ICT hardware (unless it directly relates to the project).
- Non-project-related staff training and development costs.
- Debt financing.
- Costs related to obtaining resources used on the project, including interest on loans, job advertising and recruiting, and contract negotiations.

- Maintenance costs.
- Costs of purchasing, leasing, depreciation of, or development of land.
- Infrastructure development costs, including development of road, rail, port or fuel delivery networks beyond the project site(s).
- Site preparation activities which are not directly related to, or for, the main purpose of the project.
- Routine operational expenses, including communications, accommodation, office computing facilities, printing and stationery, postage, legal and accounting fees and bank charges.
- Costs related to preparing the grant application, preparing any project reports (except costs of independent audit reports we require) and preparing any project variation requests.
- Travel costs that exceed 10 per cent of total project costs except where otherwise approved by the Program Delegate.

This list is not exhaustive and applies only to the expenditure of the grant funds. Other costs may be ineligible where the program decides that they do not directly support the achievement of the planned outcomes for the project or that they are contrary to the objective of the program.

#### 4. Expression of Interest assessment criteria

An assessment panel will assess your application based on the following criterion:

- Project alignment with program objectives and outcomes
- Value for money
- Capacity, capability and resources to deliver the project

The assessment panel may also consider the timing of events and geographic spread of projects.

#### 5. How to apply

Before applying, you should read and understand these guidelines.

- Complete the Expression of Interest application form, address all the questions
- Email completed EOI to [grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au) will remain open until further notice.
- Attach any relevant supporting documents, note only include documents relevant to the event in your EOI.

Note the amount of detail and supporting evidence you provide in your application should be relative to the project size, complexity and grant amount requested. You should provide descriptions and evidence to support your answers.

#### 6. If your expression of interest is successful

If your EOI is successful your project will be included in Council's Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery grant - Stream 1 application. If Council's application is successful you will enter into an agreement with Council to deliver the project as described in your EOI.

#### 7. Support

If you have any enquiries about the EOI process or have questions about your application please contact April or Jayde on 6499 2222 or email [grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:grants@begavalley.nsw.gov.au)

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<sup>i</sup> The guidelines includes excerpts from the <https://www.austrade.gov.au/Australian/Tourism/Tourism-and-business/Grants/regional-tourism-bushfire-recovery-grants>