



OFFICIAL

Disaster Recovery Assistance

This fact sheet brings together information on how to claim for Disaster Recovery Assistance and the support available at the Commonwealth and State levels. The information is taken from the responsible department and authority's websites.

The [Department of Home Affairs](#), [Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation](#) and [Indigenous Business Australia](#) have assistance packages at the Commonwealth level, and the relevant state authority at a State level.

For NSW it is the [Rural Assistance Authority](#), Victoria it is [VicEmergency](#) and [Emergency Management Victoria](#) and for South Australia it is the [SA Department of Human Services](#).

Commonwealth support

Indigenous specific support (businesses)

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) has established an emergency response grant for any Indigenous corporation whose property has been directly affected by the recent bushfires.

A grant of up to \$20,000 will be available to assist Indigenous corporations to immediately secure and clean up damaged properties.

The ILSC will also make available a grant to assist Indigenous land management groups and contractors assisting the vital recovery efforts with much needed equipment.

Indigenous corporations who have been directly impacted by the current bushfire emergency and are seeking assistance should contact the ILSC on 1800 818 490 or EDOAdmin@ilcorp.gov.au.

Mental health support grants

The Australian Government will create a Bushfire Recovery Access Program to provide immediate and ongoing free counselling and support to individuals, families and emergency services workers affected by the bushfires.

This program will give people the best chance of full mental health recovery from highly traumatic bushfire events.

Local communities will be eligible for small grants for activities to promote mental health healing and post-trauma recovery.

- The damage caused by the fires has been devastating to some communities, especially those that are small and isolated.
- Community spirit is vital to the survival of these towns and villages and to the recovery of individuals. While many people have shown extraordinary bravery and generosity during and after the fires, people in these communities need the support of those around them to recover and face the future.

OFFICIAL

- Community connectedness and recovery grants of up to \$10,000 will be available to fund grass-roots level activities to help mental health and healing activities after the bushfires.
- These activities will promote peer support, with local residents helping each other and reaching out to others to identify those who are suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or depression, and prevent suicides.
- Each Primary Health Network covering a fire affected region will be given funding for community grants and will administer the grants.
- Grants will be distributed over the next 12 months.

For access to support services, please phone Services Australia on 180 22 66, or visit the Primary Health Networks website.

For more information about the Bushfire Recovery Access Program, please call the public health information hotline on 1800 004 599.

State support (NSW businesses)

Disaster Recovery Grants

Natural disaster recovery grants provide immediate relief to eligible primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations, for clean-up and restoration costs in the aftermath of extreme natural disasters.

RAA administers these grants under the joint Commonwealth and NSW government funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) 2018.

Disaster recovery grants of up to \$15,000 are available to primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations in Local Government Areas (LGA's) affected by the NSW bushfires that have occurred from 31 August 2019.

To find out if you are eligible view the [LGAs affected and the Guidelines](#).

Disaster Relief Loans

Natural disaster relief loans are available to declared Local Government Areas (LGA's). Applications for assistance must be lodged by the 'Application close' date outlined in [Declared natural disasters](#).

Loans are available for primary producers, small businesses, sporting and recreation clubs, and non-profit organisations.

Primary producers

Primary producers directly affected by a declared natural disaster who are in urgent and genuine need of assistance, may be eligible for low interest loans of up to \$130,000.

This low interest rate loan can help a farm business to:

- continue to operate your farm businesses for the next twelve months or until the next income is received
- replace and repair damage caused to the property and associated improvements not covered by insurance.

Application forms are available [online](#).

Small businesses

Small businesses who have been directly affected by a declared natural disaster including floods, fires or storm damage, may be eligible for low interest loans of up to \$130,000.

This low interest rate loan can help a small business:



- return to its normal level of trading or until the next major income is received within 12 months from the date of disaster
- replace and repair damage caused to your small business and associated improvements not covered by insurance.

Applications forms are available [online](#).

Sporting and recreation clubs

Natural disaster financial assistance is available to help sporting and recreation clubs directly affected by a declared natural disaster including flood, fire or storm damage.

The low interest rate loan of up to \$10,000 can help meet the costs of restoring essential club facilities, equipment or other assets that have been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster.

Application forms are available [online](#).

Non-profit organisations

Natural disaster relief loans assist voluntary non-profit organisations directly affected by a declared natural disaster including flood, fire or storm damage.

Low interest rate loans up to \$25,000 are available:

- for the restoration of essential facilities that have been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster
- and may also be directed towards temporary storage or leasing of alternate premises

Application forms are available [online](#).

Natural Disaster Transport Subsidy

A natural disaster assistance transport subsidy is available to eligible farmers who are affected by a declared natural disaster event. This subsidy pays for the cost of transporting:

- fodder and/or water to an affected property
- stock to sale or slaughter
- stock to/from agistment.

Application forms are available [online](#).

State support (Victorian businesses)

Victoria's Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (NDFA) scheme is available to Delivery Agencies including local councils, Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and state agencies, to relieve some of the financial burden that may be experienced following a disaster in accordance with the Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Fact sheets and guidance on claiming are available [online](#) at Emergency Management Victoria.



State support (South Australian businesses)

Recovery grants for small business

A grant of \$10,000 is available for eligible small businesses affected by the Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek bushfires.

The grant is designed to assist with the immediate costs of beginning to rebuild and recover and is provided under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

To apply, contact the SA Department for Innovation and Skills on [1300 142 820](tel:1300142820) or email DIS.SmallBusiness@sa.gov.au

Recovery grants for primary producers

A grant of \$15,000 is available for eligible primary producers affected by the Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek bushfires.

The grant is designed to assist with the immediate costs of beginning to rebuild and recover and is provided under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

More information about applying for this grant will be available soon [online](#).

Other support

State support through Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance is provided for counter disaster activities, repairs to essential public assets and for community recovery activities.

Assets that are essential for providing health, education, justice welfare, and transport services are generally eligible for assistance. Where it is cost effective to do so, councils are expected to maintain insurance for essential public assets.

Eligible assets that are not readily insurable are primarily related to transport infrastructure, such as roads, and associated assets, such as drainage systems, signage, and pedestrian and bike lanes.

Fact sheets and guidance on claiming are available [online](#) at SA Department of Human Services.