



# \$100 million in bushfire emergency support for farmers, fishers and foresters



## **The Australian Government stands by our bushfire-affected primary producers with additional measures to support recovery from this season's fires.**

There are many immediate needs for primary producers in bushfire affected areas, ranging from disposal of dead stock and damaged goods, caring for injured livestock, fencing repair and replacing vital on-farm equipment.

The Australian Government has committed \$100 million to provide emergency grants to farmers, fishers and foresters, to assist them with their immediate and emergency needs.

Up to \$75,000 will be available to eligible primary producers to help them with these initial needs, where those needs are not covered by their existing insurance policies.

## **Working with the states**

The Australian Government is providing these funds through those state and territory governments that request assistance with bushfire recovery under existing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

The Australian Government has been working with the New South Wales, Victorian, Queensland and South Australian governments to ensure these funds get to the people who need them as soon as possible.

Farmers and other primary producer impacted by the bushfire disaster can now contact the relevant disaster response agency in their state for details on eligibility criteria and application processes.

## **Key points**

- The Australian Government is providing \$100 million in emergency bushfire support to help farmers, fishers, foresters and apiarists in declared bushfire disaster areas.
- Primary producers will be eligible for grants of up to \$75,000 under the Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants Program.
- Early assistance is critical in helping primary producers care for injured livestock, dispose of dead stock and damaged goods, repair fences and outbuildings and replace vital on-farm equipment.
- This is critical support for primary producers to meet their immediate needs where those needs are not covered under existing insurance policies.

## Eligible primary producers

These grants will be available to primary producers—other than corporations—who earn more than 50 per cent of their income from primary production, spend part of their labour on primary production, and were operating their business in the current location at the time of the bushfires.

Grants may also be available where primary production income is less than 50 per cent of total income, but it can be shown either that it would be within three years due to longer lead times to production, or where a person can show that, in the ordinary course of business, more than fifty per cent of their income would come from primary production, but this has reduced due to the drought. In both cases, gross annual 'off-farm' income must be less than \$100,000.

Farmers, fishers, private foresters, hunters, trappers and beekeepers are all eligible to apply.

## Eligible expenditure

The recovery grants are intended to be used for the purpose of clean-up and reinstatement associated with bushfire damage in ways that provide greater resilience for future events.

The kind of expenditure that would be eligible under these grants include:

- Hiring, leasing or purchase of equipment and/or materials to undertake clean-up,
- Additional labour costs (above and beyond normal wage expenditure, i.e. day-to-day staffing),
- Disposing of damaged goods and injured or dead livestock, including associated costs,
- Repairing a building or repairing or replacing fittings in a building, if the repair or replacement is essential for resuming operation of the primary production enterprise. (Funding is not available for repairs to a building that is used as a dwelling, unless it is used for carrying on the

primary production enterprise, for example staff accommodation),

- Repairing or replacing fencing and horticultural netting (not covered by other assistance),
- Reconditioning/repairing essential plant and equipment, including repairing damage to, or replacing, water tanks, de-silting dams, water reticulation systems, forestry equipment, aquaculture and fishing equipment,
- Salvaging (but not replacing) crops, grain, feed, fertiliser and timber,
- Health assessment, treatment and maintenance for livestock, poultry and aquaculture species,
- Purchase of fodder, grain, and feeds for livestock and poultry, and/or stock agistment costs, and associated transport costs (not covered by other assistance),
- Purchase or hire/lease costs for equipment essential to the immediate resumption of the business (e.g. energy equipment such as generators and solar panels for non-residential purposes),
- Replacement of essential water used for firefighting purposes,
- Water cartage,
- Payment for tradespeople to conduct safety inspections.

Repairing damage to residential properties is not eligible expenditure, and grants will not be permitted to be used for damage that is covered under existing insurance policies.

## Accessing the program

Contact details for each state are as follows:

- New South Wales: [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au) or call 1800 678 593
- Queensland: [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au) or call 1800 623 946
- South Australia: [www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au) or call 1800 931 314.
- Victoria: [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) or call 1800 260 425.

