

## NSW BUSHFIRES from 31 August 2019

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### Local Government Areas affected:

Armidale, Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore, Mid-Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield, Tweed, and Walcha

**Declared: 24 November 2019.**

**Closing date for applications and claims: 24 May 2020.**

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### Local Government Areas affected (extension)

Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Hawkesbury, Cessnock, Central Coast, Singleton

**Declared: 18 December 2019.**

**Closing date for applications and claims: 18 June 2020.**

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### Local Government Areas affected (extension)

Wingecarribee, Wollondilly

**Declared: 23 December 2019.**

**Closing date for applications and claims: 23 June 2020.**

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### Local Government Areas affected (extension)

Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Shoalhaven, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys and Mid-Western

**Declared: 3 January 2020.**

**Closing date for applications and claims: 3 July 2020.**

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### 1. Description

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In severe circumstances, grants may be provided to eligible non-profit organisations (NPOs) to contribute towards clean up, removal of debris and/or restoring essential facilities, equipment or other assets that have been damaged or destroyed by the disaster.

### 2. Assistance Available

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A grant of up to **\$15,000** per eligible NPO.

### 3. Eligible Events

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This assistance measure is only provided to eligible NPOs following the declaration of a Natural Disaster and announcement of recovery grants by the NSW Government,

This assistance measure is only provided in the event of Natural Disasters that have severely affected communities, regions, or sectors.

### 4. Who is eligible

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When activated, grants are available to NPOs that meet the following criteria:

- a) They are located within the disaster affected area.

They are incorporated charities or NPOs which are registered with the Australian Charities and Non-Profits Commission (ACNC) or an equivalent state regulatory body.

These NPOs may include: non-profit schools, religious institutions, homeless hostels, aged persons homes, organisations relieving the special needs of people with disabilities, community child care centres, cultural societies, environmental protection societies, neighbourhood associations, public museums and libraries, scouts, sports clubs, surf lifesaving clubs, or traditional service clubs.

### 5. Eligibility Criteria

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To be eligible, NPOs must:

- a) Be in a situation where they have incurred costs as a result of the disaster, which are not recoverable through insurance, and they do not have the financial capacity to pay the costs from their own funds or reserves
- b) provide confirmation that a claim against their insurance policy in respect of any loss or damage suffered has been lodged. Full

insurance details, including policy numbers are to be provided with the application.

## 6. Exclusions

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- a) Loss of revenue.
- b) Assistance is not provided to clubs that have sizable commercial operations or gaming areas – such clubs may include golf clubs, bowling clubs etc.
- c) Organisations receiving other grants or loans for the same declared disaster may not be eligible for this assistance measure.
- d) Damage covered by insurance
- e) Organisations that have the financial capacity to conduct their own restoration works.

## 7. Fraudulent claims

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- a) By signing the claim form, you are declaring that the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation is true and accurate.
- b) Providing inaccurate, untrue or misleading information may be a breach of criminal law for which serious penalties may apply.
- c) If any information provided in an application or supporting documentation is found to be inaccurate, untrue or misleading, legal action may be taken against you, including action to recover the funds.

## 8. Important Information

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- a) These guidelines are correct at the time of publishing.
- b) RAA reserves the right to amend, alter or change these guidelines at any time, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they check the relevant website prior to application.
- c) The guidelines that apply to your application will be the guidelines that are current at the time your application is received by RAA.
- d) While RAA has taken all care in preparing these guidelines, RAA will not be liable in any way for any errors, omissions or variation to information in these guidelines or for not advising an applicant of any errors, omissions or variations to information in these guidelines.

## 9. Assessment

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- a) Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria. RAA reserves the right to request further information from you or from any business or individual you have engaged, to assist in assessing your application and to verify any information provided in your application.
- b) Failure to provide such information may result in RAA refusing your application.
- c) RAA also reserves the right to refuse an application, at its discretion, for any reason or for no reason irrespective of whether the eligibility criteria have been met.
- d) Applications submitted may be subject to audit by RAA or its agents in order to determine compliance with scheme guidelines.

## 10. Applications

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- a) Applications for assistance under the program must be made on RAA's application form and be accompanied by the documentation stated in the application form.
- b) Applications and claims must be lodged on or before or before the closing dates as shown at: <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/declared-natural-disasters> Authority with tax invoices for claims dated after **31 August 2019** for damages incurred.
- c) You will be expected to provide a range of supporting documentation, including the latest local council rate notice; latest available Tax Return and Financial Statement for your small business enterprise and complete copies of personal Tax Returns for each member of the small business. You should also include personal taxation returns for all beneficiaries of trusts and all Directors/Share holders of a company where other entities are involved.
- d) Complete applications will be assessed in order of receipt. Incomplete applications will not enter the assessment queue until all required information is provided.
- e) Applicants should note that past financial assistance under this program or any other program is not a reliable indicator of eligibility for future financial assistance under this program.
- f) Before applying for financial assistance under this program or making any decision, applicants



should seek advice from their legal, business and financial advisers to determine their eligibility for and the terms of the financial assistance.

To fast-track the assessment of your application and claims, you are encouraged to apply online at:

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/grants/disaster-recovery-grants>

You can also lodge completed application forms including required documentation with the NSW Rural Assistance Authority by the following methods:

Email: [rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au)

Post: Locked Bag 23, Orange NSW 2800

If you have difficulty understanding or completing the form you should seek the assistance of your rural/financial counsellor, business advisor, accountant or a trusted family member/friend.

Language Services (Interpreting and Translating) are available by contacting Multicultural NSW on 1300 651 500 or by visiting [languageservices@multicultural.nsw.gov.au](mailto:languageservices@multicultural.nsw.gov.au)