



# BUSHFIRE INDUSTRY

## Recovery Package

### Supply Chain Support Grants Guidelines

## Message from the Deputy Premier



Over many decades, NSW's forestry, horticulture and agriculture industries have played a pivotal role in building our State's robust and thriving economy. As a Government, we are acutely aware that these industries now face their greatest challenge: to flourish once more after a summer of devastating bushfires, made worse by prolonged, severe drought and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NSW Government's \$140 million Bushfire Industry Recovery Package will strengthen the resilience of these driver industries, generating jobs and economic activity. The funding will provide the direct assistance many businesses need to bounce back, in turn helping other businesses and communities that rely on these industries to remain viable into the future.

The Supply Chain Support Grants, one of two funding streams in the Bushfire Industry Recovery Package, will meet the shorter-term needs of regional NSW's forestry, horticulture and agriculture industries impacted by the bushfires since 31 August 2019.

We've seen first-hand the devastating effects of the fires and know affected towns are doing it tough with job losses and economic decline. We will fund projects that retain and create jobs, reinforce local supply chains and support a return to production as these businesses recover, regrow and remain the heartbeat of regional economies.

Delivering a fair share to NSW regions has been a focus for the NSW Government. We have created a standalone Department of Regional NSW that will bring regional issues even closer to the centre of our government, working in lock-step with councils to support our regional communities.

While we work to improve everyday life across the regions, our focus has shifted to dealing with the impact of drought, bushfire and COVID-19. The Bushfire Industry Recovery Package will provide direct support for fire affected businesses and is a reminder that the NSW Government will do what's needed to protect jobs, create new employment opportunities and keep regional economies strong.

I encourage potential applicants to review the Supply Chain Support Grants Guidelines to take every available opportunity to secure the funding needed to recover, grow and thrive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Barilaro".

**The Hon John Barilaro**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales,  
Industry and Trade  
Minister for Disaster Recovery

# Overview

The Bushfire Industry Recovery Package – Supply Chain Support Grants provide funding to support the short-term recovery and resilience of the forestry, horticulture and agriculture industries in New South Wales impacted by the bushfires from 31 August 2019. Funding is available for projects that will be delivered in the immediate to short term to help producers and businesses rebuild and recover, with a focus on retaining jobs and enabling future production.

The Supply Chain Support Grants is one of two funding streams in the NSW Government's \$140 million Bushfire Industry Recovery Package. The Sector Development Grants funding stream has separate Guidelines and will focus on larger projects that will be delivered in the medium to long-term to help industry-wide recovery and rebuilding, with a focus on job creation via projects that will increase value-add production, support supply-chain efficiencies, product diversification and market expansion.

The overall objective of the Bushfire Industry Recovery Package is to enable the recovery and resilience of key engine (driver) industries of forestry, horticulture and agriculture via supporting:

- the immediate recovery needs of producers to enable a functional supply chain
- the creation and retention of jobs
- strengthening local supply chains
- increasing value adding production and diversification.

# Objective

The objective of the Bushfire Industry Recovery Package – Supply Chain Support Grants is to support the short-term recovery needs and retention of jobs for producers and businesses in the forestry, horticulture and agriculture industries in bushfire impacted regions via delivery of targeted economic activity.

## Key dates\*

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**Applications open** 19 May 2020

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**Applications close** 12 June 2020 (5pm AEST)

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**Assessment** Rolling as applications are submitted

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**Announcement** Within 10 days of fully completed application

\* Applications in the forestry sector for haulage costs of burnt timber out of area will require a longer opening period that will be specified in the industry-specific fact sheet.



## Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants, projects, costs, grant amounts and other information for individual industry sectors are set out in the Industry Fact Sheets at [nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package](http://nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package)



## Assessment process

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria for the specified industry (as set out in the Fact Sheets).

During the assessment process applicants may be requested to clarify or provide additional information to assist in the assessment process. Advice may be sought from other NSW Government agencies or other sources to assist in the assessment of projects.

Projects may be assessed as only partially eligible and could therefore be recommended for part-funding.

Where there is uncertainty or unintended outcomes that arise from the Program eligibility requirements a practical approach will be taken to resolve issues. Final eligibility determinations will be made at the sole discretion of the Department of Regional NSW.

Projects may be referred to other funding programs in the NSW or Commonwealth Government for consideration.

Co-contributions of lower than 50 per cent may be considered in extenuating circumstances.

## Application process

Applications will be submitted online and can be accessed at [nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package](http://nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package)

Paper forms and other support with the application process can be arranged by referring to the 'Getting Support' section of these Guidelines.

## Probity advice

Independent probity advisers will provide guidance on issues concerning integrity, fairness and accountability that may arise throughout application, assessment and decision process. This will help ensure decisions are made with integrity, fairness and accountability, while delivering value for money for NSW.



## Successful projects

Successful applicants will be notified in writing via email and / or letter. Applicants may be requested to keep the grant confidential for a period of time if an announcement will be made by the NSW Government.

Applicants will be required to enter a funding deed with the NSW Government, which will include a requirement that the applicant has and can provide a copy of all relevant insurances, such as public liability insurance or other insurance depending on the project.

Successful applicants may be required to submit project progress reports to the NSW Government as outlined in the funding deed. Grants will be paid via milestone payments set out in the funding deed and timing and requirements will vary depending on the scope and timelines of the project.

### Applicants should note:

- the NSW Government may choose to publicly announce grant funding for individual applications
- requests for variations or changes to the project will only be considered in limited circumstances
- successful applicants will be required to pay back unspent funds or those funds which have not been spent in accordance with the funding deed
- successful applicants will be required to participate in a program evaluation after the project has commenced to determine the extent to which their projects have contributed to the objectives of the funding package. The evaluation will require applicants to provide evidence of how projects have resulted in measurable benefits that are consistent with the objectives of the fund, with a focus on employment, recovery and growth
- all recipients of NSW Government funding should acknowledge this financial support as per the Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines for Recipients of NSW Government Grants available at [communications.dpc.nsw.gov.au/branding](http://communications.dpc.nsw.gov.au/branding)
- the Department reserves the right to undertake an audit of grant funding within seven years.

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of each application.

## Getting support

Frequently asked questions and other resources to assist with applications are available at [nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package](http://nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package)

If you require assistance or advice with your application, please contact [regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au) or 1300 679 673 for a referral to the appropriate regional team.

## Complaints

Any concerns about the program or individual applications should be submitted in writing to [regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au). If you do not agree with the way the Department handled the issue, you may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via [ombo.nsw.gov.au](http://ombo.nsw.gov.au)



## More information

[nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package](http://nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package)

### Contact us

Email: [regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:regionalnsw.business@dpc.nsw.gov.au)

Call: 1300 679 673

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Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)*. Information that is deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.

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