Outcomes Reporting Guidance Note

To assist applicants for Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund, develop appropriate outcomes for their projects.

Background

The objective of the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund is to support economic and social recovery at a local and regional level in areas impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires. The BLER Fund will support job retention and creation in these regions, strengthen community resilience and reduce the impact future natural disasters will have on our communities. The majority of funding should be committed to the areas most impacted by the fires.

Outcome Reporting Obligations

Information on the outcomes of projects funded by the BLER Fund is required to evaluate the fund's success in achieving its objective to support economic and social recovery at a local and regional level in areas impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires.

It is a funding requirement for applicants to outline outcomes to be delivered by each project and how the applicant will monitor and report on these outcomes once the project is operational or completed. This will be considered as part of the assessment process. Project applications without clear outcomes or without clear data collection, monitoring and reporting processes may not be approved for funding.

Reporting is conducted during the delivery of the project. However, recipients are still required to report on outcomes post the completion of their project.

Measurement

BLER funding will be provided for a wide range of projects. Projects will align with the following categories: enabling infrastructure, industry and business development, social development, natural environment and resource development, or built environment adaption. While measuring project outcomes is different for different types of projects, the key measures for the BLER funded projects are ongoing, sustainable community benefits and regional recovery.

Applications for the BLER grants should outline proposed approaches to measuring project outcomes.

The following principles should be considered when developing project outcome measures:

- **Connection** – use a measure that shows if the infrastructure is being used as intended or the program was delivered as intended
- **Usage** – show how the infrastructure or program is being used by the intended users, and how much use there is of the infrastructure or program
- **Baseline** –measure of use or engagement before the project or program and then again after the delivery/implementation. For new programs or projects, where a before and after measure cannot be completed, an applicant may consider if the use of substitute infrastructure or programs has changed
- **Satisfaction** – show how satisfied users are with the program or infrastructure
- **Timing** – outline when the observations of the program or infrastructure use occurred to enable extrapolation.

Examples

Some example project outcome measures are outlined below for different project types.

Table 1. Project outcome examples

Project type	Example project outcomes measures	Explanation	BLER objectives
Infrastructure	How many people use the infrastructure? How satisfied are users with the infrastructure? What economic increase has business attributed to the infrastructure?	Usage and satisfaction would ideally be measured before and after the project. The outcome may be improved satisfaction. For example, X, people continue to use the infrastructure but report they are now more satisfied. The infrastructure may be directed at improving business conditions for the region, where reporting economic improvements these should be directly attributed to the new infrastructure.	Supporting economic recovery Supporting social recovery Supporting job retention and creation Supporting community recovery Supporting community resilience
Tourism events and campaigns	How many events are being held? How many people visited the region because of an event or campaign? How much is spent in the regional economy as a result of the program?	If the project is event based the usage and satisfaction should be measured. For example, X, events were held which would not have occurred otherwise attracting Y visitors to the region and feedback on the level of satisfaction. For projects focused on campaigns the increase in visitor numbers and their level of spending within the region can be measured	Supporting economic recovery Supporting social recovery Supporting job retention and creation
Industry and business programs	How many people have started the program? How many people have completed the program? How satisfied are people with these programs? How many people have gained new employment? How many residents or industries have relocated to the region?	The usage of the program including the number of people who enrolled in the program, completed the program and the satisfaction of people with the program. What industry outcomes have been achieved in terms of new employment in new industries or further on flows with new jobs in sectors and lowering of unemployment rates? If the program is designed to encourage remote working. For example, how many new residents have relocated due remote working capacity?	Supporting job retention and creation Strengthening community resilience

Project type	Example project outcomes measures	Explanation	BLER objectives
Social development	How many people accessed the program or facility? How satisfied are people with the program or facility? What is the demographic of users?	Includes the number and demographic of people who access the program or facility and their level of satisfaction. The program or facility may also support flow on benefits, including the development of new relationships and connections between communities, this can be used to identify improved community resilience.	Supporting social recovery Supporting community resilience
Natural environment restoration	How many people access the local environment? How satisfied are people with the work? How much natural habitat has been restored?	The ability of residents and visitors to access areas impacted by natural disaster and their satisfaction with the work. For example, number of visitors to a nature reserve before and after the work is completed and their level of satisfaction. The level of natural habitat available for species in the region. For example, area of land suitable for local native species impacted by the fire.	Supporting community resilience Supporting social recovery Reduce the impact of future natural disasters
Built environment adaptation	How many people are protected by the infrastructure? What is the change in the community risk profile?	How and to what level has the project reduced the community's exposure to natural disasters. For example, is the community now protected from one-in-100-year events instead on one-in-20-year events? To what level and how many people benefit from the infrastructure once completed. For example, can more people now safely shelter in place, or have increased energy security?	Support community resilience Reduce the impact of future natural disasters