

Bushfire Industry Recovery Package

Supply Chain Support Grants – Horticulture



Fact Sheet / Guideline

Introduction

Over five million hectares were burnt across NSW in the recent bushfires. This has caused a major impact on many horticultural industries and businesses affecting the viability of local communities where these industries are concentrated.

The geographic spread of fires was unprecedented with damage extending from the NSW Northern regions, southward through coastal and central regions and into southern production areas. For example, the Batlow apple region produces around 10 per cent of the national crop, with estimates of 20 per cent of apple trees and supporting farm infrastructure (i.e. nets and irrigation) being destroyed in the fires. Other apple producing regions, such as Bilpin, have also been impacted. A number of other horticulture crops and regions have also been impacted by the fires, such as berries, stonefruit and nut producing crops.

This package will provide financial assistance to horticulture businesses that have been impacted by the bushfires from 31 August 2019 to assist in the recovery of production. Grants will be available per hectare depending on the extent of damage, orchard style, or type of perennial tree and berry crop. These grants must be matched by an equivalent commitment from the applicant, either financial or in-kind.

The eligible activities and costs have been determined through the development of the Horticulture Recovery Plan available on the Bushfire Industry Recovery Package website.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

Horticulture businesses that:

- have an ABN
- have farms and/or orchards such as apples, stone fruits, nuts and berries and other horticultural crops that were directly impacted by bushfires since August 2019; and were in active production immediately prior to the fires

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects include activities that are directly linked with re-establishing damaged or destroyed orchards, or perennial tree and berry crops such as:

- Clean up of damaged infrastructure and other site preparation
- Replacement stock (i.e. trees)
- Replacement of damaged irrigation infrastructure
- Replacement poles, trellises and netting

Sheds or packing facilities are not eligible for funding. Funding cannot be used for expansion projects, or for areas that were not in active production.

All funded activities covered by these grants will need to be complete and all grant funding expended by 30 June 2022. Evidence of co-contribution (including in-kind, and work still to be undertaken) will need to be able to be provided at this time as part of the project acquittal.

Eligible Costs

Capital and other costs directly related to the re-establishment and repair of damaged or destroyed orchards or perennial tree and berry crops.

The application form will set out the cap of the grant funds that can be contributed per hectare for each eligible cost. Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) will assess each application and calculations for the grower's co-contributions.

Costs already claimed under the Regional Assistance Authority Special Disaster Grant – Bushfires, other State or Commonwealth program or insurance will not be eligible.

Eligible Amounts and Limits

Grants are available at a per hectare rate depending on orchard style, or type of perennial tree and berry crop, up to a maximum limit per hectare, to be matched by an equal contribution from the applicant.

The dollar per hectare available for fruit orchards, nuts and berries are listed below:

Type of orchard or perennial tree crop	Maximum contribution available per hectare
Apple / pome orchards	\$120,000
Stone fruit orchards	\$60,000
Tree nuts – chestnut, walnuts, hazelnuts etc	\$6,000 to \$40,000 depending on system
Berries	\$20,000 to \$45,000 depending on system
Other	Contact the Rural Assistance Authority to discuss

Co-contribution

Applicants must demonstrate their contribution (financial, in-kind or otherwise) towards the proposed recovery actions. Co-contributions can include direct cash and in-kind contributions to the project. Costs already incurred by businesses for the re-establishment and repair of damaged orchards, perennial tree and berry crop (and not already claimed / paid under another State or Commonwealth program or insurance) may be deemed a co-contribution.

Application Process

All applications will be completed online. The form is available at www.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-industry-recovery-package. Applicants will be required to provide the following information:

- Business details including location and ABN
- Evidence of horticulture impact, and active production prior to the fire damage
- Costings for activities proposed to be funded by the grant
- Demonstration of matching contribution from the applicant

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority will assess your application against the eligibility criteria and may request additional information from you or your nominated financial advisor or accountant. The RAA has the right to refuse an application if you cannot demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria. The RAA can also refuse an application if you do not provide the information requested, in order to undertake an assessment.

Getting Support

Support can be accessed from the Rural Assistance Authority at www.raa.nsw.gov.au, rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au and 1300 678 593.

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