

Bushfire Industry Recovery Package: Supply Chain Support Grants – Viticulture

New South Wales is the second-largest wine-producing state in Australia, accounting for 30% of the \$5 billion Australian wine industry.

The bushfires of 2019-20 saw grape growers in key wine industry regions in NSW such as the Hunter, Tumbarumba and Shoalhaven Coast experience direct property damage, with other key regions also being impacted from the extended exposure to smoke, which has caused taint in the grapes and has rendered much of the 2020 vintage unsuitable for commercially released wine.

NSW Wine Industry Association estimates the cost in NSW to be in excess of \$100 million when also accounting for the downturn in wine tourism. The impact of the fires comes on top of the drought, which had already reduced grape yields significantly.

This package will provide co-contributions to viticulturalists in NSW who have been impacted by the bushfires from 31 August 2019 to assist in the recovery of their farms and vineyards.

The grants are split into two categories: Repair and Replanting Grants and Recovery Grants. This document talks about the **Recovery Grants (non-disaster declared areas)**.

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

Key dates

Applications open: 19 May 2020

Applications close: 12 June 2020 (5pm AEST)

Assessment: Rolling as applications are submitted

Notifications: Within 10 days of submission

Eligible applicants for Recovery Grant (non-disaster declared areas)

Viticulture businesses that:

- have an ABN
- be directly impacted by bushfires or can demonstrate smoke taint since August 2019.

Given the unique impacts of the fire season on viticultural businesses, eligible applicants will be able to apply for one of the below forms of support:

Eligible projects for Recovery Grant (non-disaster declared areas)

The grant may be used for, but is not limited to meeting standard business costs, including utilities, salaries and rent, seeking financial advice to support the recovery of the business, adjusting the business to be viable in the changed local context following the bushfires, developing the business and extending business reach through marketing and communications activities, or improvements to make the business more resilient to future disasters.

Eligible Costs for Recovery Grant (non-disaster declared areas)

Capital and other costs directly related to the delivery of the eligible projects.

Eligible Amounts and Limits for Recovery Grant (non-disaster declared areas)

Maximum \$10,000 per business.

Co-Contribution for Recovery Grant (non-disaster declared areas)

Not applicable.

Application Process

All applications will be completed online.

Applicants will be required to provide the following information:

- business details including location and ABN
- evidence of decline in revenue of 40% or more in a 3-month period, compared to the same period in the previous year (profit and loss statements, Business Activity Statements (BAS), annual reports)
- evidence of Full Time Employees and turnover during various periods before and after the bushfires, such as payroll reports (small business is a business that is not a public company, charitable business or body corporate and employees fewer than the equivalent of 20 full-time employees)
- evidence of smoke taint impact on harvest, such as smoke taint test results.

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.

Apply online Now

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/birp-supply-chain-support-grants/viticulture/form>

Get Support

Access support via www.raa.nsw.gov.au, rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 678 593.

For full details of supply chain support grants see the link below

<https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/birp-supply-chain-support-grants/viticulture>