



# Victorian Bushfire Appeal Advisory Panel

## Victorian Bushfire Appeal Community Grants Program – Proposed expansion

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal was established to raise funds to aid individuals and communities who have been impacted by the 2019-2020 Victorian bushfires.

Recommendations regarding the distribution of funding are made by an Independent Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel). These recommendations are then considered by Sandhurst Trustees Limited, the Trustee of the Community Enterprise Foundation (the Foundation) for formal approval.

The Foundation has endorsed a total allocation of \$4 million to communities impacted by the 2019-2020 Victorian Bushfires. This allocation is intended to address the short to medium-term recovery needs of communities.

The \$4 million allocation is intended to cover the local government areas of Alpine, Towong and East Gippsland. The program is expanding to allow applications from the broader community. However, Community Recovery Committee (CRC) endorsement will be sought for all funding proposals from this allocation.

Information about how to apply for funding and funding eligibility will be provided to councils and the broader community. These documents include:

- (i) Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fact Sheet
- (ii) Applicant Pack - *Victorian Bushfire Appeal Community Grants Program: How to apply.*
- (iii) Frequently Asked Questions

Applications can be submitted online via the Foundation website:

<https://cia.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/Program/Index/1?appealType=Bushfire>

There will be no interruption to the existing Community Grants Program and Community Recovery Committees (CRC) are still able to apply for funding using the same format as has been previously advised.

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w vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal



The appeal is conducted by the Bendigo Bank's charitable arm, Community Enterprise Foundation. The Victorian Bushfire Disaster Appeal is a management account of Community Enterprise Foundation™ ABN 69 694 230 518, The Bendigo Centre, PO Box 480, Bendigo, Vic 3552. The Foundation will make distributions by way of grants, following receipt of applications from organisations endorsed with item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Communities that are outside of the above CRC areas can make an application through the following portal:

<http://cia.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/Program/AllowAccess?key=JSSA6XAI6KY>

The Victorian Bushfire Appeal Secretariat will seek the views of council for applications made this way, to help determine whether the proposal is a community recovery priority.

The following principles have been developed to guide applicants:

- (i) Appeal funds are charitable in nature. This means that their expenditure must be in accordance with donor intent, charitable law and the charitable tax concession status of the Foundation, an Item 2 Deductible Gift Recipient. Because of their charitable nature, appeal funds cannot be used to fund initiatives that are the core responsibility of government. Further information is contained in the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Fact Sheet.
- (ii) Funds can only be granted to eligible organisations that hold Item 1 Deductible Gift Recipient Status, for a Charitable Purpose.
- (iii) All impacted communities will be able to apply for funding through this program. Community Recovery Committee endorsement will be sought for all funding proposals.
- (iv) When making recommendations about which projects and programs may receive funding, the Advisory Panel will consider community need (including the degree of property damage and loss resulting from the 2019-20 Victorian bushfires) as well as the capacity of the community to recover.
- (v) Applicants may wish to identify co-funding opportunities for their project or program, particularly for large requests for funding.

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