

Community Bushfire Recovery Grants Program Guidelines 2020 – 2021 (Community Projects and Community Events)

Expressions of Interest close Wednesday 21
October, 2020

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1. Introduction

Community groups and organisations provide vital services and support to Alpine Shire residents.

Supported by State Government bushfire funding, Alpine Shire Council is providing a funding opportunity to assist groups/individuals to contribute to the community recovery following the 2019-2020 bushfires.

This grant funding is an opportunity for you, community members, to propose community projects, programs or events that will benefit your locality in their recovery and further stimulate the region. Examples of projects could include renovations or extensions to a building, trails and bridges, picnic shelters, public art installations, major piece of equipment for a community asset or leisure equipment, e.g. playground equipment, water slides, etc.

Community events must contribute to the Alpine Shire visitor economy or economic development and are to be located in the Alpine Shire.

Applications for this grant opportunity is a two (2) stage process: an Expression of Interest (EOI), followed by a detailed proposal. This is designed to avoid unnecessary work on proposals that are already developed and for those that are unlikely to be funded (the EOI Lodgement form is on page 9.)

Projects not funded under this program may be captured in the Municipal Recovery Plan or Community Recovery Plan and may be put forward for future funding opportunities that may arise from alternative means.

2. Funding

Alpine Shire Council has received funding under the State Government's Local Government Bushfire Recovery "Council Support Funding Program" to support economic and community development and the Alpine Shire visitor economy.

Up to \$80,000 has been nominally allocated to each of the following five localities (total of \$400,000).

- **Myrtleford and Surrounds** (including and not limited to serving the communities of Myrtleford, Mudgegonga, Gapsted, Rosewhite, Ovens, Happy Valley, Buffalo River, Nug Nug, Abbeyard, Dandongadale)
- **Bright and Surrounds** (including and not limited to the communities of Bright, Porepunkah, Buckland, Wandiligong, Eurobin)

- **Harrietville and Surrounds** (including and not limited to the communities of Harrietville, Freeburgh, Smoko, Germantown)
- **Dinner Plain and Surrounds**
- **Kiewa Valley and Surrounds** (including and not limited to the communities of Mount Beauty, Tawonga, Tawonga South, Dederang, Gundowring, Gundowring Upper, Running Creek, Kancoona and Kancoona South).

Alpine Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest for the delivery of projects and events between \$20,000 and \$80,000 (GST exclusive). The nominal funding allocation per locality is indicative only, and funding decisions will be based on the number and quality of the applications received. Alpine Shire Council reserves the right to allocate funds at Council's absolute discretion, including varying the split of funding between localities.

Council may elect to not allocate the entire budget in this funding round.

3. Timeline

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Wednesday 21 October | Applications close |
| 21-31 October 2020 | Applications assessed, and recommendations made for projects requiring further development (for straightforward, well-defined proposals with strong community support, funding may be sought at the end of the Expression of Interest stage – see Section 11 for details). |
| November 2020 | Detailed planning phase for nominated projects |
| December 2020 | CRC and Council funding recommendations finalised |
| December 2021 | Project or program delivery completed |

4. Program Objectives

The objectives of the Community Bushfire Recovery Program are to:

- connect people and localities to build stronger communities
- stimulate economic activity
- build, install and/or maintain facilities and equipment (walking trails, fences, playgrounds, community buildings and facilities, sculpture and art installations)
- engage and support Aboriginal/Koori communities
- invest in future disaster preparedness and recovery

The desired outcomes of the Community Bushfire Recovery Program include:

- as many people as possible benefiting from the grant/project/event
- creating of local jobs, supporting the local economy and/or increasing business viability
- building local community capacity
- celebrating and recognising the community benefits and outcomes achieved

5. Funding criteria

The Community Bushfire Recovery Grants Program is open to the community for the delivery of community projects and events, which will take place in the Alpine Shire and that demonstrate benefit to the residents and economic growth for the Alpine Shire. These grants are designed to contribute to building strong, connected and more resilient communities, as well as attract and support visitation to the Alpine region.

Examples of the types of projects which would be eligible include construction of buildings, picnic shelters and facilities; construction of playgrounds and recreation facilities – including equipment; installation of sculptures and artworks; construction and/or upgrading of tracks, trails and bridges; and attractions, events and installations that will attract visitors.

Funding is available for the following categories:

Community Projects

Funding is available for capital projects.

This can include design projects which in turn will lead to capital projects being delivered. All capital works need a detailed plan before they can proceed.

Non-structural items, for example storage, lawnmowers for sporting groups etc. will be considered.

Improvements to Council owned property and other community-owned properties and facilities will be considered. This may include purchase and installation of new/upgraded equipment such as heating/cooling, shade, cooking and catering and so on.

Community Events and Programs

These grants are designed to provide community with the opportunity to organise activities specifically for the Alpine region to bolster economic development or the Alpine Shire visitor economy.

Festivals and events that already applied for or received support from Alpine Shire Council's Events Funding Program or Community Grants funding are not eligible to apply for the Community Bushfire Recovery Grants Program.

6. What won't be funded?

Applications involving:

- retrospective funding for projects already commenced or completed
- maintenance to Council owned buildings, which may include painting and repairs, covered under Alpine Shire Council's maintenance policy
- maintenance to buildings owned by other Government agencies whether subject to a Committee of Management or not
- maintenance or improvements to privately owned buildings
- projects submitted for commercial activities and for-profit organisations
- religious activities
- projects or events which take place outside of the Alpine Shire region
- projects or events which are not primarily for the economic and/or community benefit of residents and/or business owners of the Alpine Shire
- fundraising activities, competitions, sponsorship, prizes and awards
- individual community members owning resources
- maintenance of any infrastructure

will not be considered.

7. Who can propose a project?

- Individuals
- Incorporated not-for-profit groups and organisations
- An unincorporated organisation (including formal and informal youth groups) auspiced by an incorporated organisation

8. Who cannot apply?

- For profit organisations or businesses
- Government agencies and political groups

- Applicants who have not satisfactorily acquitted previous Council grants or who have outstanding debts to Council or who are subject to legal action

9. Auspice organisations

To auspice is to lend support to another person or group. In the context of grant applications, the auspice organisation is one that receives the grant money on your behalf and is ultimately responsible to ensure the project is completed. You may need to seek an auspice organisation if your group is not incorporated, does not have a bank account or if your group will not be ongoing; you should partner with an organisation with similar visions or values to yours.

If you require an auspice arrangement you will need to provide a letter of support by your auspice organisation or have the auspice organisation sign the application.

More information about using an auspice arrangement can be found at <https://www.nfplaw.org.au/auspicing>.

10. Lodgement and further information

For further information and/or assistance to complete the Expression of Interest form, please contact Jan Mock, Alpine Shire Council Bushfire Recovery Team on phone 0401 064 030 or email janm@alpinecrc.org.au.

Applications must be received by 10.00pm on Wednesday, 21 October 2020.

11. The Application Process

What is the next step?

▪ Stage 1 – EOI (Expression of Interest)

You will be invited to talk about your project to a panel made up of community members from the Community Recovery Committee and representatives from Alpine Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

- The panel will want to know:
 - What is your project or event?
 - Why is it a good project or event?
 - Do you have support from your local community for this project or event?
 - Who will benefit from your project or event?

- Who is the owner of the property and/or land that your project will impact on? Have you discussed this project with the owners?
- Who would be the project manager for this project or event? This could include Alpine Shire Council, CFA, SES, DELWP, Parks Victoria, a not-for-profit organisation, a service club, a Chamber of Commerce.
- What is an approximate cost of this project or event?

The panel will listen to all proposals from across the 5 designated areas in the Alpine Shire and will decide which projects or events will be approved and fit the funding guidelines for this grant monies.

The EOI Lodgement form is on page 9.

▪ Stage 2 – Project Approval

If your project, program or event is approved for further development you will be given guidance as to what additional work, if any, needs to be completed to further this project or event. Once this has been done a final decision will be made as to whether your project or event will be allocated grant money.

In the event of your project or event not being successful, it will be kept for further consideration of projects as grant monies become available.

12. Expression of Interest Form

Stage 1: Expression of Interest Form (you are free to type into this document).

**Indicates a required field*

Name of Applicant *** _____

Are you representing an organisation? If yes, what is the name of the organisation?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If Yes Name of organisation _____

President _____ Ph No: _____

Secretary _____ Ph No: _____

Email address: _____

Is your organisation an Incorporated body? ***

Yes ☐ Incorporation Number: _____ No ☐

Community Project/Program/ Event Title ***

Project/ event Address ***

Brief Project/ event Description *** (Maximum 100 words)

Why is your project/ event important for your community? *

How will your proposed project/ event achieve the objectives of the Community Bushfire Recovery Program? (see pages 4-5 for the objectives) *

How will the proposed project/event deliver the desired outcomes of the Community Bushfire Recovery Program? (see page 5 for the outcomes) *

What will be the economic and community benefits of this proposed project/ event? *

Who owns the land on which the project/ event will be undertaken? *

Have you discussed this project/ event with the property(s) owner?

What support do you have to undertake this project/ event? *