

## Community Recovery Grants Program Guidelines

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### Overview

Towong Shire Council's Community Recovery Grants Program is aimed at providing immediate assistance to the Towong Shire community impacted by the January 2020 bushfires and support locally led recovery initiatives.

The funds for the Community Recovery Grants Program will come from the Commonwealth Government's *Bushfire Recovery Program* (\$550,000) and the State Government's *Community Recovery and Resilience Grants* stream of the *Community Recovery Package* (\$200,000).

The objective of the grant program is to provide funding for projects and activities deemed essential for the recovery and renewal of our communities.

Projects and activities that demonstrate the following are encouraged:

- Support bushfire recovery
- Build community resilience
- Support social, economic and environmental recovery
- Support community events, activities and infrastructure projects
- Increase awareness of support services
- Enhance community health and wellbeing
- Attract visitors to Towong Shire
- Provide opportunities for skills development and/or information sharing
- Increase fire preparedness and mitigation (including equipment)

Community groups including service organisations and community recovery committees and actions groups can apply for up to **\$5,000**.

The program will be open from July 2020 until June 2022. Applications can be submitted at any time. Council will review applications three times annually.

## Eligibility

### Who is eligible?

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an incorporated community body or have an auspicing body based in Towong Shire with an:
  - ABN status on the Australian Business Register (<https://abr.business.gov.au>) that demonstrates incorporated not for profit status on the date the application was submitted.
- Have adequate public liability insurance to cover staff and general public (if you are uncertain, please speak to Council)
- Have an adequate risk management plan, as required
- The event/project MUST take place in the Towong Shire municipality
- The event/project MUST benefit the Towong Shire community

Council will consider funding for activities undertaken from 1 January 2020 that are related to bushfire recovery and meet the grant program objectives.

Organisations acting as an Auspice for other community groups are eligible to apply for a grant within their own right.

### Who is not eligible?

Applicants are ineligible if they:

- Are a 'for profit' organisation
- Are not incorporated and do not have an auspicing body
- Do not have adequate public liability insurance
- Have been a successful applicant in a previous round and have not yet acquitted this grant

### Applications that will not be considered

Applications will not be considered if they:

- Are seeking funding for alcohol or gambling related activities
- Are a duplication of an existing service
- Rely on ongoing funding from Council
- Take place outside of Towong Shire
- Have political intent

Only one application per organisation/community group will be considered in each round.

A successful applicant should have acquitted one grant before being eligible for another.

Preference will be given to applicants that have not received funding from this program in previous rounds.

### Assessment

Applications may be submitted to Council at any time once the program is open. Council will implement three rounds of assessment for the 2020/21 financial year. A fourth and final round will be implemented in the 2021/22 financial year.

Applications will be considered by Council with applicants notified of Council decision in writing.

Funding Round	Closing Date	Council Meeting for Decision
Round 1	Friday 14 August 2020	Tuesday 1 September 2020
Round 2	Friday 12 February 2021	Wednesday 24 March 2021
Round 3	Friday 14 May 2021	Wednesday 23 June 2021
Round 4	Friday 24 September 2021	Wednesday 27 October 2021

The outcome of Round 4 will be communicated Friday 12 November 2021.

Applicants will be notified of their outcome in writing. A list of the successful applicants will be published on the Towong Shire website.

### Conditions of Funding

Before applying, applicants should agree to the following conditions of funding (if applicable):

- Public liability insurance, planning and permits are the sole responsibility of the applicant
- Funding is conditional on all permits being acquired before the event or start date of the project
- Funding must be spent within 12 months of receiving written notice of grant success
- Organisations must make efforts to promote the project/activity and the funding support provided through this program
- Council’s support must be acknowledged in all media and promotional material relating to the project/activity
- An acquittal must be completed after the project/activity completion

### **Acquittal**

The applicant will be required to prepare and present an acquittal to Council upon completion of the project. The acquittal enables Council to evaluate the success and outcomes of the grants program and report to the State and Commonwealth Governments.

Resources to support an acquittal are available on the Towong Shire website or by contacting the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub on 1800 518 222 or [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au).

### **Further information**

If you require further information, please contact the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub on 1800 518 222 or [recovery@towong.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@towong.vic.gov.au).