



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Local Economic Recovery and Complementary Projects funding

#### FAQs

##### What is the national approach to supporting local economic recovery projects?

- Bushfire affected communities will share in **\$448.5 million** of Local Economic Recovery and Complementary Projects funding from the Australian Government.
- This national investment is supported by extra co-funding from state governments for local economic recovery projects, making more money available for community-led recovery.
- This funding will help towns and regions hit by the fires get back on their feet.
- As you would expect, priority will be given to the most severely impacted regions.

##### What kind of proposals will be chosen for funding?

- Funding will be available to support key recovery projects identified in bushfire affected regions.
- Projects could range from initiatives that promote economic activity and support community wellbeing, to projects that focus on the landscape and water, or building future resilience.
- Each region's needs vary, and the proposals taken forward will reflect community need.

##### How are projects agreed?

- State governments are responsible for identifying and delivering projects.
- Each state government is identifying projects through a different process.
- In South Australia, the state government is consulting directly with local councils, recovery committees, communities and other stakeholders in bushfire affected areas.
- In Queensland, local councils and state agencies were asked to submit an expression of interest by 7 September 2020. Projects will be assessed, announced and funded as soon as they are ready. [Six recovery projects](#) have been already been announced. To learn more about the process and eligibility visit the [Queensland Reconstruction Authority website](#)
- In Victoria, the state government is working with local councils, recovery committees and communities to identify projects to meet priority recovery needs. [Five Victorian projects](#) have already been announced. For more information, or to register and expression of interest (EOI) for a project idea, visit the Victoria Local Economic Recovery Program page at [www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities](http://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities)

- In New South Wales applications open for the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery program grants on 27 October. Projects will be assessed and announced over the coming months. For more information about the process and eligibility visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/blerfund>.

**Who makes final decisions on the projects funding, is it the Australian Government or states?**

- States are responsible for selecting, delivering and managing approved projects.
- The National Bushfire Recovery Agency works with states to confirm that any projects proposed for LER co-funding meet agreed criteria.

## Criteria

**States will ensure proposed projects align to the following LER criteria**

**Balance and need**

Diverse local and regional recovery needs are balanced, effort and funding duplication is avoided, vulnerable groups/diverse populations are supported, and unintended consequences are minimised (for example, adverse impacts on another region’s economy or for a particular business, or adverse impacts on vulnerable groups). It is expected that each agreed priority region will receive some LER funding, and that projects where possible include those that cover each of the four recovery domains – economic, social, built and natural environments.

**Alignment**

Projects align to and support medium-long term economic recovery needs identified in state local and regional recovery plans and are consistent with relevant national policy frameworks, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, and the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

**Enduring benefit**

Local and regional recovery is tangible, sustainable (i.e. delivers ongoing benefits and employment opportunities), builds future resilience, and reduces future disaster risk.

**Funding stream suitability**

Funding stream is suitable and preferable to other possible funding streams.

**Local participation, support and delivery**

Communities participate in planning and development processes, and support proposed projects. Projects optimise local and Indigenous employment and procurement opportunities, including opportunities for local trades, services and other input-supplying businesses.

## **Evidence base**

There is an evidence base for project need and benefit. Evidence may be quantitative or qualitative, such as local and regional advice.

## **Feasibility**

Projects are feasible, risks and consequences are acceptable, and appropriate mitigation strategies are identified. Project proponents can demonstrate delivery capacity and experience and project readiness supports commencement within LER timeframes. Cost is an effective, efficient and ethical use of resources.

## **How much funding will each region receive?**

- Each community has different recovery needs. We expect to distribute funding proportionate to impact and need.

## **Who should I talk to about my project?**

- If you have a project proposal, speak to your council or community recovery committee, so it can be considered in the mix of local priorities.
- In Victoria, you can put in an expression of interest via the Bushfire Recovery Victoria website. Visit [www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities](http://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities)
- In Queensland, an expression of interest process has closed. Details are available on the Queensland Recovery Agency website. Visit [www.qra.qld.gov.au/LER](http://www.qra.qld.gov.au/LER)
- In South Australia, the process is being run by Department of Premier and Cabinet. The state government is consulting directly with relevant councils and communities to identify projects.
- In New South Wales applications open for the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery program grants on 27 October. For more information about the process and eligibility visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/blerfund>.

## **Can I submit my idea directly to the National Bushfire Recovery Agency?**

- No, projects submitted directly to the National Bushfire Recovery Agency will be referred to project proposal processes in the relevant state.