SMALL BUSINESS FACTSHEET P1 - FEB 20

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grants of up to $50,000 are available for eligible Victorian small businesses and non-profit organisations directly affected by the Victorian bushfires. Further eligibility criteria apply. To apply, visit **business.vic.gov.au** or go to brv.vic.gov.au for a direct link.

Concessional loans of up to $500,000 are also available to support small business, primary producers and non-profit organisations who have suffered significant damage to assets or significant loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires. Further eligibility criteria apply. To apply, visit **ruralfinance.com.au** or go to brv.vic.gov.au for a direct link to the application page. Applications must be submitted by 31 July.

For assistance with grant applications and other financial matters, you can access the free **Rural Financial Counselling Service** by calling **1800 686 175**.

For a full list of grants and other financial support available, visit brv.vic.gov.au or call us on **1800 560 760** to access dedicated case support.

TAX RELIEF

Tax relief measures are available to businesses in certain bushfire-affected areas. They include:

- A 50 per cent concession on stamp duty for eligible properties, allowing businesses to relocate, expand or move into the fire-affected areas
- Immediate regional payroll tax relief so that regional employers only pay 25 per cent of the metropolitan rate, backdated to 1 July 2019

The State Revenue Office will communicate with businesses to ensure annual or monthly returns reflect the special rate. As the special rate is back-dated, businesses who have already filed monthly returns will receive a refund of tax overpaid.

This relief will apply to 'regional employers' who pay at least 85 per cent of their taxable wages to 'regional employees'. Regional employees are those who perform more than half of their monthly services in regional Victoria.

Other tax relief measures include:

- Properties that have been destroyed or substantially damaged by bushfires will receive relief for their 2020 land tax assessment
- The State Revenue Office has suspended land tax assessments in affected areas and will continue to support businesses in fire-affected areas
- Land tax will be also be waived on eligible properties being used to provide free accommodation for people who need it
- Water rates will be waived for 12 months for businesses destroyed or significantly damaged by fire and rebates provided for customers affected by interruptions to their water supply.

TOURISM AND EVENTS

Tourism North East and Destination Gippsland will each receive a $200,000 grant to assist with their immediate recovery efforts. This includes support for a dedicated staff member to work directly with operators and coordinate marketing and campaign activities.

The Victorian Government has also announced Business and Sport for Bushfire Recovery that will see hundreds of major organisations hold multi-day stays in bushfire affected areas in regional Victoria. Visit businesseventsvictoria.com for more info.

The Victorian Government has announced that a round of the Regional Events Fund will deliver up to $300,000 for events in bushfire-affected areas. The Bushfire recovery round is open until 27 March. Grants of up to $20,000 are available for eligible events. Find more information at visitvictoria.com or brv.vic.gov.au.

For more information about grants, clean-up, fencing, your community's recovery and other issues, visit **brv.vic.gov.au** or call 1800 560 760

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY VICTORIA

For advice on emergency warnings, preparedness and relief, visit **emergency.vic.gov.au**

VIC EMERGENCY
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

SMALL BUSINESS FACTSHEET P2 - FEB 20

CLEAN-UP

The 2020 Clean-Up Program covers demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by this season's bushfires (including residential homes and sheds, commercial and public buildings, and other out-buildings).

The program is government-funded and is free of charge for all property owners, regardless of whether you are insured. To register for the Clean-Up Program, or to find more information, visit **brv.vic.gov.au** or contact us at **1800 560 760**.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- $500,000 for grants to regional industry groups and chambers of commerce to facilitate vital networking events, tourism opportunities and pro-bono business partnerships
- Small business advisers stationed at recovery centres to give businesses the support and advice they need
- $2.5 million will be provided to help wine industry growers and producers with testing, research and technical advice to help make the best decisions for their business. More information is available at **agriculture.vic.gov.au.**

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For more information regarding financial support you may be eligible for as a farmer, small business, individual or family, visit **brv.vic.gov.au** or call **1800 560 760**.

For more information about grants, clean-up, fencing, your community's recovery and other issues, visit **brv.vic.gov.au** or call 1800 560 760

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