



Media Release

23 April 2020

\$10,000 BUSHFIRE GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPANDED TO 30 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Council has received advice today that grants up to \$10,000 are now available for small businesses impacted by the recent bushfire events. A joint media release from The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management and The Hon John Barilaro MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Industry & Trade is reproduced below.

"I wish to congratulate Minister Littleproud, and the Deputy Premier for providing this grant funding. In addition I sincerely thank our Federal Member, Hon Barnaby Joyce MP for his great work in achieving this outcome for New England businesses, adding Tenterfield, Walcha, Glen Innes and Armidale to the eligibility list.

I also wish to thank our State Member, Janelle Saffin for lobbying hard behind the scenes," Mayor Peter Petty said.

"Council has been pushing hard for this funding to assist all those small businesses which were significantly impacted by the fire events from February 2019 onwards which caused such hardship to our community. Although not impacted by the fire as such, many of our small business owners suffered due to the huge downturn in tourism and loss of income by our rural residents and primary producers who were also suffering the ravages of the drought", Mayor Petty added.

"Wednesday, 22 April 2020

\$10,000 BUSHFIRE GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPANDED TO 30 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Small businesses impacted by the recent bushfires will receive more support with the expansion of the \$10,000 grants to 13 additional Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Announced today by Federal Minister for Emergency Management, David Littleproud and NSW Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro, the much needed support will be extended to additional LGAs that have suffered hardship as a result of the recent bushfires.

Minister for Emergency Management, David Littleproud said the \$10,000 bushfire grants have so far been made available to 17 LGAs and has now been expanded to 30 so that Government can support even more vital regional businesses.

"More than \$125 million has been spent to support heavily impacted local businesses that were affected by the recent bushfires – and we need to keep that support going," Mr Littleproud said.

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“Despite the extent of the Coronavirus crisis the federal government has never forgotten those impacted by this summer’s bushfires. We’re helping the states get money out quicker by supporting them with more boots on the ground to assist people to navigate the process.

“We are deploying 21 new specialist business recovery advisors into affected communities and are increasing the regional footprint of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency by up to 50 staff in order to make a real difference.”

Mr Barilaro said the NSW Government continues to back regional small businesses and expanding this funding to additional LGAs is doing just that.

“Many regional businesses that rely on tourism lost their peak summer season due to the bushfires and then lost Easter trade due to COVID-19,” Mr Barilaro said.

“It is fantastic to see more than 12,500 businesses have taken up the grant offer so far which equates to \$125.4 million.

“With the expansion of the grants to more LGAs we will see more money in the pockets of those who need it most.”

The grants are now being extended to 13 more LGAs, taking the total to 30. The 13 new LGAs are jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.

The additional eligible LGAs include: Armidale, Bellingen, Cessnock, Coffs Harbour, Glen Innes Severn, Goulburn Mulwaree, Greater Hume, Kyogle, Mid-Western, Oberon, Singleton, Tenterfield and Walcha.

Grants of up to \$50,000 are also available for eligible small businesses directly impacted by the bushfires. Businesses that have received financial assistance via other grants may still be eligible for the \$10,000 grants.

For small business assistance please contact Service NSW, via www.service.nsw.gov.au/

Additional information on the \$10k small business grants:

Initially, the grants covered the following LGAs: Bega Valley, Blue Mountains, Clarence Valley, Eurobodalla, Hawkesbury, Kempsey, Lithgow, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie, Queanbeyan, Richmond Valley, Shoalhaven, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly.

To be eligible, businesses must have experienced a 40 percent drop in revenue over a three- month period, compared to last year, because of the bushfires.

The criteria for the additional 13 LGAs is:

- Greater than 4 per cent of LGA burnt.
- Greater than 4 buildings damaged or destroyed.”

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