



Key Dates



Note: Projects funded in this round must be undertaken between April 2021 and June 2022.

All applications close 5pm Victorian time (AEDT).

About FRRR

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) is focused on increasing equity of opportunity in remote, rural and regional Australia. We focus on improving outcomes in the areas of **people, place, and disaster resilience and climate solutions**, in the belief that targeted philanthropic investment and collaboration will build more vibrant, sustainable, and adaptive remote, rural and regional communities - and a more equitable and prosperous Australia as a whole.

FRRR believes:

- ▶ in the power of people to drive prosperity;
- ▶ that local solutions are central to achieving equality of access to opportunities across remote, rural and regional Australia; and
- ▶ that remote, rural and regional communities have the knowledge to best respond to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Program Information

Program Purpose

News Corp has partnered with FRRR to deliver the News Corp Bushfire Fund Grants to support local not-for-profit organisations and community groups in their delivery of locally-led recovery projects and activities in communities affected by the 2019/20 bushfires.

Types of Projects Supported

The aim of this program is to address a range of community recovery needs including but not limited to:

- ▶ Community infrastructure and equipment that strengthens volunteer community groups and their activities;
- ▶ Emergency equipment and facilities (excluding individual aid);
- ▶ Mental health and wellbeing; and
- ▶ Rebuilding of communities - from infrastructure repairs or upgrades, to governance, capacity building or operational support.



**Funds
Available
&
Priorities**

News Corp has generously donated \$1.5 million to fund this program. In Round 4 over \$380,000 is available to fund recovery projects in an LGA with a bushfire disaster declaration from September 2019 to April 2020.

Grants of up to \$25,000 will be considered for applications that are clearly focused on supporting the recovery from the 2019/2020 bushfires. As a general guide, projects should deliver wide community benefit and can contribute to activities including:

1. Building Community Resilience
2. Developing Organisational Resilience and Capacity
3. Enhancing Environmental Sustainability
4. Fostering Cultural Vibrancy
5. Lifelong Education and Training
6. Economic Strength
7. Improving Community Health and Social Wellbeing

Applicants are encouraged to ensure project applications suit their local community's needs, priorities and interests, and are welcome to discuss their application with FRRR staff by free calling 1800 170 020 or emailing info@frrr.org.au.

All eligible applications are considered on their merit. Applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application.

**What
grant
funds
can
be
used
for**

A broad range of charitable projects supporting community recovery will be considered under this program, including:

- Delivering, or providing activities, events, programs and services for building community resilience or economic recovery;
 - Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials that aid disaster preparedness and/or emergency management;
 - Community infrastructure projects to repair fire damage or increase the utility of community facilities;
 - Organisational capacity building to enable the delivery of recovery programs or services;
 - Community resource development that supports community resilience, wellbeing and/or social connectedness.
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**What
grant
funds
can't
be
used
for**

There are several areas that we **can't fund** through this program. If in doubt, please contact us.

- Projects that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments;
- The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law.

Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club.

- Overseas travel and overseas projects;



- Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards;
 - Political lobbying;
 - Projects that primarily benefit private business, a sole trader, or private interests;
 - Projects solely focused on animal welfare.
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Eligibility

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a not-for-profit organisation **with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate;**
- Project must be for charitable purposes and offer clear public benefit;
- Organisations with or without DGR endorsement are eligible;
- Organisations can submit one application per grant round;
- Projects must take place in a [declared fire-affected area](#). FRRR will use this list to inform eligibility, but it will not be the only basis on which an application is assessed and prioritised. If you believe that you are in a bushfire-affected community whose LGA is not listed, call us on 1800 170 020 to discuss the situation.

Please note, you will be considered ineligible if the:

- Application is submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
 - Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity (i.e. a registered not-for-profit), without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation Certificate;
 - Application is submitted without required financial documentation (see below);
 - Final report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous seven years have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);
 - Application is for a project or activity that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding;
 - Application is incomplete. **NOTE:** Due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **FRRR is unlikely to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**
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How to
Apply

Before beginning your application, please read the information on the following pages. It sets out critical, additional information that we require and explains why it is important.

FRRR accepts applications via its online application portal, Grants Gateway.



We recommend you download this [printable copy of the application form](#).

[Click here to apply](#).



IMPORTANT NOTES RE: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read the information below to support the planning and preparation of your project. It also sets out what you **MUST** include for your project to be considered. Contact FRRR if you have any questions about this information or any aspect of the application form.

Eligible legal entities

Every application needs to include an organisation that holds either an **ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. If your organisation doesn't have that, FRRR could still fund the project (with your organisation as the **delivery organisation**) but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the '**legal organisation**'.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it's the overarching organisation's legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They also need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role.

This situation often occurs often when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch.

Why is this important?

The News Corp Bushfire Fund is only able to distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate, and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation Certificate understands and agrees to carry out their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. Providing incorrect information on financials is currently the most frequent reason why applications are not considered.

- For organisations that have **audited financials**: Attach the most recent annual audited statements;
- For organisations that **do not have audited financials**: Attach the most recent 12 months Income and Expenditure Statement. If you have a Balance Sheet, please submit this also;
- For organisations **less than one year old**: Provide Bank Statements for the period you have been operating.

Please note:

- If financial documents are more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents;
- Bank Statements are **only** acceptable as financial documentation if your organisation has been operating for less than one year;
- Explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially;
- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required;
- Income and Expenditure statements must cover a full 12-month period.

Please contact us if you cannot provide required financials or are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

FRRR uses this information to understand your organisation's ability to manage the grant funds and its financial viability.



Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funds will be used for and shows all income and expenses related to your project.

Budgets should be realistic and must add up – i.e. total expenditure must match total income.

Quotes or detailed rationale for items over \$1,000 are not required, but highly regarded where possible.

Applicant contributions in cash or in-kind are highly regarded. Note: FRRR suggests costing unskilled volunteer labour at \$41.00 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: <https://www.fundingcentre.com.au/help/valuing-volunteer-labour>.

Why is this important?

A clear budget helps FRRR to understand the size of your project, exactly how FRRR funds will be spent and helps demonstrate community support for your project through in-kind contributions either from your organisation or partners / community members.

Supporting Materials

FRRR recommends that you provide supporting materials such as letters of support, community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can demonstrate the project need, show the wider community support and reference how partners are involved in the project.

Large documents should be referenced and explained in the application.

Why is this important?

FRRR seeks to fund projects that are well-supported by the broader local community, are locally led and delivered, show good partnerships and benefit multiple parts of the community. As FRRR is not always familiar with your community, our staff consider support material as evidence toward understanding level of community need, benefit and support.

Clear Project Information

A clear description of exactly **what** the grant funds will be used for, **when** and **where** the project will happen, **who** will benefit and **who** will be involved in delivering the project, **why** the project and grant funds are needed, **how** funds will be spent and **how** the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated and shared.

Where possible, also indicate that your community is ready to deliver the project and if required, can support the initiative ongoing - i.e. awareness of need is widespread, appropriate leadership, resources, skills and knowledge exist in the community.

Why is this important?

FRRR needs to clearly understand your project to assess its merits. Applicants should focus on addressing the what, when, where, who, why and how of the project, as this is the best formula to clearly communicate the details of the project.

A ready community is best placed to achieve the aims of your project, so during assessment, our staff look for information that tells us that good leadership, skills and awareness exist in your community to support the project now and in the future.