



RURAL FINANCE

## NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE VICTORIA – DECEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

### BUSHFIRE RECOVERY LOANS – DIRECT IMPACT

#### LOAN PURPOSE

The purpose of the concessional loan is to fund recovery activities and alleviate the financial burden of expenses incurred by primary producers as a direct result of the specified bushfires during December 2014 and January 2015.

Concessional interest rate loans are available to primary producers affected by the Creighton's Creek, Lake Rowan, Stewarton and Moyston fires and who are located in the following Local Government Areas:

- Ararat Rural City, Wangaratta Rural City, Benalla Rural City, Strathbogie and Moira Shires.

#### LOAN DETAILS

Support under the bushfire recovery loan is subject to the following conditions:

- Maximum Loan: \$200,000
- Concessional Interest Rate: 1.92% p.a.
- Concessional Period: Up to 5 years\*
- Application fees will not apply

Support may be provided for items including:

- Additional labour costs (above and beyond normal wage expenditure)
- Purchase/hire of equipment and materials to undertake clean-up
- Disposal of injured or dead livestock
- Repairs to buildings (other than housing)
- Fencing not covered by any other assistance ie. insurance
- Salvaging crops, grain and feed
- Health maintenance for livestock
- Purchase of fodder not covered by other assistance
- Reconditioning/repair of essential plant and equipment
- Purchase/hire/lease costs for equipment essential to the immediate resumption of business activities
- Replacement of essential water used by fire fighting
- Water cartage

The level of support provided will take into consideration insurance recoveries and any other available financial resources.

Under NDRRA guidelines a loss of profit (due to reduced sales as a result of loss of produce/harvest) cannot be compensated. Where a trading loss is expected/has been incurred as a consequence of reduced income due to the bushfire, support may be provided to assist the enterprise manage this loss.

*\* At the end of the concessional period, the interest rate on any extended loan will be subject to review and will be set at or close to commercial interest rates prevailing at that time.*

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## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The *primary producer* must:

- be located in the designated Local Government Areas and have been directly impacted by the December 2014 and/or January 2015 Bushfire
- be able to demonstrate the business operation was viable prior to the disaster event and with interim assistance provided through the disaster recovery loan will continue to be viable into the future
- use the disaster recovery loan to re-establish the business operations within the same location or within the same Shire

Primary producers may be sole owners, partnerships or owners of private companies. Publicly listed companies are not eligible for support.

The loan amount will be based on a demonstrated need and a capacity to service. Adequate security acceptable to Rural Finance will be required for any lending.

The loans are administered by Rural Finance in line with the joint State and Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

## DEFINITIONS:

### **Primary producer:**

An individual, partnership, trust or company that:

- has a right or interest in a farm enterprise; and
- contributes a significant part of their labour and capital to the enterprise; and
- derives at least 51 per cent of their income from the enterprise.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Affected parties seeking a Bushfire Recovery Loan under this program should contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425 or access the website [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au) (under Industry Programs) to obtain an application form and any further information. Completed form and attachments are to be forwarded to:

Rural Finance  
PO Box 1313  
Bendigo Central 3552

If required, a Rural Finance employee will be in contact for a further discussion which may include a personal interview and/or on-site visit.

Applications close on **31 July 2015**.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information can be obtained via:

Ph:	1800 260 425	Email:	<a href="mailto:industryprograms@ruralfinance.com.au">industryprograms@ruralfinance.com.au</a>
Fax:	(03) 5441 8901	Website:	<a href="http://www.ruralfinance.com.au">www.ruralfinance.com.au</a>

Please note that assistance under the program administered by Rural Finance does not cover households (individuals); householders have access to personal hardship and distress grants. For more information please refer to the Personal Hardship Assistance Program <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency>.

Further information relating to the bushfire recovery can be obtained from <http://www.recovery.vic.gov.au/home>.

January 2015