

Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Fire Recovery Grants 2024 Program Guidelines

Authorised by Pyrenees Shire Council, 5 Lawrence Street Beaufort, Vic 3373

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To receive this publication in an accessible format, please contact the Pyrenees Shire Council on 1300 797 363

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar, and Wotjobaluk tribes whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respect to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these tribes.

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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Council acknowledges the significant impacts the Bayindeen Fires have caused residents of the Pyrenees Shire and are grateful for the support of Stockyard Hill Wind Farm (SHWF) in lending its support in our time of need.

This fund will be used to assist residents get back on track by providing support to replace items such as water supplies and water infrastructure, tools and items damaged by fire as outlined in these guidelines.

This funding supports an integral component of Councils' recovery program and residents are encouraged to seek the support of our Recovery Team to assist with the various avenues of support available including this important initiative made possible by SHWF.

We understand that the Bayindeen Fire has caused trauma to a number of residents and Council officers will work closely with applicants in support of them making their applications.

Jim Nolan
Chief Executive Officer

Pyrenees Shire Council

1 The SHWF Fire Recovery Fund 2024

1.1 Objectives

The SHWF fire recovery fund is being made available assist replace items such as water, water infrastructure, tools and various other items damaged by the Bayindeen Fire as outlined in these guidelines.

The objectives of the SHWF fire recovery fund are to support residents in their recovery from fire by providing support where they are unable to access funds through insurance or other sources to replace items seriously damaged or destroyed by the fire such as:

- Water supplies and water infrastructure
- Tools and equipment
- Fencing materials

Grants of up to \$5,000 (inc GST) will be made available to meet these needs with the amount available from the fund provided by SHWF being \$50,000-.

1.2 Outcomes

The SHWF fire recovery fund reflects the Pyrenees Shire Councils commitment and that of SHWF to the recovery of residents impacted by the February 2024 fires.

1.3 Program timelines

Applications Open	June 2024
Closing date	Once the fund has been extinguished
Outcomes Announced	Within two weeks of council receiving an application.

2 Eligibility

2.1 Eligible applicants

To be able to apply applicants must be:

- A resident of Pyrenees Shire Council
- Able to demonstrate the damage to assets lost in the fire which these funds are being sought or by confirmation from records held by Council.

2.2 Eligible applications

The SHWF fire recovery fund is open to residents for amounts of up to \$5,000 (inc GST) to replace items seriously damaged or destroyed by the fire such as:

- Water supplies and water infrastructure
- Tools and equipment
- Fencing materials

2.3 Ineligible applicants

The following are not eligible to apply:

- Applicants whose primary residence is outside of the Pyrenees Shire
- Where the property is located outside of the fire affected area
- Where insurance or alternative source of support, financial or otherwise are available.

2.4 Types of applications that will not be funded

The following applications will not be funded:

- Costs associated with replacement of buildings
- Day to day costs of running a household or business
- Replacement of farm animals or domestic pets
- Costs that can be recovered through the applicant's insurance policy.

3 Funding Details

3.1 Funding

Funding from the SHWF fire recovery fund is available under the following streams:

Water replacement

Where residents have sustained damage to or contamination of water tanks or other water infrastructure, then Council can assist applicants apply for replenishment of their supplies once tanks have been replaced or flushed out.

This assistance is also available to residents who used their water supplies to defend their properties and where emergency services have not used water from the property.

Where emergency services have used a property owners water during the fires then applications can be made to DEECA which Council Officers can assist with.

Replacement of fire damaged items

Residents will be able to apply for support for

- Water supplies and water infrastructure
- Tools and equipment
- Fencing materials

Applications are limited to amounts of up to \$5,000 (inc GST)

3.2 GST

Applicants should note that all project costs included in the application must be inclusive of GST.

If a successful applicant is registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST), we will add GST to your grant payment.

Example: If the approved funding is \$3,000 GST exclusive, Council will process payments totalling \$3,300 (\$3,000 GST exclusive funding + \$3,000 GST).

4 Assessment Criteria

All attachments and information provided as part of the application will be taken into consideration during the assessment phase. Council reserves the right to request the applicant provide further details should it be deemed necessary. Eligible applications will be assessed by an assessment panel, comprised of Councils' Municipal Recovery Manager, Recovery Coordinator and Recovery Officer.

To be successful applicants must be able to:

- Confirm they are a resident of Pyrenees Shire Council
- Demonstrate the damage to assets lost in the fire which these funds are being sought or by confirmation from records held by Council.
- Provide evidence such as photographs or alternative evidence of the damaged items being replaced. Alternatively Council records from Secondary Impact Assessments may be used to confirm the loss or damage to assets due to the fire.
- Confirm that there is either no insurance cover or insufficient insurance cover for the items being claimed and
- Illustrate that they are in a position of financial hardship caused by the fire

5 Supporting Documentation

5.1 Documentation and information requirements

Applicants will be required to provide:

- Quotes or invoices from the suppliers providing the cost of items being claimed and
- Photographs of the damaged items needing to be replaced. If photographs are not available, then please contact Councils Recovery Team to establish whether there is alternative evidence that will suffice

6 Application process

6.1 How to prepare an application

Applicants can access application forms on line from Councils website www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au, ask for a hard copy from Council Offices or by seeking help from one of the officers in Councils Recovery Team.

7 Assessment and approval process

7.1 Assessment process

- The Council's assessment team will determine the applicants eligibility against the relevant eligibility criteria
- To adhere to Council's processes, assessors will be required to declare any conflicts of interest prior to assessing applications

7.2 Discretion in awarding grant funding

Decisions on all matters pertaining to the award of grant funding under this Fund are at Councils' absolute discretion. This includes approving a lesser amount than that applied for, amending funding conditions or withdrawing the SHWF fire recovery fund without notice.

8 Conditions of funding

8.1 Acceptance of letter of offer

Successful applicants will have 10 business days from the date of the Letter of Offer to accept the offer in writing after which a Grant Agreement will be drawn up between the applicant and Council.

9 Terms of applying

9.1 Probity and decision making

Council makes every effort to ensure the grant application and assessment process is fair and undertaken in line with the published program guidelines.

The decisions on all matters on recommending and awarding grant funding under this program are at the absolute discretion of the Assessment Panel. This includes approving a lesser amount than that applied for.

These guidelines and application terms may be changed from time to time, as appropriate.

Council may request the applicant provide further information should it be necessary to assess an application.

9.2 Disrepute

Council may at any time, remove an applicant from the application and assessment process, if in the Council's opinion association with the applicant may bring the Council into disrepute.

9.3 Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest is a situation in which someone in a position of trust or influence has competing professional or personal interests.

Applicants must advise the Council of any real or perceived conflict of interest relating to a project for which it has applied for funding.

Conflicts of interest for Council staff will be handled as set out in the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Service Employees (Section 61) of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic).

9.4 Related entities

The applicant cannot use grant funding available through this program to engage the services (including supplier or consultancy services) and / or purchase products from another entity that is wholly or partly owned or controlled by the applicant. Applicants and Service Providers must be entirely separate entities. They may not be owned by the same parent company, share governance or have common directors.

In the application, applicants are required to declare any existing governance relationships between themselves and the nominated service providers including whether any of the activity Service Providers are subsidiaries or related bodies corporate within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* or share common directors, officers or senior managers.

Council may apply this provision at any time to disqualify an applicant from receiving grant funding if a connection between the applicant and an associated entity is identified that is not in keeping with the purpose and objectives of the program.

10 Additional information and resources

10.1 Support for applications

Additional information and resources to prepare for the application are available on Councils website at www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au.

Applicants can also access applications in hard copy from Council offices or by speaking with a member of the Recovery Team.

To contact the Council regarding the SHWF fire recovery fund, please contact our recovery team by email recovery@pyrenees.vic.gov.au or calling 1300 797 363.

Complaints or feedback.

Any complaints or feedback you have about this grant opportunity may be made in relation to:

- The timeliness of the process
- Communication provided by Council
- Adherence to the published program guidelines.

You can send your written feedback to pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au