

Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants 2021-22 Guidelines for applicants

The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board is pleased to be able to offer additional financial assistance to landholders affected by the 2019-2020 bushfires.

The funding is to help landholders **replace or establish fencing that protects native vegetation burnt in the 2019-2020 fires on Kangaroo Island**. The funding can be provided **retrospectively** for fencing work that has already been completed, as well as fencing works that are underway or yet to commence. Funding for the Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants was provided by the Government of South Australia to the Department for Environment and Water and the Minister for Environment and Water as part of its continued efforts to empower local communities to recover from the devastating bushfires on Kangaroo Island, and the Australian Government's Bushfire recovery package for wildlife and their habitat. A total of \$2.2 million is available. Further rounds may be opened in the future if funds allow.

Funds will be paid upon completion and fencing must be completed by 31 May 2022.

Applications are now open and close at 5pm on 15 October 2021

1. Who can apply?

These grants are available to all Kangaroo Island landholders to replace or establish fencing that protects native vegetation that was burnt in the 2019-2020 bushfires.

The following eligibility criteria will need to be met. The applicant will need to:

- be a Kangaroo Island landholder (individual, trust, corporation, business, or organisation)
- be a legal entity¹
- be undertaking fencing on Kangaroo Island on a property affected by 2019/2020 bushfires
- Upon completion of the fencing provide a statutory declaration that the fencing has not been funded through an insurance claim or any other source.

2. ABN requirements

Applicants that do not have an ABN can be sponsored by an entity with an ABN or they can provide a completed *Statement by Supplier* form. Please contact the Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants Administrator for more information (contact details are at the end of these guidelines).

3. Activities eligible for funding

The Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants can only be used for fencing that protects native vegetation burnt in the 2019-2020 bushfires, including fencing that has commenced or been completed before the grant application is submitted

4. Activities that are not eligible

The Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants cannot be used for:

- fencing funded by insurance claims
- fencing funded by other grants or programs
- fencing areas of burnt native vegetation with an average width of less than 20m
- fencing areas of burnt native vegetation that are less than 1ha in size
- property boundary fences (however fencing to protect vegetation that abuts the property boundary is eligible)
- fencing that is part of a Heritage Agreement
- activities that are causing or likely to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly
- activities that are unlawful.

Note: Other activities or spending may be ineligible where they do not directly support the goals of

¹ Legal entities are individuals, partnerships (made up of two or more individuals), corporations or companies under the *Corporations Act 2001*, associations incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, trustees in a trust (e.g. John Smith as Trustee for the Smith Family Trust).

the grants program, or where it is contrary to the spirit and intention of the grant funding. If you are unsure about the eligibility of your proposed project or activities, please contact the Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants Administrator (contact details are at the end of these guidelines).

5. How the funding works

Funding is paid at a rate of \$3,125 per kilometre. This is based on the material costs of a plain wire fence (7 wire), allowing for 4x double-stay box assemblies and 1x gate per km of fencing. If landholders prefer, they may use this funding to install stock-exclusion fencing of a different design, however the funding rate per kilometre will remain the same.

All funds are distributed at the discretion of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board. Funding is limited and will be awarded to projects based on standard eligibility and assessment criteria.

The funding is to be used to replace or establish fencing that protects native vegetation burnt in the 2019-2020 fires on Kangaroo Island.

Funding can be provided for fencing that is already completed or under construction provided the fencing has not been funded through an insurance claim or any other source. The proposed activities can be additional to an existing, or already funded project.

Applicants can apply more than once as long as the projects are separate and distinct and there is the capacity to deliver them.

Fencing guidelines:

- Fence design and layout must be effective at excluding stock
- Fences must be completed by 31 May 2022.
- Fencing must be maintained by the landholder for a period of 10 years after construction.
- The Landscape Board will not be able to provide funding to replace these fences if they are lost in a future bushfire event. It is the landholders responsibility to obtain adequate insurance to cover replacement.

6. The application process

Stage 1

Before applying, applicants should read these guidelines thoroughly to ensure they are eligible.

Applications must be submitted via the SmartyGrants online portal. Detailed instructions on the information and supporting documentation required to complete the application are provided.

See the following link: <https://landscape.smartygrants.com.au/BRFG>

All grants will be managed through this portal. Support to use it is available by emailing alexandra.james@sa.gov.au or by calling Alex James on 0473 961 294 during business hours.

The closing time and date for applications will be 5pm 15 October 2021.

Stage 2

Projects will be assessed against a set of pre-determined eligibility and assessment criteria.

Applications for fencing along creeklines and natural watercourses and fencing that protects larger patches of vegetation will be prioritised for funding.

Stage 3

Successful applicants will be contacted with a Letter of Offer. In order to accept the funding, the Letter of Offer must be signed and returned to the Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants Administrator. The statutory declaration and Land Management Agreement that are sent out with the Letter of Offer are to be signed upon completion. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

Stage 4

Payment for approved funding is conditional on:

- completion of works by 31 May 2022
- a photo of completed works
- signed statutory declaration that a) projects, works or activities have not been funded by existing or future insurance claims or other grants or programs, and b) that works have been completed as set out in the Letter of Offer
- signed Land Management Agreement that includes the 10-year maintenance condition
- submission of a complying tax invoice

The statutory declaration and the Land Management Agreement will be provided to successful applicants with the Letter of Offer. Payments for fencing will not be made until the signed statutory declaration, signed Land Management Agreement and photo of completed works have been received.

A spot check of the statements contained within the statutory declaration will be completed on a subset of applications. Funding is conditional on permission to conduct a spot check, which may include a site visit.

7. Variations

If the project cannot be completed, or applicants need to change the activities they are funded for, they will need to request a formal variation to the project by contacting the Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grant Administrator (contact details below).

8. Assistance with project applications and further information

If you need any assistance with the technical content of your application or with submitting your application through SmartyGrants please contact:

Name: Alex James
Position: Bushfire Recovery Fencing Grants Administrator
Phone: 0473 961 294 (office hours only)
Email: alexandra.james@sa.gov.au

**NB: This version of these guidelines was updated 17/09/2021*