

# 2025 Fire to Flourish - Tenterfield Grant round

## Guidelines for Applicants

### Granting eligibility and decision making criteria

#### Background

Fire to Flourish is seeking to develop a model of Participatory Granting to support disaster-affected communities experiencing entrenched disadvantage. We are looking to demonstrate how different ways of giving can create the right conditions for communities- especially those who are underrepresented or marginalised, to build more resilient futures.

Fire to Flourish is engaging with Participatory Granting in a context of disaster resilience planning, and supporting community-led action. In practice, this means we engage with community members in a supported way, moving through the following steps:

1. Develop a shared understanding of resilience building priorities.
2. Develop a range of project proposals that move towards the shared vision and address resilience priorities.
3. Support the community through a process of collective decision-making to determine which projects to fund and how available funds are distributed between these projects.
4. Program team and network provides ongoing support for project implementation.
5. Grant acquittal, focused on shared learnings and collective impact.

#### Available Funding

Over the life of the Fire to Flourish program, each focus Local Government Area has access to \$2.5 million to be distributed. For the current round there is a total of \$600,000 available in the Tenterfield LGA (Including Tabulam)

#### Key Dates

Grant Writing Assistance Workshop: Monday 17th & Wednesday 19th February (Further details TBA)

Applications close: Friday 21st February 2025

Successful applicants notified: By the end of February 2025

Funded projects must begin by/after: March 1 2025

Projects must be complete by: October 2025

Project acquittal due: TBD, likely within 2-4 weeks of project completion

#### Who is eligible to apply?

Fire to Flourish welcomes applications from all community groups, incorporated bodies, registered charities, not-for-profits and community focused organisations.

Individuals and private businesses must demonstrate clear community benefit, wide community support, and if there is some private benefit, it is only incidental. These applicants are advised to discuss their eligibility with our grant delivery partner, Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) or Fire to Flourish team prior to applying for funding.

Individuals and unincorporated organisations / community collectives must partner with an organisation who can provide auspice.

Projects must be delivered in the Tenterfield LGA (Including Tabulam).

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet the overarching Fire to Flourish program entry criteria, and address at least one (1) vision area from previous rounds as outlined in the tables below. Visions have been collated from across the rounds held in 2023 and 2024. Applications that meet multiple visions will be looked upon favourably.

### **Who isn't eligible to apply?**

We cannot fund schools, Government agencies or private businesses and individuals who are primarily seeking revenue, income or profit.

## **Decision Making Criteria**

### **Ensuring projects align with NRCF's Charitable Purpose & Fire to Flourish Program Principles, Vision and Themes**

Fire to Flourish and Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) have formed a partnership to deliver the community outcomes of the Fire to Flourish program. This involves NRCF assisting and distributing community grants. NRCF is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the purpose of everything they do, including grant distribution, must be charitable according to Australian law.

NRCF has a general objective of carrying out "charitable purposes and activities for the benefit of the Northern Rivers region of NSW". The *Charities Act 2013* lists twelve charitable purposes. Please see: [Charitable purpose | ACNC](https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/start-charity/you-start-charity/charitable-purpose) <https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/start-charity/you-start-charity/charitable-purpose>

This means funding supplied by NRCF can include any of the above twelve charitable purposes, but it cannot supply funding to anything outside that.

When receiving applications through the Fire to Flourish Program from private entities or individuals, NRCF must always ask and be sure that a project's purpose is consistent with ACNC's definition of and NRCF's Charitable Purpose.

Businesses, organisations and individuals are often heavily involved in charitable causes. An organisation or individual may incidentally make money whilst supporting a charity. However, increased revenue, income or profit cannot be an aim or intended outcome of a grant application. The aim or intended outcomes must be public benefit.

Applications received that do not have a clear charitable purpose and/or primarily aim to produce financial benefit will be discussed with Fire to Flourish staff and may not be able to be funded by NRCF. Contact the NRCF team if you have any questions about this.

In addition to meeting NRCF's Charitable Purpose, all applicants in this round of Fire to Flourish participatory granting must meet the following program criteria:

- [Fire to Flourish's Program Principles](https://firetoflourish.monash/) <https://firetoflourish.monash/>
- The community recommendations made in the Tenterfield Bushfire Learnings report [The 2023 Bushfires in Tenterfield: A post-event review of community and agency capabilities](#)

## ***Fire to Flourish Program Criteria***

To ensure the projects meet the overarching Fire to Flourish program ambition, the following entry criteria need to be met:

### ***Eligible project proposals must:***

- Be for collective community and Country benefit (rather than only benefiting individuals or the organisation applying for funding).
- Be community-led (ideas have come directly from community members and implementation is led / co-led by local organisations or community leaders).
- Contribute to strengthening holistic disaster resilience, contributing to multiple resilience domains (social, natural environment, built environment, economic wellbeing, health & wellbeing) or connecting to other work to access these domains.
- Strengthen community's capability to lead resilience work.
- Build and strengthen inclusive community networks, particularly drawing in lesser heard voices.

### ***Funding Conditions (in addition to the granting criteria):***

- Insurance - Appropriate insurance must be in place for the life of all projects.
- OHS Planning must be clearly outlined.
- Projects must abide by all relevant Local, State and Federal requirements.

## ***2025 Grant round criteria***

The specific criteria to determine which projects are eligible for funding in our community has been collated from our previous grant rounds from across the various decision-making panels - diverse groups of local community representatives - who have developed a vision, themes and criteria for decision making, based on the community interviews and workshops conducted as part of the Tenterfield Fire to Flourish Program.

### ***What We Heard:***

Your proposal must meet **ONE** or more of the following visions:

### ***2023 Community Co-design Round:***

#### **- Strengthening the use of local resources**

*"We have a culture of sharing and exchange of local assets and resources"*

- Having current databases of local resources that are easily accessible.
- Identify existing gaps by creating space for the sharing of knowledge and resources.
- Manage local resources to promote accountability and sustainability.

#### **- Strengthening Connection to Country**

*"We have a strong connection and responsibility to Country"*

- Create awareness, transparency and accountability among landholders of resources on their land.
- Increase youth involvement locally.
- Create greater public awareness of the long story of the Tenterfield region.

- **Sharing Knowledge and Strengthening Connections**

*"To have a culture of shared knowledge by recognising the importance of the Individual within the community "*

- Having targeted Education and Awareness Raising.
- Gain greater engagement in local community events.
- Creating space in community for knowledge to become a resource

**2024 Bushfire Learning Review:**

*"Future bushfires in the Tenterfield region will be more predictable, cause less community anxiety, will feature reliable communications, and will be well supported by community agencies. There will be no deaths or injuries.*

*Community projects to increase Tenterfield's bushfire resilience will be designed to ensure they have a legacy going into the future."*

- **Collaborative, collective and inclusive community disaster response and recovery planning**

- Providing and maintaining community emergency infrastructure
- Strengthening lines of communication between community and emergency services during events
- Evacuation preparation and planning.
- Planning for shortages of food, water, fuel and other essentials.

- **Caring for ourselves and our neighbours**

- Strengthening the culture of volunteering
- Appropriate and accessible mental health support, in general and particularly in the aftermath of disasters
- Strengthening of social cohesion

- **Caring for our natural environment**

- Fuel management programs that span multiple land owners / managers in a local landscape.
- Planning for wildlife care during and after disasters.
- Local Indigenous Rangers planning and conducting cultural burning

- **Caring for our local economy**

- Initiatives that support local businesses to take action to reduce their disaster risk, via knowledge and coordination
- Initiatives that support local businesses to take action to prepare for disasters, such as supporting contingency, continuity and recovery planning

- **Collecting data on disaster impacts**

- Support local residents, landholders and businesses recover from the direct and indirect impacts of disasters,
- Assist the Tenterfield community to lobby for systemic change.

**2024 Jubullum Co-design Round:**

*"To strengthen community bonds and ties by connecting and uniting the community together. Engaging all cultures, youth, Elders and organisations to build pathways for a safe respectful future, inclusive of our Jarjums.*

*To ensure relevant organisations are held accountable for project delivery in our local community."*

- **Connection to Country: Healthy Country for our Jarjums**
  - Projects that support training, education and mentorship of on-Country programs,
  - Projects that encourage the sharing of knowledge of fire.
  
- **Safe Community: Disaster Preparedness**
  - Infrastructure that supports the community in emergencies,
  - Early Warning Systems, communication plans and education,
  - Home emergency planning and education,
  - Appropriate and accessible mental health support, in general and particularly in the aftermath of disaster.
  
- **Community Cohesion: One Mob**
  - Events that rejuvenate and utilise local spaces,
  - Growing Interagency support and networks,
  - Projects that foster cultural wellbeing,
  - Projects that support interpersonal relationships.

**In addition to these priorities, all community projects should have elements that address their sustainability, to ensure they have a legacy going into the future.**

**For instance:**

- Build the local capacities and capabilities of residents and community organisations to implement these changes
- Be socially inclusive, and engage diverse people from across the local community
- Encourage local skills building and use local suppliers where possible.

**Grant Funding available:** \$600,000

We are expecting small to large project ideas. For those projects applying for larger amounts, please consider staging your project so funding can be allocated in the event the full amount is not available. Please note all projects must be completed and funding use acquitted by October 2025.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact Matt, Helen or Gina.

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