

# Bushfire Learnings Review granting in Tenterfield

## 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.

This round of funding is tied to the post-event review undertaken by Fire to Flourish in Tenterfield after the 2023 bushfires.

#### 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 \$200,000 available in Tenterfield.

#### Timing

EOIs open: Wednesday 11th September 2024

Applications close: Monday 23rd September 2024

Successful applicants invited to complete a full grant application: Tuesday 1st October 2024

Full grant applications close: Friday 25th October 2024

Successful applicants notified: Friday 8th November 2024

Funded projects must begin by/after: Mid November 2024

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.

### **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 will:***

- 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.

### ***Tenterfield Bushfire Learnings Report criteria***

The specific criteria to determine which projects are eligible for funding in our community have been defined by our decision-making panel, a diverse group 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 Bushfire Learnings Review.

#### ***Our Shared Vision:***

*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.*

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

To achieve this vision, we are looking for projects that meet one or more of the following priorities;:

### **Priority 1: Collaborative, collective and inclusive community disaster response and recovery planning**

*“How many times does this town need to be under siege from fire before the town gets its act together around some sort of pre-planning, or resilience building, for the town?”*

-Tenterfield resident

Assist the Tenterfield community collaboratively and collectively prepare for the next emergency event, to increase the community’s resilience. Projects might include:

- **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.

### **Priority 2: Caring for ourselves and our neighbours**

*“I think that’s when you have to step in, and with community, start looking after your neighbours ... In the long run you’re still part of the one community, and if you don’t look after each other, you’re going to get lost.”*

-Tenterfield resident

Build caring social community networks that engage diverse people and social groups from across the Tenterfield community that include:

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

### **Priority 3: Caring for our natural environment**

*‘It’s not just my little property, it’s how my little property fits in with the neighbour, and then fits in with the national park down the road. It has to be. Because fires now seem to be so big. So we’ve got to go bigger in terms of our planning.’*

-Tenterfield resident

Encourage ecological regeneration to support fuel management, and particularly to support ecological sustainability of areas impacted by previous fires. Projects might include:

- **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

### **Priority 4: Caring for our local economy**

*“If Tenterfield is going to get this post-bushfire financial support, [we] don’t want to see the money get spent aimlessly on projects that aren’t going to have any benefit. We want to see it going to useful projects that are going to have long-standing outcomes for our Shire.”*

-Tenterfield resident

- **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

Please note that grant funds are not available to individual businesses, rather community-based initiatives that support all businesses in Tenterfield in their disaster resilience

#### **Priority 5: Collecting data on disaster impacts**

*“I can tell you that the data that comes from the government is not even a quarter aligned to what was damaged. To replace a set of cattle, to replace fencing - what it costs is phenomenal, and it’s not taken into consideration properly in these disasters.”*

-Tenterfield resident

Plan and implement initiatives to collect accurate data on local disaster impacts. This would provide evidence to:

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

**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:** \$200,000

We are expecting small to medium project ideas. Typically not exceeding \$25,000. Larger project funding will be considered by the decision-making board **ONLY** if the project involves two (2) or more organisations.

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

MATT SING Indigenous Community Project Specialist (Tenterfield Based)

M: 0434 345 786 E: matt.sing@monash.edu

GINA CARPENTER Community Facilitator (Tenterfield Based)

M: 0487 130 678 E: gina.carpenter@monash.edu