

# Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grant Program for the October 2022 Victorian Floods

## FUNDING GUIDELINES



**Federation of  
Victorian Traditional  
Owner Corporations**



**EMERGENCY RECOVERY  
VICTORIA**



**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Peoples of Victoria and their ongoing strength in practicing the world's oldest living cultures.

We pay our respects to ancestors, Elders, knowledge holders and leaders.

We recognise that Aboriginal communities are steeped in lore and culture, having existed within Australia continuously for over 65,000 years.

We acknowledge the ongoing contribution and strengths of Aboriginal communities across Victoria in leading the recovery of their communities impacted by natural disasters.

**Applications open: 9 October 2023**

**Applications close: 19 November 2023**

If you have any questions or need help with your application, you can email the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations Grants Administration team at [recovery@fvtoc.com.au](mailto:recovery@fvtoc.com.au)

To discuss your project, please call Jack Price, Partnerships and Engagement Officer, on 0478 842 146 or Samitha Rao, Policy and Legal Officer, on 0411 128 028.

## Aboriginal Culture and Healing

# FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS

## FUNDING GUIDELINES

### Background

The flooding during October and November 2022 caused devastation across much of Victoria. Response efforts focused on reducing impacts on people, property, critical infrastructure, businesses and communities including those on Aboriginal communities, Country and cultural places.

Evidence tells us Aboriginal people are disproportionately affected by the impact of natural disasters due to existing structural and financial inequalities, a backdrop of historical and intergenerational trauma, and the significant impacts that flooding and clean-up activities can have on Country and cultural places.

A range of skills and expertise are required to implement recovery efforts supporting Aboriginal communities affected by flooding. In supporting Aboriginal communities, it is critical that approaches are tailored, culturally informed and responsive when implemented across all aspects of the recovery services – including consultation, design and implementation. Increasingly it is understood Aboriginal community-led recovery approaches lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

The Victorian Government has committed over \$1.8 billion to support the needs of flood affected communities across the 63 Local Government Areas (**LGAs**) impacted by the October 2022 Victorian floods.

### Partnering for better outcomes

Emergency Recovery Victoria (**ERV**) has partnered with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (the **Federation**) to deliver the Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grant Program for the October 2022 Victorian Floods to Traditional Owner and Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

ERV was established in October 2022 as Victoria's permanent and dedicated recovery agency responsible for recovery coordination in Victoria at the state and regional tier, and relief coordination at the state tier. ERV partners with all levels of government, business and not-for-profit organisations to deliver community recovery outcomes, including enabling the self-determination of Aboriginal Victorians in recovery.

The Federation is the Victorian state-wide body that convenes and advocates for the rights and interests of Traditional Owners while progressing wider social, economic, environmental and cultural objectives. The Federation has previously partnered with ERV in developing a strategy for Aboriginal Community-led bushfire recovery. The Federation is also delivering several other grant programs targeted to Aboriginal communities in partnership with the Victorian Government.



## What is the Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grants Program?

The Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grants Program 2023-24 was established to support Aboriginal communities, promote culturally safe recovery initiatives, and invest in projects that deliver on Aboriginal culture and healing outcomes.

This will ensure significant and appropriate focus is given to the unique needs of Aboriginal communities and Traditional Owner groups in Victoria and support self-determination in action through community-led recovery initiatives. Further information on Aboriginal community-led recovery can be found within the [Strategy for Aboriginal Community-led Recovery](#) at ERV.

### Funding Objectives

The Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grants Program supports the dedicated line of recovery for Aboriginal Culture and Healing. This line of recovery was developed by Aboriginal Victorians and supported by the Victorian Government to meet the following culturally informed and responsive objectives:

- Aboriginal people's unique experiences of trauma are addressed, and healing supported
- Recovery and resilience are strengthened through Aboriginal culture, knowledge, and the connection between country and healing
- Aboriginal communities have increased capability to lead recovery and healing.

For further detail on Aboriginal Culture and Healing objectives including outcomes and indicators for success in recovery visit: [Aboriginal Culture and Healing Outcomes | Victorian Government](#) ([Aboriginal Culture and Healing Outcomes | vic.gov.au](#) ([www.vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au)))

### Activities that may be funded

- On-Country healing events
- Traditional Owner-led recovery projects
- Cultural heritage protection
- Assessment of impacts and recording of bio-cultural values
- Projects healing Country and its values from the impacts of the October 2022 Victorian floods
- Projects strengthening the resilience of Country to future flood impacts
- Aboriginal community recovery officers
- Purchase or lease of assets to support recovery needs (consistent with selection criteria)
- Culturally safe surge workforce models for emergency management

### Funding Available

A grant pool of \$800,000 (ex GST) has been dedicated to support the Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grants Program.

Grants will be available up to \$160,000 (ex. GST) to meet the recovery needs of Victorian Aboriginal communities affected by the October 2022 Victorian floods.

### Activities that won't be funded:

- Offsetting of existing salaries, operating costs for existing staff or contractors
- Feasibility studies, business plans and cost benefit analysis
- Projects that may have a negative impact on existing businesses/services
- Passing on funding to a third party in the form of a sponsorship or grant
- Retrospective funding for projects that have commenced activity or construction or are completed before the funding is approved
- The purchase of land or existing buildings
- Activities that have the potential to negatively impact the formal recognition, rights or processes (current or future) of Traditional Owners in Victoria
- Activities that are already funded or duplicated under alternative funding pathways (if an existing project has an unfunded component, it may be considered if the application meets the eligibility and selection criteria)

## How to Apply

Carefully read the program guidelines before you apply to ensure your organisation and your proposed activities meet the eligibility criteria and selection criteria.

**To apply, visit:** <https://fvtoc.com.au/sections/flood-recovery-grant-program/>

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If you have any questions or require assistance with your application, you can email the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations Grants Administration team at [recovery@fvtoc.com.au](mailto:recovery@fvtoc.com.au) or contact:

- Jack Price, Partnerships and Engagement Officer, on 0478 842 146; or
- Samitha Rao, Policy and Legal Officer, on 0411 128 028.

## Eligibility

**To be eligible, an organisation must be:**

- an Aboriginal organisation that is an incorporated legal entity under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), or the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic) or the *Corporation (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth), including a social enterprise (with a clearly stated purpose or mission related specifically to supporting Aboriginal communities in disaster recovery); and
- be in an LGA directly impacted by the October 2022 Victorian floods (see page 6).

**Applicants must have:**

- the capability to report to the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations on the outcomes and activities of the funded project
- a current Australian Business Number (ABN)
- no outstanding acquittals for any previous government grant programs.

## Auspice Organisations

Auspice organisations can support unlimited applications from lead applicants.

If your organisation is not incorporated or does not have an ABN, you may still apply if you are supported by an eligible auspice organisation that has agreed to manage the grant for you.

An auspice arrangement is when a larger organisation assists a smaller organisation to fund a grant activity or event. The larger organisation is known as the auspice organisation. Your community group or organisation is known as the grant recipient.

The auspice organisation will receive and manage the grant funding with your community group or organisation undertaking the actual project work.

## Partnership Arrangements

Applications will also be considered from multiple eligible groups working together in partnership to develop and deliver a project.

One organisation will submit an application on behalf of all the organisations. This organisation is the lead organisation for the grant application and will receive and manage the grant funding. All other organisations must provide a letter of endorsement from their governing body/board for the project plan.

## Who cannot apply?

- State and Federal government agencies (however they can auspice projects)
- Individuals and sole traders
- Unincorporated community organisations, unless supported by an eligible auspice organisation.
- Commercial enterprises
- Fixed trusts
- Local Government Authorities including LGA managed, operated, administered and regulated trusts (can act as an auspice)
- Registered primary and secondary schools, preschools, TAFE institutes and universities (can act as an auspice)
- Commercial enterprises are not eligible to apply for a grant alone (they can partner with an organisation as a sponsor and only provide contributions)

## Selection Criteria

Eligible organisations' (see Eligibility) applications for a Flood Recovery Grant will be assessed against five key selection criteria (outlined below) and if application requirements are demonstrated with supporting documentation.

In preparing an application, you are encouraged to engage with your local Community Recovery Committee (where it exists) to assist you in meeting the selection criteria.

### 1. Purpose

Applicants must provide an explanation of how their project will deliver direct benefit to a flood affected community and support one or more of the objectives of this funding that:

- Aboriginal people's unique experiences of trauma are addressed, and healing supported.
- Recovery and resilience are strengthened through Aboriginal culture, knowledge, and the connection between country and healing.
- Aboriginal communities have increased capability to lead recovery and healing.

### 2. Aboriginal community participation, strengthening and preparedness for emergency

Applicants must demonstrate how the project will:

- be Aboriginal community or Traditional Owner-led; and
- promote and support healing and cultural immersion for recovery; and/or

- improve Aboriginal community-led or Traditional Owner-led emergency recovery planning and coordination; and/or
- increase planning and capacity to implement culturally safe surge workforce practices.

### 3. Location

Applicants must demonstrate that their project is relevant to the flood affected area and describe how the October 2022 Victorian floods directly impacted on their community.

As of 1 July 2023, the following LGAs (63) and Alpine Resorts are in scope:

Alpine, Ararat, Ballarat, Banyule, Baw Baw, Benalla, Boroondara, Brimbank, Buloke, Campaspe, Cardinia, Casey, Central Goldfields, Colac Otway, Corangamite, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Greater Geelong, Greater Shepparton, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Hume, Indigo, Latrobe, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Manningham, Mansfield, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Mildura, Mitchell, Moira, Moonee Valley, Moorabool, Mornington Peninsula, Mount Alexander, Moyne, Murrindindi, Northern Grampians, Nillumbik, Pyrenees, South Gippsland, Southern Grampians, Strathbogie, Surf Coast, Swan Hill, Towong, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Wellington, West Wimmera, Whittlesea, Wodonga, Wyndham, Yarra Ranges and Yarriambiack and one (1) Alpine Resort of Falls Creek.



## 4. Planning and delivery

Applicants must provide a clear explanation of how the project will be undertaken and the anticipated completion date.

If the application includes conducting Aboriginal cultural heritage works, applicants must demonstrate their projects can meet requirements specified under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and other statutory obligations, including completing site registrations and place edits on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

## 5. Budget

Applicants must provide:

- evidence that the project costs are accurate and reasonable.
- details of any in-kind or co-contribution funding support.

## Further mandatory requirements

Applications must include information on how the proposed project(s) will comply with legal requirements including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic), any agreement or equivalent made under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) or *Native Title Act 1983* (Cth) and local planning laws.

Applications for projects on public land must be accompanied by written confirmation of support from the relevant land manager (e.g. Local Council or the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action).

Applications requiring support, input or other types of contributions from other organisations or individuals must be accompanied by written support from the organisation or individual on which the project relies.

To support equitable distribution of available funding, applications must not duplicate successful flood funding allocations from the Victorian Government.

## Assessment Criteria

Applications received will be assessed against the criteria as outlined in the table below.

Assessment Criteria	Weighting
<p>The application demonstrates the project meets the program objectives and the extent to which those objectives are met.</p> <p>The program objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal people’s unique experiences of trauma are addressed, and healing supported</li> <li>• Recovery and resilience are strengthened through Aboriginal culture, knowledge, and the connection between country and healing</li> <li>• Aboriginal communities have increased capability to lead recovery and healing.</li> </ul>	30%
<p>The application demonstrates the extent to which the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is delivery ready, supported by a clear approach and realistic timeframes</li> <li>• is financially viable, based on sound cost estimates and represents value for money</li> <li>• sources materials and resources to deliver the project which strengthens Aboriginal communities</li> <li>• proposes an effective project management approach that ensures Aboriginal community participation.</li> <li>• can be delivered in compliance with all relevant state and federal legislation.</li> </ul>	20%
<p>The application demonstrates it will be Aboriginal community or Traditional Owner-led by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identifying how Aboriginal communities have been engaged in the development of application, specifically Traditional Owner corporations and or Aboriginal community-controlled organisations of the area.</li> <li>• proposing a collaborative approach with a range of partners and indicates how they will contribute to the project, specifically the written endorsement, where required, from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traditional Owner corporations (formally appointed and registered for cultural heritage related on-Country activities);</li> <li>- the relevant land managers where defined activities require an authorisation to be conducted on public land;</li> <li>- an eligible auspice organisation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• promoting and supporting healing and cultural immersion for recovery, <b>and/or</b></li> <li>• improving Aboriginal community-led or Traditional Owner-led emergency recovery planning and coordination, <b>and/or</b></li> <li>• increasing planning and capacity to implement culturally safe surge workforce practices.</li> </ul>	30%
<p>The application demonstrates the extent to which the project addresses the direct impacts of the October 2022 Victorian floods on the local Aboriginal community.</p>	20%



## Funding Agreements and Reporting

### Funding conditions

Successful applicants must sign a Grant Agreement that includes a standard set of terms and conditions and project-specific obligations, to receive the approved grant.

The project cannot commence, and project expenditure cannot be incurred until after the Grant Agreement is executed (signed by both the Recipient and the Federation).

### Acknowledgement and Publicity Requirements

Grant recipients must acknowledge that projects are being funded by the State of Victoria through ERV's Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grant Program 2023-24 in response to the October 2022 Victorian floods and being delivered in partnership with the Federation of Traditional Owner Corporations.

This includes acknowledgements in all material, publications, promotional, advertising materials, brochures and social media.

### Duration of funding

Funded projects are to commence and be completed within the agreed period as specified in the Grant Agreement. All grant applications must define a project completion date (including reporting requirements) no later than 31 January 2025.

### Payment conditions

Grant payments will only be made in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and on the satisfactory delivery of each milestone as determined by the Federation. Project expenditure cannot be incurred until after the Grant Agreement has been executed (signed by both the Recipient and the Federation). Grants will not be provided for retrospective activities (activities, expenditures or purchases that occurred prior to the execution of the Grant Agreement).

Payment milestones may include prepayment for expenditure to be imminently incurred by the Recipient.

### Reporting

Organisations will be required to report on the funded activity and can submit their final reports online and must submit their final report on time.

## Confidentiality

The Federation and ERV (as part of the Department of Justice and Community Safety) are committed to protecting the privacy of personal information.

Any personal information provided by the Applicant in an application will be collected by the Federation for the purpose of program administration, reporting and promotion. This information will be provided to the Department for the purposes of assessing applications and program reporting and promotion. If confidential personal information about third parties is included in an application, applicants are required to ensure that the third party is aware of the contents of this Privacy Statement.

Any personal information collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred will be held in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)* and other applicable laws.

Enquiries about access to information should be directed to the Federation's Operations Advisor. The Department's Privacy Policy can be found online at [Information privacy policy | Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria](#)

## Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Applicant</b>	An eligible organisation that applies for a grant under the Aboriginal Flood Recovery Grants Program 2023-24.
<b>Auspice</b>	<p>A larger organisation that provides support to a smaller community group or organisation that does not have an ABN and/or is not incorporated to fund a grant activity or event.</p> <p>Under the program, some organisations you can enter an auspice arrangement with include: State and Federal government agencies; Local Government Authorities, including LGA managed, operated, administered and regulated trusts; and registered primary and secondary schools, preschools, TAFE institutes and universities.</p>
<b>Grant</b>	Assistance in the form of funding. Under the program, the grant can be used by the recipient to address Aboriginal community needs in Victoria coming from impacts of the October 2022 Victorian Floods.
<b>In-kind resources</b>	For the purpose of this program, in-kind resources refer to any resources the Applicant contributes to the project, independent of funding under this program.
<b>Area of natural disaster</b>	The 63 Local Government Areas declared as areas of natural disaster following the Victorian October 2022 Flood event.
<b>Program</b>	Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grants Program 2023-24 supports projects and initiatives that will address Aboriginal community recovery objectives aligned to the Aboriginal Culture and Healing line of recovery. More information can be found at Aboriginal Culture and Healing Outcomes   Victorian Government ( <a href="http://www.vic.gov.au">www.vic.gov.au</a> )
<b>Project</b>	A recovery focused activity that addresses criteria set out under the Aboriginal Culture and Healing Flood Recovery Grants Program 2023-24 for which funding is being sought through a grant.
<b>Recipient</b>	An Applicant that has secured grant funding.
<b>Social enterprise</b>	<p>An organisation that is driven by a public or community cause, receives most of their income from business trade and uses at least 50% of their profits to work towards their social mission.</p> <p>Under the program, a social enterprise must be 50% or more Aboriginal-owned, with a clearly stated purpose or mission related specifically to supporting Aboriginal communities in disaster recovery.</p>