Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund
Program Guidelines (December 2025)

Key Dates

Enquiries **any time** → Submit EOI by: 10 Feb 2026 or 6 May 2026 → Full applications due: 24 Mar 2026 or 24 June 2026 → Grants announced **after approval**

Note: Projects must be undertaken within three years of approval.

About FRRR

FRRR is the only national foundation specifically focused on ensuring the social and economic strength of remote, rural, and regional communities.

Our model connects common purposes and funding with locally prioritised needs. We believe targeted, well-informed investment in local organisations will stimulate ideas that create vibrant communities.

FRRR recognises that small and remote areas are vulnerable to climate change and disasters, experience capacity challenges in responding to and preparing for disasters where often existing disadvantage is exacerbated.

That is why our programs focus on building resilience and strengthening communities and actively seek to support a more prepared and climate resilient **remote, rural and regional Australia**.

Program Information

Program Purpose

The Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund (DRRF) supports communities in outer regional, remote or very remote locations across Australia to implement longer-term, multi-year initiatives that support preparedness for, and resilience to, future disasters and climate-related disruptions.

Projects should result in two or more outcomes:

1. Improved skills, knowledge, and access to information about local disaster risks and climate-related disruptions;
2. Strengthened connection between local people, organisations and systems that will be helpful in future disasters and climate-related disruptions;
3. Enhanced community-based infrastructure to avoid or reduce the time and cost of replacement in future disasters and climate-related disruptions;
4. Community level actions and attitudes that promote 'everyday preparedness' to reduce disaster risk, loss of lives, livelihoods and enhance the health of local people and communities; and
5. An overall greater resilience in social, human, natural, cultural, political, economic and built capital and interrelated systems in local communities.

FRRR also wants to support projects that:

- Invest in outback, remote and less-resourced communities where they may be more highly impacted by disasters;
- Support First Nations-led initiatives that strengthen culture, Country, economic participation and reconciliation;
- Support communities to implement generational transition; and
- Build capacity and resourcing for a just and equitable energy transition.

If you want to discuss a project to support disaster preparedness resilience, please call us on 1800 170 020.

Types of Projects Supported

The DRRF will support projects that:

1. **Are locally led** (projects should be shaped by local priorities, involve broad community participation, and build capacity to prepare for and manage the impacts of future disasters and climate-related disruptions);

2. **Are practical in nature** (projects, events, or initiatives should clearly demonstrate practical and tangible benefit to local people and communities through increased skills, knowledge, and connection, which can be used in future disasters and climate-related disruptions);

3. **Focus on preparing for future disasters and climate-related disruptions** (projects that directly respond to being better prepared for a specific and clearly identified disaster or climate-related risk, either historical or in the future);

4. **Are collaborative** (projects that strengthen local partnerships, collaboration, knowledge sharing, networks, inclusion, and decision making);

5. **Improve the overall resilience of a community** through a 'systems-based approach' and strengthen the overall community capability to respond to future disasters and climate-related disruptions (projects that result in a combination of strengthened social, human, natural, cultural, political, economic and built capital outcomes);

6. **Are timely and flexible** (projects that are multi-year or staged projects, designed with flexibility after year one to accommodate learning throughout, are encouraged);

7. **Respond to local context** (projects that actively strengthen involvement of local people who are uniquely impacted by disasters and climate-related disruptions) such as:
   - Outer regional, remote or very remote locations
   - First Nations people
   - Older people, or young people
   - People living with disability
   - People with cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and
   - Locations with constrained not-for-profit or local government capability.

Demonstration of project need must reference a specific disaster or climate-related impact, event or risk, which has already occurred or is likely to occur in the future. Non-declared disasters are eligible.

FRRR funds projects aligned with the following types of charitable projects and outcomes:
- Fostering and celebrating a sense of identity, diversity and cultural connection within the community;
- Supporting diverse groups within remote, rural and regional communities including, but not limited to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, those living with disability, and LGBTQIA+;
- Improving community health and social wellbeing;
- Enabling people to develop skills, knowledge and confidence to lead and contribute to the prosperity and renewal of their community;
- Building a sustainable volunteer base and/or supporting the wellbeing of volunteers;
- Celebrating and resourcing volunteer-led efforts;
- Increasing access and inclusion for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including remote communities;
- Enhancing places where communities gather;
- Reducing the divide on access to digital technology and connectivity for remote, rural, and regional communities.

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Funds Available

Grants **up to** $50,000, for one-to-three-year projects are available for a broad range of initiatives.

These grants are available thanks to the generous support of the donors listed on the DRRF webpage.

Applications that align with the program purpose and project types will be prioritised.

Applications from local community groups and not-for-profits or organisations that do not have DGR status will also be prioritised.

Examples of previous projects:

- Recovery in Kalbarri
- Funds support Community Disaster Alliance in NSW Northern Rivers
- Grant helps Rochester plan for building back better

What Can be Funded

A broad range of charitable activities are considered under this program, including:

- Delivering, or providing projects, events, programs, initiatives and services;
- Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials;
- Community infrastructure;
- Organisational or network capacity building;
- Community resource development; and
- Proportionate costs associated with staffing as required to deliver the activity.

What Can't be Funded

There are several areas that we **cannot fund** through this program. If in doubt, please contact us:

- Projects that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments;
- Solely ongoing core organisational operational costs (e.g. rent, utilities, regular wages, loan repayments);
- The encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law.
  Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club;
- Overseas travel and overseas projects;
- Prizes, gifts, trophies or awards;
- Political lobbying;
- Projects that primarily benefit private business, a sole trader or private interests;
- Projects solely focused on animal welfare;
- Initiatives relating to pandemic recovery, mice plagues, other environmental disease, economic disruptions, or other events causing significant community impacts; and
- Projects for infrastructure or repairs that are subject to / eligible for an insurance claim.

Eligibility

To apply, you must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisations must be a **not-for-profit organisation** with either an **Incorporation Certificate and/or an ABN**. If you are unsure if your organisation is a registered not-for-profit (e.g. if you are a Co-operative, Other Unincorporated Entity, Public Company, or Trust), please contact FRRR;
- Project must be for charitable purposes and offer clear public benefit;
- Not-for-profit organisations with or without DGR-1 endorsement are eligible;
- Organisations can submit one application per grant round;
- Projects must benefit communities in outer regional, remote or very remote locations in Australia.

Please note, you will be considered ineligible if the:

- Application is submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
- Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity (i.e. a registered not-for-profit), without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation Certificate;
- Application is submitted without required financial information (see below);
- Final report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous three years (for grants up to $10,000) or four years (for grants of $10,001 or more) have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);
- Application is for a project or activity that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding;
- Application is incomplete.

How to Apply

Before beginning your application, please read the information on the following pages. It sets out critical, additional information that we require and explains why it is important.

FRRR accepts applications via the Blackbaud Grants Portal.

We recommend you download this sample copy of the application form.

The link to apply is available via request.

Definitions

- **Disaster:** A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability, and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses, and impacts. This can include climate-related conditions, such as drought, heatwaves, and bushfire; earthquake; flood; storm; cyclone; storm surge; landslide; tsunami; meteorite strike; or tornado.
- **Disaster Prevention:** Activities and measures taken to avoid or reduce existing and new disaster risks and climate-related impacts.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Knowledge and activities undertaken in advance that help individuals, communities or organisations get ready and make plans to cope with the effects of a disaster.

- **Disaster Recovery:** Both a process and an outcome. As a process, recovery is coming to terms with the impacts of a disaster and managing the disruptions and changes caused, which can result in a new way of living. As an outcome, recovery is restoring or improving a disaster-affected community to make it stronger should a disaster occur again.
- **Disaster Risk:** The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society, or a community as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity.
- **Resilience:** The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform, and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

Contact Details

If at any time you need help with your application, do not hesitate to contact the FRRR office on free call 1800 170 020 or email us at info@frrr.org.au.

IMPORTANT NOTES RE: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read the information below to support the planning and preparation of your project. It also sets out what you MUST include for your project to be considered. Contact FRRR if you have any questions about this information or any aspect of the application form.

Eligible legal entities

Every application needs to include an organisation that holds either an **ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. If your organisation does not have that, FRRR may still fund the project, but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the **'legal organisation'** (with your organisation being the **delivery organisation**). This situation often occurs when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch. In this case, the CWA or YMCA would be the legal organisation.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it is the 'legal organisation's' legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They also need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role, with a [template available here](#).

FRRR conducts a broad range of due diligence queries when reviewing applications, such as reviewing current and past incorporation, DGR and ACNC status. If your organisation has had their incorporation status, DGR status or ACNC status changed or ACNC registration revoked or voluntarily withdrawn, please let us know the reasons for this.

Applications from ACNC and/or unincorporated associations are required to submit their organisation's Constitution.

Why is this important?

The DRRF program is only able to distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate, and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation Certificate understands and agrees to fulfill their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. Providing incorrect financial information is currently the most common reason applications cannot be considered. You must include the organisations:

- Annual income (total income in your financial year);
- Annual expenditure (total expenses in your financial year); and
- Current assets (from your audited financials, or bank balance minus any debts).

Please note:

- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required.
- If financial information is more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents.
- Please explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially.

Please contact us if you cannot provide the required financial information or are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

FRRR uses this information to understand your organisation's financial viability and ability to manage grant funds.

Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funding would be used for and that also shows all income and expenses related to your project.

Budgets should be realistic and must add up – i.e., total expenditure must match total income.

Applicant contributions in cash or in-kind are highly regarded. Quotes or detailed rationale for items over $1,000 are required, where possible. Note: FRRR suggests costing unskilled volunteer labour at $45 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: https://explore.fundingcentre.com.au/help-sheets/valuing-volunteer-labour.

Why is this important?

A clear budget helps FRRR to understand the size of your project, exactly how FRRR funds will be spent and helps demonstrate community support for your project through in-kind contributions either from your organisation or partners / community members.

Supporting Materials

FRRR strongly recommends that you provide supporting materials such as letters of support, evidence of permission from the property owner, community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can show broad community support and partnerships involved in the project. For more information on supporting documentation, watch this recording. Large documents should be referenced and explained in the application.

Why is this important?

FRRR seeks to fund projects that are well-supported by the broader local community, are locally led and delivered, show good partnerships, and benefit multiple parts of the community. As FRRR is not always familiar with your community, our staff consider support material as evidence toward understanding level of community need, benefit, and support.

Clear Project Information

A clear description of exactly:

- **what** the grant funds will be used for;
- **when** and **where** the project will happen;
- **who** will benefit;
- **who** will be involved in delivering the project;
- **why** the project and grant funds are needed;
- **how** the grant funds will be spent; and
- **how** the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated, and shared.

Where possible, we encourage you to make it clear that your organisation is ready and able to deliver the project and, if required, provide ongoing support for the initiative.

Why is this important?

FRRR needs to clearly understand your project to assess its merits. Applicants should focus on addressing what, when, where, who, why and how of the project, as this is the best way to clearly communicate the details of the project.

A ready community is best placed to achieve the aims of your project, so during assessment, our staff look for information that tells us that good leadership, skills and awareness exist in your community to support the project now and in the future.