Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

Key Dates

Open **3 March 2026** → Applications Close 16 April **2026** → Grants Announced **late June 2026**

Note: Projects funded in this round must be undertaken between July 2026 and July 2027.

Applications close 5pm Victorian time (AEST).

About FRRR

FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal) supports remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to be vibrant, resilient, empowered and sustainable. We work alongside communities to catalyse locally led solutions, especially in areas facing systemic challenges.

To do this, we connect resources, build enduring local skills and knowledge, and reshape how rural and remote Australia is seen, valued and supported.

Learn more: frrr.org.au.

About our partner – Suncorp

Suncorp is a purpose-led organisation. Building futures and protecting what matters sits at the core of everything. Their people bring this to life for customers and the communities they live and work in.

Program Information

Program Purpose

The Rebuilding Futures grant program seeks to support communities to strengthen their resilience to significant disasters by undertaking a wide range of medium to long-term community-led disaster recovery, prevention and preparedness projects for community benefit.

The Rebuilding Futures program encourages communities to build back better to reduce the impact of future disasters and climate-related disruptions on community wellbeing and physical infrastructure.

Grants are available to bolster the capacity, capability and organisational resilience of locally based not-for-profit organisations that serve remote, rural and regional communities impacted by disasters and climate-related disruptions.

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

Available Grant Options

In Round 6, two grant Streams are offering funding of up to $25,000. You may apply for funding in **one Stream only**:

Stream 1 – Disaster Resilient Communities 2019-2025

- $300,000 is available for Recovery and Resilience Grants for remote, rural and regional communities with a government disaster declaration from 2019-2025:
  - Click here to check location eligibility.

OR

Stream 2 – Disaster Recovery Support for QLD Communities:

- $300,000 is available for Disaster Recovery, Prevention or Preparedness projects for QLD communities impacted by either of these two disasters in remote, rural or regional LGA's with a related disaster declaration:
  - Tropical Cyclone Alfred and associated severe weather (1-16 March 2025); or
  - Western Queensland surface trough and associated rainfall and flooding (21 March-19 May 2025).

Each Stream offers grants up to $25,000 for projects or initiatives that support medium to long-term recovery and resilience building of the local community. Community-led initiatives will be supported that can achieve at least one of the following:

1. Assist recovery from the impact of disaster and climate-related disruptions;
2. Strengthen disaster prevention and preparedness for the future;
3. Evidence outcomes of one or more of the 7 critical dimensions for building community resilience: Inclusion; Networks; Communication; Information; Self Organising Systems, Local Decision Making; and/or Resources.

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.

Types of Projects Supported

Rebuilding Futures grants in Stream 1 & Stream 2 aim to support projects that:

- Assist communities to prevent and prepare for, respond to, or recover from disasters and climate-related disruptions;
- Demonstrate broad community benefit, are locally determined, support collaboration and build capacity for the future;
- Build networks or resources so that local communities can share information, increase climate related knowledge, and strengthen social connection;
- Aim to 'build back better' infrastructure following a disaster event or climate-related disruption, accounting for historical and future climate risks;
- Increase the overall wellbeing and mental health of communities;
- Recognise First Nations knowledge and strengthen cultural practices to foster healing, connection and care for Country;
- Infrastructure preparedness approaches that use resilient materials and harness clever use of design to reduce future impacts of disasters and climate-related disruptions; and
- Have limited ability to attract funds from other donors or government.

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

Program Priorities

All projects should demonstrate:

- Experience of a disaster impact or climate-related disruption that informs project design and delivery;
- Projects suit local community needs, priorities and interests being locally determined, supporting collaboration and building capacity for the future.

Where relevant, 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.

Applicants are welcome to discuss their application with FRRR staff by free calling 1800 170 020 or emailing granting@frrr.org.au.

All eligible applications are considered on their merit. Applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application.

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 Resilience:** The ability of a system, community or facilities impacted by disaster to resist, absorb, accommodate or adapt to, transform and recover from the effects in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.
- **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.

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

What Can't be Funded

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

- Projects that are subject to or eligible to receive an insurance claim;
- Projects that support core areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments;
- Solely ongoing organisational operating costs such as rent, utilities, regular wages, loan repayments (unless it directly relates to the project);
- Projects that should be covered by your current insurance policy;
- 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;
- Applications submitted for or by evangelist groups;
- Projects solely focussed on animal welfare;
- Initiatives relating to pandemic recovery, mice plagues, other environmental disease, economic disruptions, or other events causing significant community impacts.

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 (for example, 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;
- Project must benefit and take place in an eligible remote, rural or regional Australian area affected by disasters or extreme weather events from Jan 2019-Dec 2025. FRRR will refer to government disaster declaration information to inform eligibility, but it will not be the only basis on which an application is assessed and prioritised. If you believe that you are in a disaster-affected community, but your region is not listed as an eligible area, please call us on 1800 170 020 to discuss the situation.

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 organisational financial information and quotes or rationale for budget items over $1000;
- Overdue project report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous seven years that have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

- Application is for a project that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding;

- Application is incomplete. **NOTE:** Due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **FRRR is unlikely to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**

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 online via the Blackbaud Grants Portal.

We recommend you download a copy of the sample application form for the Stream you intend to apply through:

- **Stream 1 Disaster Resilient Communities** – Communities impacted by disaster from 2019 -2025
- **Stream 2 Disaster Recovery Support 2025** – QLD Communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred or Western Queensland Flooding

Click here to apply.

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 granting@frrr.org.au.

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

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. The FRRR website also includes a list of Frequently Asked Questions that provide valuable information. 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 doesn't 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's the 'legal organisation's' legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role. You can use the template available here.

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

Why is this important?

This 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 carry out their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial Information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. You must include the following:

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

Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required.

Please contact us if you cannot provide required financial information or you 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. 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.

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

Community Photo

Applicants are required to provide a high-resolution photo (between 1MB and 10MB). The photo can be a group shot of staff or volunteers in your Community Organisation OR an action shot relevant to the project you are applying for that includes people. If you are successful, FRRR may utilise this photo in grant announcements and/or associated communications.

Why is this important?

A picture may speak a thousand words, meaning that multiple ideas can often be conveyed in a single image – it can improve FRRR's understanding of your community.

Supporting Materials

FRRR also 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 and **who** will be involved in delivering the project, **why** the project and grant funds are needed, **how** 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 really 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 the 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.

Disaster Resilient Communities 2026 – Remote, Rural & Regional Australia

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR SUCCESSFUL GRANTEES

Bank Account

To receive the grant funds, successful grantees (the legal entity) must have a bank account registered under the organisation's name. Without a bank account, the grant funds cannot be disbursed, and the grantee will not receive the funds.

Reporting Requirements

When the project is complete, the grantees will be required to provide a [Project Report](#) on the project's activities, impacts and outcomes, and include a **financial acquittal** of your grant. Project reporting is an opportunity for the organisation to reflect on and celebrate what has been achieved and to share learnings.

Grantees have up to 12 months to deliver their Telstra Connected Communities grant project. **The online Project Report is due 8 weeks after project completion.**

Organisations with an overdue Project Report are not eligible to apply for further FRRR funding until the report is received. If the Project Report is not received, the applicant organisation may be suspended from applying for any FRRR grant programs until it is supplied.