



BRIGADE GRANTS

The NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund (the Trust) is a public fund established for the purpose of supporting the volunteer-based fire and emergency service activities of the NSW RFS brigades.

Establishment of a \$20 million Fund for Brigades

February 2020

Following the recent bush fires across NSW, the community, corporate sector and private individuals have responded generously, donating both to individual brigades and to the central fund.

The Trust has established an immediate \$20 million fund for volunteer brigades.

Applications for funding of up to \$10,000 per brigade through the Brigade Grants program will open on 27 February 2020.

These funds are made available through the Trust, which as a registered charity, is required to comply with strict rules that control how funds can be spent.

The purpose of the Trust is to assist Brigades to meet the costs of purchasing and maintaining firefighting equipment and facilities, providing training and resources and/or to otherwise meet the administrative expenses of the Brigades which are associated with their volunteer-based fire and emergency service activities.

Grants will be available to brigades for items which meet the requirements above.

Funding cannot be provided for items which do not meet the purpose of the Trust.

Applications will be reviewed to ensure expenditure is in accordance with the purpose of the Trust.

The Trust is encouraging brigades to start identifying items which may be funded through a grant from the Trust.

Brigades are also encouraged to work together, such as across a District through the Senior Management Team, to identify initiatives which could benefit a greater number of members or brigades. Allocations can be pooled for that purpose.

These funds do not replace funding from regular sources but may help supplement items that may not be otherwise funded or available.

We are encouraging brigades and districts to spend locally wherever possible, to help support fire affected areas and local businesses.

Timeline

Applications open:	27 February 2020
Application processing:	Monthly
Applications close:	30 October 2020
Brigades to spend grant funds by:	31 December 2020

Grant Applications

An electronic form will be used for applications. A link to the grant application will be published on MyRFS and NSW RFS social media. It will also be sent by email to all members (where we hold that information).

The NSW RFS will also shortly commence a consultation process with members to provide guidance on how the remainder of donated funds can be used.

KEY POINTS

- Applications for brigade grants will open on 27 February 2020
- Start thinking now about your application and what you would like to have funded
- Work with other brigades and your Senior Management Team if you have a proposal for a program or initiative at a district level
- Submit your applications early. Grant applications will be processed each month
- Funds can only be allocated for firefighting equipment and facilities, providing training and resources, and/or to otherwise meet the administrative expenses of the brigade
- Spend local where possible
- The grant should be spent by 31 December 2020

Contact: dgrgrants@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Andrew Macdonald
Chair

NSW Rural Fire Service & Brigades Donations Fund

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE & BRIGADES DONATIONS FUND



Some examples of what may or may not be funded:

If you are unsure about what items to apply for, contact your district or email

dgrgrants@rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Category	What could be funded from grants	What will not be funded from grants
Purchasing Firefighting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Portable pumps ➤ Radio equipment ➤ Generators ➤ Scene external lighting equipment ➤ Advanced nozzles ➤ Air compressors ➤ Tools ➤ Member items (e.g. utility shirts, caps, gloves, goggles, cold/wet weather jackets, kit bags) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Items subject to review, including P3 masks and non-standard helmets ➤ Items that come standard with truck builds ➤ Basic bush fire and structural PPE, PPC which is supplied by the NSW RFS
Firefighting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Station improvements (e.g. painting, tiling, kitchen/bathroom upgrade, solar panels, flagpoles) ➤ Concreting (e.g. station apron, flooring) ➤ Installation of security system / lighting ➤ Hose drying racks ➤ Storage airing lockers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regular repairs and maintenance that are covered under the SLA with Council (e.g. pest protection, electrical checks) ➤ Items that require ongoing costs unless the brigade can finance the costs
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Independent first aid course ➤ Additional driver development ➤ Electronic fire extinguisher/systems ➤ Specialist community engagement resources ➤ Training aids ➤ Community engagement equipment (e.g. tables, marquee, display boards table cover) ➤ Professional development (e.g. AFAC conference, community education training (NCEMS/IAP2)) 	
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Televisions ➤ Tablet and peripherals ➤ Computers ➤ Data projectors ➤ Printers ➤ Internet equipment ➤ Lawn mowers/blowers ➤ Public information resources (e.g. variable message signs, corflute signage, portable public address systems) ➤ Recruitment material (local advertising and signage) ➤ Community engagement vehicle/trailer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Items that require ongoing costs unless the brigade can finance the costs
Administrative Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improving telephone and internet connectivity ➤ Stationery ➤ Printing costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Audit fees ➤ Payments to brigade members ➤ Social events ➤ Brigade merchandise (caps, t-shirts etc.)