



FAQs: 'Supporting our neighbours - public land boundary fencing program'

Project background

The NSW Government, via the \$2.3 billion COVID-19 health boost and economic stimulus package, has committed \$209 million to help bushfire-affected landholders with the cost of rebuilding boundary fences adjoining public lands.

The NSW Government is committed to assisting landholders in replacing damaged boundary fencing after the unprecedented bushfire events between August 2019 to February 2020.

Landholders can now receive a one-off government grant of \$5,000 (excl. GST) per kilometre to help towards the purchase of fencing materials. Landholders who have already repaired or replaced their boundary fencing since August 2019 are also eligible for retrospective funding.

What is the funding for?

To assist landholders affected by the 2019/20 bushfires with the cost of rebuilding or replacing boundary fences adjoining public lands.

What is considered 'public lands'?

Public lands for the purposes of these grants include:

- National parks and reserves managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Travelling Stock Reserves managed by Local Land Services
- Crown Land reserves, tenured roads and leases
- Regulated roads managed by Roads and Maritime Service or Local Government.

It does not include urban lands, including schools, hospitals, religious or commercial facilities.

Who is eligible for the funding?

Landholders, including Aboriginal Land Councils impacted by the northern NSW 2019 and southern NSW 2020 bushfires,

who adjoin public lands. This includes all declared local government areas listed at:

www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/pages/publications/natural-disaster-declarations/2019-2020.aspx

How much funding is available?

A total of \$209 million has been committed by the NSW Government which is enough funds to meet all affected landholder grant requests.

The \$209 million of funding is part of the NSW Government's \$2.3 billion health boost and economic stimulus package announced on 17 March 2020.

Of this amount, \$90 million is to be assigned by 30 June 2020 (end of the financial year).

How much funding is available per landholder?

Eligible landholders can receive a one-off grant of up to \$5,000 per kilometre to purchase fencing materials. The total value of each grant will be determined by the total length of the boundary fence shared with public lands. There are over 12,600 bushfire-affected landholders.

Can the funding be used for erecting replacement fencing?

Yes. Subject to skills and experience, landholders may use the grant to purchase materials and erect the fence themselves. Alternatively, landholders may wish to use the payment to procure both materials and labour from a licensed fencing contractor.

Can the funding be for works already carried out replacing bushfire-affected fencing?

Yes. Grants can be issued retrospectively to cover costs already incurred by landholders replacing or repairing fire damaged fencing where a boundary is shared with public lands.

Can the funding be used for new fencing and/or internal property fencing?

No. The funding is only available for replacement boundary fencing.

Why only boundary fencing and not internal fencing?

Boundary fences are essential for securing livestock, managing biosecurity, minimizing environmental damage and protecting landholders against pests.

Does the replacement fence need to be in the same location?

Should an applicant wish to vary the fence location, or undertake clearing on the public land, a separate approvals process will be required with the adjacent public land manager, resulting in extended timeframes.

Do any fencing standards apply?

Landholders are strongly encouraged to consider fire-resistant materials, for example, ironback, tallowwood or concrete posts, when replacing fences. Wildlife friendly fences with plain top wire are also strongly encouraged. More information can be found on the Program Guidelines.

How can people apply?

Landholders can register their interest by one of three methods:

- Contacting 1300 778 080 and speaking with one of our Fencing Coordinators who can complete the online registration form (expression of interest) on your behalf.
- Completing an online registration form at www.lls.nsw.gov.au
- Registering their interest for a call-back from Fencing team via one of the 11 regional Local Land Services Facebook pages (Messenger).

When does the funding open and how long will it be available?

The grant program commences 1 April 2020 with final funds to be allocated no later than 30 June 2021. All boundary fencing must be completed no later than 31 December 2021.

Will there be issues in delivering this project due to COVID-19? If so, are there contingencies in place?

Yes. It is expected there will be major supply chain issues in the delivery of fencing materials, much of which is typically imported from overseas. There is also the potential for delays in relation to getting fencing works complete, which will depend on the latest advice from government and health authorities. Project officers will work through any issues with applicants on a needs basis.

Is this project open to local councils and government agencies such as the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service?

No. This funding opportunity is only open to bushfire-affected landholders that adjoin public lands. The NSW Government has and will continue to support government agencies and stakeholders in bushfire-affected areas through other projects and opportunities.

Is the funding open to drought impacted landholders?

No, this funding is only available to bushfire-impacted landholders. For the latest drought-support, landholders should visit the DroughtHub website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/drougthub.

Where can people find more information?

More information can be found at www.lls.nsw.gov.au or by contacting the customer support officers on: 1300 778 080

