

# Blue Mountains Mayoral Relief Fund

## Criteria for funding

### Decision making criteria

The Mayoral Relief Fund Committee agreed to the following criteria when assessing requests for money from the Fund.

- Recipient has a principle place of residence in the Blue Mountains
- Consistent with the Fund intent
- Meets a priority need
- Will provide assistance to individuals and families
- Does not unnecessarily duplicate other funding and is not a core responsibility of any level of government
- Can be effectively and efficiently delivered while adequately managing risk
- Aligns with donor expectations for the use of funds
- Aligns with allowable use of charitable donations under the ATO ruling.

### Principles for assistance

- Priority will be given to assisting individuals (including couples, families and households)
- Must be related to impacts of bushfire
- Applications can be received from any person with a principle place of residence in the Blue Mountains
- Money distributed to individuals will be disbursed by way of a non-taxable grant
- There will be no requirement for recipients to account for their use of any money provided from the fund
- There will be no means testing. However, capacity to recover may be considered, including assistance from other sources. All applicants will be treated equally.
- There will be no distinction between those insured and those uninsured, except where assessing hardship, as required
- Assistance should not be a disincentive for insurance
- Assistance is not a compensation for losses
- The Committee has flexibility in the application of assistance, subject to compliance with taxation requirements
- Assistance provided should be timely, equitable and fair.

## Phased release of funds received

As at 22 January, 2020 there are limited funds in the Mayoral Relief Fund. However, as at 23 January, 2020, there is a total of \$27,000 available. It is approved by the committee to have four phases to manage the funds in 2020. This would mean the following payments as at 23 January 2020. These could be subject to change, depending upon donations received.

- Phase 1 – Initial relief of \$1,500 for 17 residential dwellings destroyed
- Phase 2 – When funds are available, \$1,000 for 5 residential dwellings damaged
- Phase 3 – When funds are available, \$500 for 51 properties impacted (gardens, trees, other structures)
- Phase 4 – If funds become available, assessment by the committee using the extended criteria from clause 2 of the Fund Rules for 'relief of residents who are in financial hardship as a direct result of a State Declared Natural Disaster'.