

# BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020

## Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

### Minister Tudehope

Hearing: Thursday 5 March 2020

Answers to supplementary questions (due by Friday 3 April 2020)

#### BUSHFIRE RECOVERY ON THE SOUTH COAST

##### Notes:

1. All data given below is for New South Wales as a whole. Approximately one half of all small business bushfire loans and grants are for small businesses on the south coast (that is in the three LGAs of Bega, Eurobodalla and Shoalhaven)
2. Unless otherwise stated all data is on grants is at 2 April 2020 and on loans is at 1 April 2020.

##### Question 1:

To date, how much money has been paid to South Coast small business operators for bush fire recovery in the form of:

- (a) Loans?
- (b) Grants?

##### Answer:

- (a) \$5,956,605 approved
- (b) \$101.61 million approved

##### Question 2:

How many applications have been received from South Coast small business operators for bush fire recovery assistance for:

- (a) Loans?
- (b) Grants?

##### Answer:

- (a) 449
- (b) 9,956

**Question 3:**

How many applications received from South Coast small business operators for bushfire recovery assistance have been approved for:

- (a) Loans?
- (b) Grants?

**Answer:**

- (a) 119
- (b) 9,041

**Question 4:**

How many applications received from South Coast small business operators for bushfire recovery assistance have been declined for:

- a) Loans?
- b) Grants?

**Answer:**

- a) 42
- b) 157

Note: Small businesses whose applications for the Disaster Recovery Grant of up to \$15,000, or the Emergency Bushfire Response Small Business Grant of up to \$50,000, were declined because the small business had not sustained direct damage from the bushfires may have subsequently successfully applied for the Small Business Bushfire Support Grant of \$10,000 for loss of income due to the bushfires.

**Question 5:**

How long does it take for an application to be processed from the time it is submitted to the time the funds are received by the South Coast small business operator?

**Answer:**

As at 12 March 2020 the average processing time for the loans was 10.8 business days. The processing times for grants varies depending on the accuracy with which the form was completed and submitted with the required supporting evidence. All applications are actioned within 24 hours of receipt.

**Question 6:**

Please clarify the criteria for receiving bush fire recovery assistance for South Coast businesses: Have the criteria been expanded to include businesses that have suffered indirect impact from the fires, including smoke damage and loss of income.

**Answer:**

Yes.

The full terms and conditions are available at the following URLs:

**Emergency Bushfire Response Small Business Grant (up to \$50,000):**

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/emergency-bushfire-response-small-business-grants-guidelines>

**Small Business Bushfire Support Grant (up to \$10,000):**

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nsw-small-business-bushfire-support-grant-guidelines>

**Bushfire Working Capital Loan (up to \$50,000) and Bushfire Recovery Loan (up to \$500,000)**

[https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1197701/Guidelines\\_Special-Disaster-Loan-Bushfires-from-31-August-2019.pdf](https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1197701/Guidelines_Special-Disaster-Loan-Bushfires-from-31-August-2019.pdf)

**ALL ROLES FLEX**

**Question 7:**

Minister, the Premier announced on International Women's Day that the public service would all have access to flexible working arrangements by 2019.

- a. What numbers of staff within your Department currently have access to a flexible role?
- b. Do you centrally register staff, who have flexible working arrangements?
- c. What measures are currently in place to implement this?

**Answer:**

All roles in the NSW Government sector can be flexible.

However, not every type of flexibility may be available in all roles (or all the time) or people may not wish to access it.

Therefore, the Public Service Commission continues to work with the whole of the public sector to improve flexible working arrangements