



The NSW Government announced on 12 April that up to \$1m is available through the Northern Rivers Business Recovery Program to support impacted Northern Rivers businesses unable to access existing disaster recovery financial assistance and to help promote the region as 'back and open for business'.

### Business recovery program

The Business Recovery Program will provide grants of up to \$25,000 for approved growth and recovery activities to help medium-sized businesses recover from the April 2017 floods.

#### Who can apply?

##### Applicant businesses must:

- be located in Lismore, Ballina, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Byron and Tweed Local Government areas
- have premises that were impacted by the floods or damaged as a result of the March/April storms
- have an ABN and be registered for GST
- be able to demonstrate at least a 30% reduction in business turnover from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017 compared to the 2015/16 financial year
- employ at least twenty full time equivalent (FTE) employees (can include owners) in NSW.

#### Who is not eligible to apply for the business support component?

- public companies alone, or in association with other companies
- multi-national businesses
- businesses that are part of a national chain or company (unless owned and operated as a separate entity, such as in a franchise model).
- primary producers
- non-profit organisations (unless it is a business involved in manufacturing or assembling goods relating to a local supply chain).

#### Eligible activities

##### Financial assistance is available to:

- reimburse payroll tax paid in relation to the liability period of 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2017
- develop new promotional material, including new packaging/labelling (including replacing packaging/labelling destroyed in the storms)

- replace equipment essential to the operation of the business and/or the manufacture of products for sale
- upgrade equipment essential to business operations that introduce new technology to the company, including new software/hardware
- other activities as approved by Steering Committee that align with the objectives of the program (must be directly related to flood impact).

#### Program exclusions

- Retrospective applications for assistance will not be considered
- Applications to fund 'existing practices and activities' will not be supported
- Assistance is for external third party costs only and does not cover any internal project costs for implementation activities
- Suppliers of services and products for implementation activities should not have common ownership or control with the applicant company
- Assistance to acquire other businesses or trading stock (apart from replacement of damaged equipment).

#### Application Process

An application form must only be provided to an applicant following a meeting or discussion with a Department of Premier & Cabinet Business Development Manager.

#### Contact

##### Craig Jenkins

Business Development Manager  
Office of Regional Development

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# Northern Rivers Business Recovery Program

## FACT SHEET

### 'Back and open for business' Regional Marketing Program

The Business Recovery Program will also support local government, business chambers and tourism bodies to undertake regional marketing and promotion that the Northern Rivers is 'back and open for business'.

The Regional Marketing Program may also support programs to help the region prepare for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in 2018.

Grants of up to \$25,000 per project will be available. Local government, business chambers and tourism bodies can submit multiple projects for assessment.

#### Eligible activities

- Promotion/advertising that the Northern Rivers Region is 'back and open for business'.
- Support for local business promotion through established local projects, such as Australia's Green Cauldron and Northern Rivers Food Advantage.
- Support towards campaigns to encourage visitation to the Northern Rivers.

#### Who can apply?

Applications for regional marketing and promotion campaigns can only be accepted from:

- local government organisations
- business chambers
- tourism organisations located within the Lismore, Ballina, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Byron and Tweed Local Government areas.

#### Application Process

- An application form must only be provided to an applicant following a meeting or discussion with a Department of Premier & Cabinet Business Development Manager.

#### Contact

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### What other support is available?

#### Business advice

- A free mobile advisory service is available to small businesses through Small Biz Connect.
- An advisor, who can meet you at a convenient place and discuss your business needs.
- Advice about managing cash flow, planning the next steps, accessing financial support schemes and connecting to additional support.
- To book an appointment call 1300 134 359.

#### Financial assistance

- Grants to Small Business and Non-Profit Organisations of \$15,000 under the Natural Disaster Package and Recovery Arrangements.
- Financial support packages, with loans of up to \$130,000 at a concessional interest rate for primary producers in urgent need, administered by the NSW Rural Assistance Authority.

Further information related to additional support available can be found here:

[www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/for-the-community/severe-weather-north-east-nsw.html](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/for-the-community/severe-weather-north-east-nsw.html)