

Alpine Resorts Support Program

Stream 2 Guidelines

Program Summary

Victoria is home to six Alpine Resorts – Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Buller and Mt Stirling, Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw.

Businesses in the resorts have been amongst the hardest hit in 2020 with bushfires and coronavirus (COVID-19) significantly restricting trading opportunities.

The Victorian Government has established an Alpine Resorts Support Program to assist businesses in the Alpine Resorts manage the impacts of COVID-19. The announcement includes \$5 million to provide grants to non-head lessee commercial operators within the Alpine Resorts and Dinner Plain.

The Program is delivered by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the Department).

These Guidelines set out the eligibility criteria for support under Stream 2 of the Program. Please ensure that you read this document and the grant terms and conditions carefully before completing the application form.

The Alpine Resorts Support Program has the following objectives:

- To support entities in the Alpine Resorts, who have generally not qualified for the Commonwealth JobKeeper or Victorian Government business support packages to date, manage the impacts of COVID-19.
- To assist these entities to recover post the COVID-19 pandemic and provide them with an opportunity to trade in winter 2021 with an attractive and competitive product against resorts in New South Wales and New Zealand which were open for business this year.

1 Standard Eligibility Criteria

- 1.1 To be eligible for support under Stream 2 of this Program, businesses must:
- a. Operate a business located within a Victorian Alpine Resort¹ or Dinner Plain²;
 - b. Operate:
 - i. A food and beverage venue (restaurant, café, pub, bar, club or other food venue);
 - ii. A retail outlet (rental, clothing, footwear, equipment, supermarket, pharmacy, gifts);
 - iii. A business that provides services directly to visitors (transport, activities, experiences, entertainment, health & wellbeing); or
 - iv. An accommodation business that also has a public on-site food and beverage venue or a retail outlet.
 - c. Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at 13 September 2020;
 - d. Be an employing business³ registered with WorkSafe;
 - e. Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) on 13 September 2020⁴; and
 - f. Be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator.⁵
- 1.2 The following businesses are not eligible for funding under this stream of the Program:
- a. Businesses that pay annual service charges and/or site rent directly to an Alpine Resort Management Board.
 - b. A business that has received funding assistance through any other stream of the Alpine Resorts Support Program.

2 Available funding

- 2.1 Funding will be allocated through a grant process, through which businesses are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$25,000.
- 2.2 The grant amount is capped at a maximum of \$25,000 per business, less any grant funds received under the Victorian Government's Business Support Fund, Business Support Fund Expansion, Business Support Fund Round 3 and/or Licenced Hospitality Venue Fund.
- 2.3 The Program will be open for applications until 11.59pm on 17 February 2021 (*four weeks*) or until funds are exhausted (whichever is earlier)
- 2.4 A business as defined by its ABN can only receive one grant under this Program.

¹ Victoria's six Alpine Resorts are: Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Buller & Mt Stirling, Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw.

² Business location is determined using workplace location registered with WorkSafe Victoria.

³ Employing businesses are defined as those businesses required to be registered for WorkCover insurance or equivalent. Sole traders, individuals in partnerships and individual trustees of trusts must employ persons other than themselves to be eligible.

⁴ Non-for-profit entities with annual 2019/20 turnover between \$75,000 and \$150,000 that are not registered for GST and are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission are eligible to apply.

Businesses with annual 2019-2020 turnover of \$75,000 or more that are not required by relevant taxation legislation to be registered for GST are eligible to apply

⁵ Where required by relevant and applicable legislation. Responsible regulators are the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC); the ACNC for charities and not-for-profits; and Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) for incorporated associations.

3 How the funding may be used

- 3.1 Grant funds may be used to assist the business, for example, on:
- Meeting ordinary business costs, including utilities, salaries or rent;
 - Seeking financial, legal or other advice to support business continuity planning;
 - Developing the business through marketing and communications activities; or
 - Any other supporting activities related to the ordinary operation of the business.

4 Assessment information

- 4.1 As part of the assessment process, evidence provided by applicants may be subject to a crosscheck with other government departments and agencies including WorkSafe.
- 4.2 Any of the following circumstances may be taken into consideration in any decision whether to provide support to an eligible business:
- Any adverse findings by a regulator regarding a business;
 - A business is placed under external administration;
 - There is a petition to wind up or deregister a company or business; and
 - The business is or becomes deregistered or unregistered (including cancellation or lapse in registration).

5 Evidence of eligibility

- 5.1 Applicants must certify that they meet the eligibility criteria, including certifying if they have received a Business Support Fund, Business Support Fund Expansion, Business Support Fund Round 3 and/or Licenced Hospitality Venue Fund grant.
- 5.2 Applicants must ensure that their ABN is up-to-date and current as at the time of application.
- 5.3 Applicants must provide at least one of the following:
- A current Certificate of Currency for Worksafe Insurance; or
 - A Certificate of Currency for Worksafe Insurance from a previous financial year 2019/20 or 2018/19 (no earlier); or
 - Evidence of application for Worksafe registration (if certificate not yet issued)
- 5.4 Applicants must provide evidence of the current location of their business operations through the most recent:
- Utility bill (gas, electricity, telecommunications, water); or
 - Rental receipt; or
 - Signed sub-lease agreement or licence agreement; or
 - Business permit.

6 Compliance and Audit

- 6.1 Applicants are subject to a risk assessment which verifies business details provided with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commissioner, Consumer Affairs Victoria and/or other applicable regulator.
- 6.2 Applicants will be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and will be required to produce evidence relating to their eligibility and receipt of Business Support Fund, Business Support Fund Expansion, Business Support Fund Round 3 or Licenced Hospitality Venue Fund grants at the request of the Victorian Government for a period of four years after the grant has been approved.
- 6.3 If any information in the application is found to be false or misleading, or grants are not applied for the purposes of the business in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in these guidelines and attached application, the grant will be repayable on demand.

7 Other information about this program

- 7.1 The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions reserves the right to amend these guidelines and application terms at any time as it deems appropriate.
- 7.2 Applicants must agree to participate in evaluation of the program for a period of up to three (3) years.
- 7.3 Applicants are required to submit an application online via the Business Victoria website (business.vic.gov.au). All questions in the application need to be completed to ensure timely assessment and grant payment.
- 7.4 Further information may be found at business.vic.gov.au or through the Business Victoria Hotline at 13 22 15.
- 7.5 The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions will endeavour to notify all applicants on the outcome of their submitted application within 10 Business Days of program close.
- 7.6 Grant funds under this Stream are categorised as a non-taxable supply and so Goods and Service Tax is not applicable.