

Grants for fire-affected landholders (Deep Creek and Tooperang/Nangkita 2026 fire-affected properties)

Guidelines and eligibility

Grant round details

These grants are intended to support landholders who are able and willing to commence fire recovery works on their land following the Deep Creek and Tooperang/Nangkita bushfire of 2026.

The Grant round will open at 9am on 10 March 2026 and close 13 April 2026 at 11pm. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available for eligible activities per property. If you have a project idea that will require more than \$5,000 in funding, please call us.

Who can apply (eligibility)

Landholders who own more than 1.5ha (3.7 acres) of land who have been affected by the Deep Creek or Tooperang/Nangkita fires - who's properties are mapped within the fire scar area.

Applicants must contribute at least 25 cents for every \$1 of grant funding requested. This may be cash and/or in-kind labour (volunteered by the landholder and other people), valued at \$50.50/hour.

Example: Bob wants to install 500m of silt protection fencing. The quoted materials cost \$2,400 including GST (which he seeks grant money for). Bob and his neighbour Bill can install the fences:

- Grant sought: \$2,400
- Required contribution: \$600 (of any combination of cash or valued in-kind)
- Total in-kind/labour estimated: 22 hours × \$50.50 = \$1,111
- Requirement met 

Eligible activities for funding

The following activities will be considered for funding. Note, these are further explained in Table 1.

- Livestock access to water troughs
- Sediment control – silt trapping
- Erosion control – ground cover
- Control of environmental weeds
- Pest animal control
- Watercourse fencing
- Livestock fencing for temporary containment
- Fencing off native vegetation
- Revegetation

Work that's already started

If you have commenced recovery work and it's aligned with the eligible activities in this document, you can apply for this grant to cover the costs. Activities you commenced or undertook before the 18 January 2026 (Tooperang/Nangkita fire) or 1 February 2026 for the Deep Creek fire cannot be funded.

Activities that are out of scope for funding:

- Items generally covered by property insurance
- Boundary fencing
- Significant asset purchase, e.g. All-Terrain Vehicles or Utility Terrain Vehicles; chainsaws
- Property-scale water reticulation systems for livestock
- Removal of burnt agroforestry
- Arborist works
- Gardens
- Other capital purchases unrelated to fire recovery

Assessment of applications

Applications will be screened for eligibility first, then assessed by Senior Stewardship Officers against an assessment matrix/scoring criteria.

Online reporting if successful

As these grants are made available through public funds there are some online reporting requirements you'll need to work through if successful. These requirements are reduced for fire-affected landholders. They are:

- **A funding agreement** - Completed through SmartyGrants. You'll be asked to read and accept the agreement and provide some administrative details such as an ATO form and your bank account information (to receive funds).
→ *about 20-30 minutes to complete, depending on reading speed*
- **A report and acquittal** – Completed after you finish your project and spend the funds. This helps ensure accountability for spending public money. You'll submit this via SmartyGrants, including information on how the funds were used, along with receipts, and photos of your work.
→ *about 10-15 minutes to complete if you have all your receipts and photos organised*

Payment if successful

We will pay the grant 100% up front into your nominated bank account.

Timing for works

Successful projects can run to 30 June 2027.

Table 1 - Eligible activities for funding further explained:

Activity	Rationale	Funding criteria
Livestock access to water troughs	Fire can damage fencing and water trough infrastructure, leaving stock reliant on dams or watercourses. Providing troughed water reduces erosion risk and creek bank damage, whilst protecting water quality in creeks and dams. This has significant recovery benefits as creeklines are among the first places to recover post-fire.	In situations where water trough infrastructure is essential to excluding livestock from dams, creeks and wetlands, funding can support installing or repairing stock troughs and associated reticulation systems.
Sediment control – silt trapping	After fire, groundcover is often lost, leaving soil exposed to wind and rain. This can quickly cause erosion, topsoil loss and sediment entering creeks and dams leading to poor water quality outcomes.	Funding will support purchase of materials associated with slowing movement of sediment including silt fencing, stakes and contracted installation (if required). These works need to occur before June 2026.
Erosion control – ground cover	After fire, pasture and groundcover are often lost, leaving soil exposed and vulnerable to erosion. Supporting reseeding and groundcover restoration helps stabilise soil, protects waterways from ash and sediment runoff, and allows pastures to re-establish before livestock return	Funding can support actions that restore groundcover on bushfire-affected properties, including groundcover reseeding, groundcover re-establishment works, and related materials or contractors - where these activities help stabilise exposed soil. These works need to occur before June 2026.
Environmental weed control	Fire can stimulate mass germination of weed seed in the soil and create ideal conditions for rapid weed spread. Without competition from pasture or native vegetation, woody weeds can quickly dominate burnt areas.	Funding is available for woody weed control; expert contractors; herbicide purchase and smaller scale application tools. This includes funding for declared weed species driven by fire activity, e.g. gorse, broom. Herbicide type and application methodology needs to be described.
Pest animal control	After fire, regenerating pasture and native vegetation are highly vulnerable to grazing pressure. Damaged fences and reduced groundcover can also lead to increases in pest animal activity or concentration of some pest animals.	Funding can cover costs for pest animal control, such as rabbits and foxes. Coordinated programs between neighbours are favoured.
Watercourse fencing	Burnt creeks and wetlands are highly vulnerable to erosion, trampling and sediment runoff, and stock entering damaged	Funding can cover fencing materials and contracted services to keep stock out of

Activity	Rationale	Funding criteria
	watercourses can slow recovery and affect water quality.	creeks, dams, wetlands and riparian zones. Depending on site needs and recovery, either temporary or permanent fencing may be considered.
Containment fencing	After a bushfire, landholders may need temporary fenced containment areas to safely hold livestock while paddocks recover. These areas protect animal welfare by preventing ash ingestion and limiting access to damaged ground. Stock containment can reduce soil disturbance, erosion and impacts on waterways while pastures re-establish. Supporting containment fencing helps stabilise the property and allows livestock to be managed efficiently during recovery	Funding can cover temporary fencing materials for containment areas, including temporary electric fencing/polytape systems
Native vegetation asset fencing	Remnant native vegetation is often a vital recovery asset after fire, and protecting these patches from grazing gives them the best chance to regenerate.	Funding can support fencing materials and contracted services to safeguard remnant bushland, regenerating vegetation, shelterbelts, revegetation areas and other significant habitat.
Revegetation	Revegetating after a bushfire helps restore wildlife habitat and native plant communities that were heavily damaged or lost. It also reduces erosion and improves soil and waterway health by stabilising burnt ground and protecting creeks and dams.	Funding can support purchase of local native species, planting services from a contractor, and tree-guarding materials

How to apply

Online via SmartyGrants – SmartyGrants is a simple grants management platform. To apply, you'll need to register using an email address and password, then complete the online application form using a computer (not a phone).

Please see our Fire Recovery webpage for the links to the online application form.

If you're unable to submit an online application but would still like to apply for funding, please contact us and we'll assist you.

Contacts for further information

Person	Role
Shane Johansen (08) 8391 7500 Grants and Engagement Officer shane.johansen@sa.gov.au	Can help with general grant round enquiries, eligibility, application queries, and SmartyGrants
Jeff Edwards – Deep Creek (08) 8391 7500 Senior Stewardship Officer jeff.edwards@sa.gov.au	Can advise of suitable on-ground recovery works and activities for the Deep Creek area.
Katrina Warner – Tooperang/Nangkita (08) 8391 7500 Senior Stewardship Officer Katrina.warner@sa.gov.au	Can advise of suitable on-ground recovery works and activities for the Tooperang/Nangkita area.