

Alpine Resorts Winter Support Program

Off mountain stream

Program Summary

The \$16.09 million Alpine Resorts Winter Support Program (the Program) is made up of \$4.4 million announced on 6 June 2021 as part of the Victorian Government's \$32.2 million *Regional Tourism Support Package* with an additional \$1.29 million in funding made available on 21 July 2021, \$4.8 million announced on 28 July 2021 and \$5.6 million announced on 6 August 2021. This funding will assist businesses in Victoria's Alpine Resorts, Dinner Plain and key businesses in the surrounding towns who were most impacted by recent COVID-19 circuit breaker action to continue to operate for the 2021 winter season and provide a COVIDSafe ski season.

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

These guidelines set out the eligibility criteria for support under the *Off-mountain* stream of the Program. This stream is intended to support operators who are heavily reliant on winter trade and critical to the alpine experience and offering.

1 Standard Eligibility Criteria

1.1 To be eligible for support under this Program, businesses must:

- a. Be located within one of the following regional Local Government Areas: Alpine Shire; Mansfield Shire; Murrindindi Shire; Baw Baw Shire; East Gippsland Shire¹;
- b. Provide:
 - Rental of snow equipment (including snowboards, skis, boots and clothing) for use within a Victorian Alpine Resort as the primary activity of the business; and/or
 - Tours within a Victorian Alpine Resort as the primary activity of the business; and/or
 - Bus transfers to, from and within a Victorian Alpine Resort;
- c. Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN as at 15 July 2021;
- d. Have an annual Victorian payroll of up to \$10 million in 2019-20 on an ungrouped basis²;
- e. Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) as at 15 July 2021³; and
- f. Be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator⁴.

¹ Business location is determined using the ABN registered 'primary operating address', and where available, workplace location registered with WorkSafe Victoria. Businesses not registered with WorkSafe Victoria will be required to provide evidence of their business location.

² Where a business is in a payroll group, the payroll eligibility criteria applies to each business in the payroll group. That is, any member of a group with an annual Victorian taxable payroll of up to \$10 million in 2019-20 can apply.

³ A business or enterprise must register for GST if it has a GST turnover of \$75,000 or more. Not-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, subject to provision of a signed letter from a registered tax agent. Businesses not currently registered for GST due to limited trading opportunities in the 2020 winter season are eligible to apply but must have been registered for GST in the 2019-20 financial year in order to be eligible.

⁴ 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.

2 Other eligibility conditions

- 2.1 Businesses must attest that they meet all eligibility criteria and that they have opened or intend to re-open their business for operations during the 2021 ski season.
- 2.2 Businesses must ensure that their ABN registration information is up-to-date and current as at the time of attestation.
- 2.3 A business that is eligible for funding through the *On-mountain and Dinner Plain* stream of the Program is not eligible for funding under this stream of the Program.

3 Available funding

- 3.1 Funding will be allocated via grants. The Department or its representatives will contact businesses directly inviting them to attest to their eligibility for a grant. Businesses that believe they satisfy the eligibility criteria can visit the Business Victoria portal (business.vic.gov.au) and register their interest by emailing: alpineprograms@ecodev.vic.gov.au
- 3.2 Funding will be up to \$18,000 **less** any funding already received by the relevant business under the following Victorian Government COVID-19 Circuit Breaker Business Support Packages, unless that funding has previously been deducted from funding provided to a business under another COVID-19 Circuit Breaker Business Support Package:
 - Business Costs Assistance Program Round 2 (BCAP2) including the Tourism Supplement;
or
 - Licenced Hospitality Venue Fund 2021 (LHVF2021) including the Tourism Supplement.
- 3.3 The maximum deduction of funds received under these other business support programs is capped at \$7,000.
 - **Note:** The Victorian Government has announced top-up funding for BCAP2 and LHVF2021. These amounts are additional and will not be deducted from funding provided under this Alpine Resorts Winter Support Program.
- 3.4 The Program will be open until all available Program funds are exhausted or until 11.59pm on Friday 20 August 2021, whichever is earlier.
- 3.5 Funding will be based on whether the business meets the eligibility criteria and is not a competitive process.
- 3.6 In the event there is an oversubscription of eligible claims, order of submission will be taken into account.
- 3.7 A business as defined by its ABN can only receive one grant.

4 How the funding may be used

- 4.1 Grant funds may be used to assist the business to manage the impacts of the circuit breaker lockdown, continue operating for the 2021 winter season and to ensure COVIDSafe requirements are implemented.

5 Verification information

- 5.1 As part of the verification process, any information provided by businesses will be shared and subject to verification with other government agencies (both State and Federal) including but not limited to the Victorian State Revenue Office, WorkSafe Victoria, the Australian Business

Register and the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.⁵

- 5.2 The following circumstances may be taken into consideration in any decision to provide support to an eligible business:
- Any adverse findings by a Government agency or local council regarding a business or its operation;
 - A business is, or notice has been given that it will be, placed under external administration;
 - There is a petition for bankruptcy or to wind up or deregister a company or business; and
 - The business is or becomes deregistered or unregistered (including cancellation or lapse in registration or any relevant permit).
- 5.3 Each participant in the process will be carefully considered and verified against the eligibility criteria. If an unsuccessful business considers they are eligible, they will have the opportunity to lodge a complaint. More information on the complaints process and a complaint form can be found at <https://business.vic.gov.au/contact-us/complaints>.
- 5.4 Only applications lodged with the Department will be considered and verified. Applications in draft stage will not be considered.

6 Evidence of eligibility

- 6.1 Where business have previously provided evidence of eligibility as part of a successful BCAP2 or LHV2021 grant application, they will not be asked to provide evidence of eligibility as set out in 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5, instead they will be asked to attest to their eligibility as described in 1.1b. above.
- 6.2 For other businesses, the requirements set out in 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5 will apply.
- 6.3 **Location:** Businesses must provide evidence of the current location of their business operations. For example, through one or more of the following:
- ABN or WorkCover Employer Number or WorkSafe Application Reference Number linked to the business (if the business is registered with WorkSafe); and/or
 - Utility bill (gas, electricity, telecommunications, water); and/or
 - Rental receipt; and/or
 - Signed sub-lease agreement or licence agreement; and/or
 - Business permit.
- 6.4 **Identity Documents:** Businesses must provide a current proof of identity document. This must be one of the following:
- A driver licence or learner permit issued in any Australian jurisdiction; or
 - An Australian Passport; or
 - A Medicare Card; or
 - A foreign passport for those issued with an Australian Visa.
- The identity document details must be for a person listed on the Australian Business Register as either the owner, co-owner, associate or authorised contact of the business.⁶
- 6.5 If the current proof of identity or any other required detail is unable to be confirmed, a business may receive a follow-up email or phone call and may be instructed to amend and/or verify their proof of identity details. If the business recipient does not then rectify proof of

⁵ DJPR is not responsible for any delays caused by third party validation of a business' eligibility. By making an application the business consents to the assessment and verification process.

⁶ For employing businesses, in the event that the Proof of Identity documents cannot be verified against the Australian Business Register, the Department will rely on an accurate Workcover Employer Number (i.e. WorkSafe registration) for the business.

identity details before the Program close date, the business will not be considered by the Department for this Program.

7 Compliance and Audit

- 7.1 Businesses 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.
- 7.2 Applications and attestations may be subject to audit by the Victorian Government or its representatives and the business will be required to produce evidence relating to their eligibility and use of the grant funds at the request of the Victorian Government for a period of four (4) years after the grant has been approved.
- 7.3 If any information in the attestation or application is found to be false or misleading, or grants are not applied for the purposes of the business described in section 4 (above) in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in this guideline and attestation or application, the grant will be repayable on demand.

8 Other information about this Program

- 8.1 The Department reserves the right to amend this guideline and terms at any time as it deems appropriate.
- 8.2 Businesses that receive support under the Program agree to participate in an evaluation of the Program for a period of up to three (3) years, from 6 August 2021.
- 8.3 Further information may be found at www.business.vic.gov.au or by emailing: alpineprograms@ecodev.vic.gov.au
- 8.4 The Department will endeavour to notify all applicable businesses on the status of their submitted attestation or application within 10 Business Days⁷ of Program close, subject to finalisation of all payments under BCAP2 or LHVF2021 including Tourism Supplement. There may be delays if the business:
 - Does not meet all the eligibility criteria for the Program;
 - Has not submitted correct evidence or requisite documentation;
 - Provides duplicate applications;
 - Provides incorrect information, such as ABN or bank details (for successful businesses); or
 - Does not include current or accurate information registered with relevant regulators or partner agencies, such as the State Revenue Office, Australian Business Register or WorkSafe Victoria

⁷ 'Business Day' means a day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday in Victoria.