

Alpine Resorts Winter Support Program

On-mountain and Dinner Plain streams

Program Summary

The \$38.4 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, \$5.6 million announced on 6 August 2021, \$11.2 million announced on 22 August 2021 and a further \$11.2 million announced on 4 September 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 describe the eligibility criteria for support under the Program's on-mountain and Dinner Plain stream.

1 Support

Subject to 4 (below), eligible business that are:

- 1.1 employing businesses registered with WorkSafe Victoria¹ will be eligible for a grant of up to \$138,000; or
- 1.2 not registered with WorkSafe Victoria will be eligible for a grant of up to \$73,000.

2 Standard Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 To be eligible for support under the Alpine Resorts on-mountain and Dinner Plain stream, eligible businesses must:
 - a. Have their primary business located within a Victorian Alpine Resort² or Dinner Plain³;
 - b. Operate:
 - i. A food and beverage venue (restaurant, café, pub, bar or other food venue);
 - ii. A retail outlet (rental, clothing, footwear, equipment, supermarket, pharmacy, gifts);
 - iii. A business that provides services directly to visitors or contributes to the visitor experience (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;

¹ 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 in this category of 'employing businesses'.

Businesses operating within Victoria that hold an equivalent worker's compensation policy in another Australian jurisdiction in accordance with Victorian WorkCover legislation are eligible. Evidence of valid interstate insurance policy and operation located within Victoria is required.

² Victoria's six Alpine Resorts are: Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Buller & Mt Stirling, Lake Mountain and Mt Baw Baw.

³ For employing businesses, business location is determined using ABN registered 'primary operating address' and workplace location registered with WorkSafe Victoria and for non-employing businesses using the ABN registered 'primary operating address'. Non-employing businesses will be required to provide evidence of their business location.

- 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 basis⁴;
- e. Be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) as of 15 July 2021⁵; and
- f. Be registered with the responsible Federal or State regulator⁶.

3 Other eligibility conditions

- 3.1 Businesses must attest that they meet all eligibility criteria and that they have opened or intend to re-open their business for operations in the 2021 season.
- 3.2 Businesses must ensure that their ABN registration information is up-to-date and current as at the time of attestation or application to the program.
- 3.3 A business that is responsible for managing lift operations at an Alpine Resort is not eligible for funding under this Program.

4 Available Support

- 4.1 Funding will be allocated via grants. The Department or its representatives will contact businesses directly, inviting businesses to attest to their eligibility for the grant. Businesses that consider they satisfy the eligibility criteria can also visit the Business Victoria portal and register their interest by emailing: alpineprograms@ecodev.vic.gov.au.
- 4.2 Funding will be:
 - Up to \$138,000 for employing businesses registered with WorkSafe Victoria; or
 - Up to \$73,000 for businesses not registered with WorkSafe Victoria,
less any funding already received by the relevant business under the following Victorian Government COVID-19 Circuit Breaker Business Support Packages, unless funding has already 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.
- 4.3 The maximum deduction of funds received under these other business support programs is capped at \$7,000 per premises.
 - **Note:** The Victorian Government has announced top-up funding for BCAP2 and LHVF2021. These amounts will be additional and will not be deducted from amounts received under this Program.
- 4.4 Where an **employing business registered with WorkSafe Victoria**⁷ operates from multiple on-mountain locations under its ABN, and each location has a unique address, the business

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ See footnote six.

may apply for a grant per premises, up to a maximum of four premises⁸. Separate applications will be required for each a business' premises.

- 4.5 For **businesses not registered with WorkSafe Victoria**⁹ (non-employing): The business is eligible for one grant per ABN.
- 4.6 The Program will be open until all available Program funds are exhausted or until 11.59pm on Friday 17 September 2021, whichever is earlier.
- 4.7 Funding will be based on factual eligibility for the Program (whether the business meets the eligibility criteria) and is not a competitive process.
- 4.8 In the event there is an oversubscription of eligible businesses, order of submission and the number of applications submitted by each business will be taken into account.

5 How the funding may be used

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

6 Verification information

- 6.1 As part of the verification process, each business acknowledges and agrees that any information provided by it will be shared and subject to verification with other government agencies (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.¹⁰
- 6.2 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).
- 6.3 Each participant in the process will be carefully considered and assessed against the eligibility criteria. If an unsuccessful business considers that they are eligible, they will have the opportunity to lodge an appeal. More information on the complaints process and a complaint form can be found at <https://business.vic.gov.au/contact-us/complaints>.

7 Evidence of eligibility

- 7.1 Where businesses 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

⁸ If a business with multiple premises against the same ABN submits more than four applications, only four applications will be considered.

⁹ Non-employing businesses are defined as those businesses who do not need to be registered with WorkSafe Victoria.

¹⁰ The Department is not responsible for any delays caused by third party validation of a business' eligibility. By completing an application, the business consents to the assessment and verification process.

eligibility as set out in 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 below, instead they will be asked to attest to their eligibility as described in 2.1b above.

- 7.2 For other businesses not previously funded through BCAP2 or LHVF2021, the requirements as set out in 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5 will apply
- 7.3 For **employing businesses registered with WorkSafe**, participating businesses must demonstrate that they employ people by providing their WorkCover Employer Number or WorkSafe Application Reference Number linked to the business. This will be used to confirm business primary operating address.
- 7.4 **For businesses not registered with WorkSafe**, participating businesses must provide evidence of the current location of their primary business operations. For example, through one or more of the most recent:
- ABN linked to the business 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.
- 7.5 **Identity Documents:** Businesses must provide a copy of 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 business¹¹.

- 7.6 If the current proof of identity or any other required detail is unable to be confirmed, a business will 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 does not then rectify proof of identity details before the Program close date, the business will not be considered eligible for this Program.

8 Compliance and Audit

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Applications 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.
- 8.3 If any information in the attestation is found to be false or misleading, or grants are not applied for the purposes of the business described in 5 (above) in accordance with the terms of funding as set out in this guideline and related attestation document, the grant will be

¹¹ 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 Applicant.

repayable on demand.

9 Other information about this Program

- 9.1 The Department reserves the right to amend these guidelines and application terms at any time it deems appropriate.
- 9.2 Businesses that receive support under this Program agree to participate in an evaluation of the Program for a period of up to three (3) years from 6 August 2021.
- 9.3 Further information may be found at www.business.vic.gov.au or by emailing: alpineprograms@ecodev.vic.gov.au
- 9.4 The Department will endeavour to notify all applicable businesses on the status of their submitted attestation or application within 10 Business Days of Program close, subject to finalisation of all payments under the BCAP2 or LHV2021, 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;
 - Needs to amend any information provided;
 - 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.