

Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

MEDIA RELEASE

15 July 2022

SMALL BUSINESS FLOOD GRANT NOW OPEN

Small businesses and not-for-profit (NFP) organisations affected by the June-July severe flooding and storms can now apply for up to \$50,000 in support through Service NSW.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP said the grant would provide a much-needed lifeline to small businesses who have been hard hit by the floods across the 37 natural disaster-declared local government areas.

"These floods have had a devastating impact on our community and we are doing everything we can to ensure businesses and not-for-profits get back on their feet as quickly as possible," Mr Williams said.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our local community and this package is designed to provide immediate support to help business owners recover and keep their business going.

"Customer care specialists are available to assist if customers are having difficulty providing the necessary documentation or are not sure if they are eligible, and successful applicants should expect to see funds in their accounts within five business days of approval."

Mr Williams said the grant is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments and can go towards the clean-up, repairs, re-stocking and reopening. "Payments of up to \$50,000 can go towards the cost of safety inspections, building repairs, cleaning equipment, materials needed to resume trade, disposing of debris and spoiled stock, or leasing temporary space," Mr Williams said.

"Some small businesses have been impacted by flooding four times in 18 months, which is why we're making sure the application process is as straightforward as possible so that support can flow quickly."

Fraudulent applications will not be tolerated. As evidenced during the flood financial support made available by the NSW Government earlier this year, fraud wastes valuable assessment time and delays the time it takes to pay applicants who genuinely need assistance.

To see if you are eligible for the June and July Storm and Flood Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant, visit the <u>Service NSW website</u>. Businesses that would like to be connected with support can register for a call back from Service NSW's Business Concierge <u>here</u>, or call 13 77 88 for assistance.

MEDIA: June Belkovskis 8882-9555