

Ref: DPC/FA419346#4

Mr Richard Bomford member of Reserve Land Manager board Old Bega Hospital (R.180050) Reserve Land Manager PO Box 382 BEGA NSW 2550 grants@obh.org.au

Dear Mr Richard Bomford,

NSW Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund: BLERF - 0234 - Old Bega Hospital Restoration

Thank you for submitting an application to the NSW Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund – Stage Two.

The fund was significantly over subscribed, with over 650 applications submitted requesting \$1.6 billion in funding.

On this occasion, I regret to inform you that your application Old Bega Hospital Restoration was unsuccessful.

The Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) led the merit-based assessment of all applications against the eligibility and assessment criteria published in the Program Guidelines. Independent probity advisors from both the Australian and NSW governments provided oversight to ensure a robust, fair and transparent process was followed.

We are acutely aware of the significant energy, effort and time that would have gone into developing and submitting your application, and the disappointment you may feel receiving an unsuccessful outcome.

DRNSW would like to offer you a meaningful feedback session, and where appropriate, support in identifying future funding opportunities. This may include, where relevant, future funding opportunities such as the Australian Government's \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Grants Program which is due to open for applications in the coming weeks. If you would like feedback, please visit our online booking page to make an appointment. If you are unable to make an online booking or require other assistance, please send an email to BLER@regional.nsw.gov.au.

Lastly, we understand that experiencing bushfires and other natural disasters can have an enduring impact on the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. A range of information and support services are provided on the <u>NSW Health website</u>. In addition, specialist Bushfire Recovery Clinicians are available by contacting the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511, and Service NSW (13 77 88) can assist by connecting you to other local support services.

Thank you again for taking the time to submit your application.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Wheaton

Executive Director, Regional Programs