



# NSW Disaster Recovery Office

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## Office of Emergency Management partnership with Minderoo Foundation Fire Fund

### **Q: What is the temporary accommodation solution being proposed?**

The NSW Government is partnering with Minderoo Foundation's Fire Fund to provide temporary accommodation pods, allowing those in need to stay on their own property while they rebuild.

The pods are stand-alone units with built in electricity, water, cooking and ablution facilities.

Minderoo Foundation's Fire Fund will be responsible for the delivery and installation of the pods.

### **Q: How many pods will be made available?**

More than 100 temporary accommodation pods will be made available.

### **Q: What areas will get them and what are the eligibility requirements?**

Eligibility requirements are currently being developed, however the pods have been designed particularly with the needs of rural and remote bushfire victims in mind where their homes and sheds have been destroyed and no alternative accommodation is available.

Minderoo Foundation's Fire Fund and the NSW Government will work closely with local councils to ensure the pods go to those most in need.

### **Q: How much will occupants have to pay for the pods?**

The pods will be made available rent free. Occupants will be required to pay for utility costs such as electricity and water.

### **Q: How many people can be accommodated in each pod?**

The pods can accommodate individuals, couples or small families of up to four people.

### **Q: How long will they be available and what will the terms of occupancy be?**

The accommodation pods will be provided to people for up to two years, which ties into the recent planning amendments allowing temporary accommodation structures on private land for up to two years. The pods are targeted at those with temporary accommodation needs and are not intended for long term use.

The pods will be made available under a lease agreement with Minderoo Foundation and NSW Government.



**Q: How soon will the pods be delivered?**

Minderoo Foundation and the NSW Government are working with the manufacturer on a plan for the delivery of the pods, which will include expected timeframes.

We note the need for a timely solution so we will ensure the pods are delivered as quickly and safely as possible.

**Q: How can people express a need/interest in accessing this program?**

We are working through a process to enable people to express a need/interest to access this program.

Through the application process for the Disaster Relief grants, we already have an understanding of those who are most in need, and will work closely with key stakeholders such as Local Councils and Department of Housing, and Minderoo Foundation's own presence in impacted NSW communities to determine how best to allocate the pods.

**Q: Is planning approval needed for the pod to be placed on private property?**

No - a range of planning changes have been implemented to assist communities recover from NSW bushfires. More detail on these changes can be found at the following location:

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery>

**Q: What happens when the pod is no longer needed?**

At the end of the lease – or earlier if the occupant has secured alternate accommodation – Minderoo Foundation will work with the occupant to arrange the retrieval of the pod, at no cost to the occupant.

**Q: How much is this project costing?**

The NSW Government and the Minderoo Foundation will each invest up to \$2.5 million into the program.

**Q: Where will the pods be manufactured?**

The pods will be manufactured in South Australia by Australian Portable Camps (APC), based at Monarto. APC have been working with the Minderoo Foundation Fire Fund since early January to manufacture pods in order to provide a self-contained and cost effective temporary accommodation solution.

**Q: Who are Minderoo Foundation?**

Established by Andrew and Nicola Forrest in 2001, Minderoo Foundation is a modern philanthropic organisation seeking to break down barriers, innovate and drive positive, lasting change. Minderoo Foundation is proudly Australian, with eight key initiatives spanning from ocean research and ending



slavery, to collaboration in cancer and community projects. Fire Fund responds directly to the Australian bushfire crisis of 2019/20.

**Q: What is Fire Fund?**

Minderoo Foundation's Fire Fund was launched early in 2020 with a pledge from Minderoo Foundation of AUD\$70 million to help rebuild communities, revitalise local economies and develop a long-term blueprint for fire resilience in Australia.

Minderoo Foundation is on the ground in bushfire-affected towns, listening to what communities need and helping to deliver practical solutions. Fire Fund has three distinct focus areas:

- Response - mobilising volunteers to support clean up and recovery efforts in NSW, Victoria and South Australia in response to direct requests. AUD\$10 million is allocated to support the deployment of volunteers into fire-affected areas.
- Recovery - direct, on-the-ground support for affected communities as they rebuild, with a focus on grassroots projects. AUD\$10 million is allocated to deliver practical infrastructure solutions to help communities rise again.
- Resilience - a long-term resilience plan convening leading experts to develop a globally relevant national blueprint for fire and disaster resilience. This program aims to pilot new practices and invest in the application of evidence-based techniques which will have relevance to bushfire and natural disaster-prone regions around the world. This global effort engages contributors and funders to raise approximately AU\$500 million. Minderoo Foundation is kick-starting this work with a commitment of AUD\$50 million.