

## 2022/2023 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

### ***AGRN1059 Tropical Cyclone Ilsa (13 April 2023 Onwards)***

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 14/04/2023, pursuant to clause 5.1 of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) (the *Arrangements 2018*), issued by the Commonwealth Government Department of Home Affairs. The State Government will provide financial assistance to those people who have been affected through joint State and Commonwealth disaster relief and recovery arrangements.

Tropical Cyclone Ilsa crossed the WA coast 120km east northeast of Port Hedland around midnight on Thursday 13 April 2023 as a category 5 system. The cyclone brought destructive winds with gusts of more than 250km/hr.

The cyclone, including destructive winds, extended inland after crossing the coast and remained at cyclone intensity further inland as it moved towards the Northern Interior district of WA. On the morning of Friday 14 April 2023 gusts up to 195 km/h were impacting areas near the system centre to the east of Marble Bar as it tracked inland.

Heavy rainfall occurred along the Cyclone's track with falls between 150mm – 200mm. The cyclone was not expected to weaken below tropical cyclone strength until overnight Friday 14 April 2023 as it moved into southern parts of the Northern Territory.

Pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the *Arrangements 2018*, "Cyclone" is deemed to be an eligible *natural disaster* event.

For the purposes of the DRFAWA this event will be referred to as "***AGRN1059 Tropical Cyclone Ilsa (13 April 2023 Onwards)***".

DRFAWA is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), with assistance from other agencies. Through DRFAWA, the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments provide assistance to people who have suffered the direct impact of a proclaimed disaster event.

The Local Government districts currently subject to this proclamation are as follows:

#### **Included on 14 April 2023:**

- Shire of Broome
- Town of Port Hedland
- Shire of East Pilbara

If information becomes available that identifies other local government districts as potentially having been directly impacted by this disaster event, subject to further assessment these local government districts may, at a later date, be included in the affected area.

It is anticipated the costs for this event will primarily be associated with eligible response activities to support individuals and communities and the restoration of essential public assets, however this will continue to be reviewed as impacts from the event continue to be assessed.

Assistance may be available for the following measures (*where appropriate*) typically covered by the DRFAWA:

- **For individuals and families** – Personal Hardship and Distress grants which are administered by the Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support Section). Potential measures include emergency food, accommodation, clothing, temporary living expenses, replacement of essential household contents and housing repairs to return housing to a habitable, safe and secure condition. **Note – some of these measures are subject to income and/or assets testing.**
- **For small businesses** – interest rate subsidies on ‘new’ loans approved by Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (financial institutions).
- **For Primary Producers** – Assistance may be available toward freight costs, materials for boundary fences (**only where it is demonstrated that public safety is at risk**), professional advice grants and interest rate subsidies on ‘new’ loans approved by Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions. These *eligible measures* are administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Food (Rural Business and Development Group). **Note – Primary Producer Claims should be lodged before 14 October 2023.**
- **For Local Governments & State Government Agencies** – Clean-up costs and the restoration or replacement (to pre-disaster function) of *essential public assets* including local road damage. State road restoration is through Main Roads Western Australia. Only costs incurred that are ‘additional’ costs, and are directly related to the event, will be eligible for reimbursement.

**Note - The allowable time limit for eligible on-ground activities related to Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works (EW and IRW), to Essential Public Assets, expires on 14 July 2023.**

LG's wishing to seek an extension to the EW and IRW allowable time limit should contact the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements team to discuss.

**Note - The allowable time limit for eligible on-ground activities related to Essential Public Asset Restoration Works (EPAR) expires on 30 June 2025.**

Claims in respect of any other *eligible measures* may also be considered.

***It should be noted that assistance under the DRFAWA is not designed to supplant or operate as a disincentive for self-help by way of commercial insurance.***

### **Primary Contacts**

Primary contacts for assistance/advice are:

- ☐ Department of Communities, Disaster and Emergency Support Services by phone on 1800 032 965, or via website [here](#);
- ☐ Main Roads Western Australia regional offices for road infrastructure via website [here](#);
- ☐ Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Agriculture and Food) Rural Business Development Group, by phone on 1300 374 731 or via website [here](#); and
- ☐ Other enquiries may be directed to the Dept. of Fire and Emergency Services. Contact DRFAWA Administrators by phone on 6392 1642 or 6392 1640, or by email to [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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