

## 2022/23 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

### AGRN1062 STORM AND ASSOCIATED FLOODING - MIDWEST-GASCOYNE AND PILBARA REGIONS OF WA (29 MARCH TO 4 APRIL 2023)

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 27 April 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.

On 29 March 2023 a severe thunderstorm impacted the Midwest-Gascoyne and Pilbara regions. The severe thunderstorm brought heavy rain, which caused flooding across seven (7) local government areas.

The heavy rainfall caused damage to roads and disrupted the normal functioning of communities across the Shires of Cue, East Pilbara, Meekatharra, Murchison, Upper Gascoyne, and Wiluna, and the City of Greater Geraldton. During the event, heavy and intense rainfall occurred with the highest measurements ranging between 53 millimetres to 171.6 millimetres, and a highest daily rainfall of 110 millimetres in Meekatharra.

Pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the *Arrangements 2018*, 'Storm' and 'Flood' are deemed to be eligible *natural disaster* events.

For the purposes of the DRFAWA this event will be referred to as '**AGRN1062 Storm and Associated Flooding - Midwest-Gascoyne and Pilbara Regions of WA (29 March to 4 April 2023)**'.

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 27 April 2023:

- Shire of Cue
- Shire of East Pilbara
- City of Greater Geraldton
- Shire of Meekatharra
- Shire of Murchison
- Shire of Upper Gascoyne
- Shire of Wiluna

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.

The eligible costs for this event are anticipated to be largely associated with the restoration and replacement of the road network infrastructure. 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 Services). 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. **Note** – Primary Producer Claims should be lodged before (29 September 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 (EW) and Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW), to Essential Public Assets, expires on 29 June 2023.

Local Government’s wishing to seek an extension to the EW and IRW allowable time limit should contact the DFES Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements team, contact details below.

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 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 1300 374 731 or via website [here](#).
- ☐ Other enquiries may be directed to DFES. 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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