Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**

DFES
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Mariginiup Bushfire – Premier's Relief Payments

Guidelines

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Mariginiup Bushfire - Premier's Relief Payment at a glance

Key features of the Scheme:

- The intent of the payments is to provide financial assistance to those impacted by the fire to help pay for food, clothing, personal effects, transport and emergency accommodation.
- A one-off payment of $4,000 per household is available to eligible applicants where their usual place of residence was destroyed or suffered major damage as a result of the Mariginiup Bushfire and the applicant is unable to return home.
- A one-off payment of $2,000 per household is available to eligible residents where their usual place of residence suffered minor damage to the building, as a result of the Mariginiup Bushfire that may have resulted in temporary displacement. Most eligible households will be located within the fire boundary (as per DFES map).
- Where a property was rented/leased, the tenant is the primary resident eligible to apply under this scheme.

You are eligible to apply for funds under this scheme, if you answer yes to these questions:

- My usual place of residence was destroyed or damaged as a result of the Mariginiup Bushfire.
- The damaged property was my usual place of residence at 22 November 2023; and
- I am located within the City of Wanneroo AND located in the fire boundary (as per DFES map).

To receive a grant under this Scheme you must:

1. Provide proof of identity.
2. Provide evidence you lived at the property at the time of the bushfire.
3. Complete and submit an application form online through SmartyGrants, ensuring all required supporting information and documents are clear and legible when uploaded.

   NB We appreciate you may not have original personal documents. Options to meet evidence requirements are provided within these guidelines (Clause 9).

Contacts
Phone: 1800 490 678
Email: recoverygrants@dfes.wa.gov.au
Website: dfes.smartygrants.com.au/premiersreliefM

Mariginiup Bushfire Premier's Relief Payments

These guidelines relate solely to the Western Australian Government's emergency funding of up to $4,000 per household for residents who have had their home destroyed or damaged by the Mariginiup Bushfire.

1. Scheme overview

The Western Australian Government can activate special emergency financial assistance (known as Premier's Relief Payments) to provide financial support to residents whose dwellings have been destroyed or badly damaged by a natural disaster. These payments are intended to assist eligible affected households with expenses such as securing shelter or temporary accommodation, purchasing food and securing emergency transport. The grants are administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) according to guidelines and have been used in response to other events such as the Wooroloo Bushfire, Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja and the West Kimberley Floods.

2. Objective of the Scheme

The objective of this scheme is to provide immediate financial assistance to support people whose homes have been destroyed or damaged by the fires.

3. How will the Scheme operate?

Scheme

Mariginiup Bushfire Premiers Residential Relief Payments

Open

The DFES SmartyGrants application portal opened 24 November 2023
Scheme guidelines published on the SmartyGrants landing page

Submit application

Applications submitted:

- online at: dfes.smartygrants.com.au/premiersreliefM
- via phone through the Recovery Grants Hotline 1800 490 678 24 (between business hours of 0800 to 1700)

Applicants must meet all eligibility and assessment criteria

Assess

DFES assess application against eligibility and assessment criteria
DFES confirm level of dwelling damage
A recommendation to approve or decline will be made by the assessor

Decide

Program Manager reviews assessment and makes final decision
Applicant advised by SMS text or email of the decision
REVIEW – on request, applications may be lodged for review for any declined applications. All review decisions made by DFES are final

Pay

Approved applicants receive funds in their nominated account within 2-3 business days of a decision being made

Evaluate

DFES will evaluate the Scheme using information in the application
Applicants may be asked to participate in surveys in the future

4. Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply for the grant an applicant will need to show:

- Their usual place of residence was destroyed or damaged by the Mariginiup Bushfire (which is likely located within the fire boundary).
- Where a dwelling was rented/leased, the tenant is the primary resident eligible to apply under this scheme.
- They have an account with an Australian Authorised Deposit Taking Institution (a commercial bank/credit union).
- Evidence the damaged home was their usual place of residence up to 22 November 2023.

5. How to apply

An application will need to be submitted online through SmartyGrants (dfes.smartygrants.com.au/premiersreliefM) or lodged via telephone (1800 490 678) with a DFES Recovery Grants officer.

6. Corrections

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their application is complete and correct. DFES will not accept responsibility for any misunderstanding arising from the failure by an applicant to comply with the guidelines, or arising from any discrepancies, ambiguities, inconsistencies or errors in an application.

DFES may request additional information from an applicant to verify their claim. DFES' decision will be final and will be made at its absolute discretion.

7. False and misleading information

Applicants should be aware that the giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*.

8. Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest arises where a person makes a decision or exercises a power in a way that may be, or may be perceived to be, influenced by either material personal interest (financial or non-financial) or material personal associations.

All persons involved in the assessment of applications will be required to make a conflict of interest declaration which will ensure the appropriate identification and management of any conflicts of interest and comply with the Western Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.

9. How are applications assessed?

Assessment criteria will be used to determine eligibility for this program. Applications that meet the assessment criteria are likely to be approved.

Assessment process:

- Provide **one** of the following documents as proof of identity:
  - Current WA Driver's Licence;
  - WA Photo Card; or
  - Passport/Citizenship Certificate.

- Provide **one** of the following as evidence the applicant lived at the damaged home at the time of the event (evidence dated up to 22 November 2023). The address given for the damaged home must be the applicant's usual place of residence where they live/lived as an owner or tenant. Evidence may include:
  - Recent Bank Statement showing name and address;
  - Rental agreement;
  - Local Government rates notice;
  - A household bill (e.g. water, electricity, gas, phone, internet, etc.);
  - Confirmation from landlord / tenancy manager;
  - Confirmation from employer; or
  - Confirmation from relevant authority (including Shire, Centrelink, Health Centre) of residency at the address.

Note: DFES staff may seek further advice to ensure this eligibility criteria is met. In this instance, applicant information details will be confidentially shared.

- Full payment: the assessor will verify the dwelling was destroyed or severely damaged by the event.

- Partial Payment: the assessor will verify the dwelling sustained minor damage by the event. Minor damage includes, but is not limited to:
  - Damage to the building fabric (walls, floors, roof, windows and doors);
  - Air-conditioning units;
  - Patios, fences, outdoor structures;
  - Water tanks and infrastructure where they are the primary water supply for the dwelling;
  - Damage to the power supply from the supply point at the boundary to the residence;
  - Unsafe trees requiring removal;
  - Severe smoke penetration where it may have resulted in temporary displacement, replacement of furnishings, repainting and / or extensive cleaning. Generally, properties with severe smoke penetration will be located within the fire boundary (as defined in DFES mapping).

The assessment of minor damage includes verification that the impacted dwelling is located within the fire boundary (as per DFES mapping). DFES may consider exceptional circumstances, where a dwelling is located outside of the fire boundary and has been damaged by the event.

10. Notification of funding decisions

All applicants will be notified of decisions as soon as practicable by the Program Manager. Unsuccessful applicants will be able to request the decision be reviewed by appropriate persons not involved in the original assessment and decision process by contacting the Program Manager at recoverygrants@dfes.wa.gov.au.

Where possible, applicants will be notified of decisions via SMS text to the mobile number provided in the application form. Where no mobile phone number is available, applicants will receive a decision via the email address provided in the application form.

11. Personal information and disclosure of information in application

DFES may collect personal information from applicants for the purposes of administration, evaluation and assessment of an application. If the relevant personal information is not provided by applicants, DFES will be unable to assess the application and it will be declined.

Personal information may be disclosed to other Western Australian Government agencies and may be published on the department's website, provided disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, including the *Privacy Act 1988*. Personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Privacy Principles.

DFES' Privacy Policy is available on the DFES website. Applicants may contact DFES about their personal information or to make a complaint.

12. Program evaluation

Successful applicants may be required to provide information to assist in the program evaluation.

13. Complaints handling process

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the way an application has been handled by DFES, they can contact the Program Manager and lodge a complaint. DFES will not reconsider applications as part of the complaints process. Instead, the complaint will be considered internally by a DFES officer, independent from the original process, and the applicant will receive a response from DFES.

14. Additional Information

Applicants are advised that funding received may have taxation implications and they should seek independent taxation and financial advice from a suitably qualified professional before submitting their application if they have any concerns.