



DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS ACTIVATION OF AN ELIGIBLE DISASTER NOTICE AND FACT SHEET

AGRN1113 – TROPICAL LOW AND ASSOCIATED FLOODING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (21–27 JANUARY 2024)

This document has been prepared by the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). It details the activation of an eligible disaster and the available assistance measures for the impacted local government areas under the joint Australian and Western Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) 2018.

EVENT ACTIVATION

On 21 January 2024 a tropical low moved over the Kimberley Region and then across the Pilbara Region, bringing heavy rainfall and associated flooding.

The weather system continued until 27 January 2024, severely impacting the Shire of East Pilbara, Shire of Laverton, Shire of Leonora, Shire of Meekatharra, Shire of Menzies, Shire of Sandstone and Shire of Wiluna.

'Storm and Flood' are deemed to be eligible natural disaster events, pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the DRFA.

Pursuant to clause 5.1 of the DRFA issued by the Australian Government, an eligible disaster under the DRFAWA was activated on 12 March 2024.

This activated eligible disaster will be referred to as **AGRN1113 – Tropical Low and Associated Flooding in Western Australia (21–27 January 2024)**.

The State anticipates that the eligible costs for this event will primarily be associated with damage to essential public assets, being roads and associated infrastructure.

DRFAWA ACTIVATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

In response to this eligible disaster, DRFAWA Category A and Category B assistance has been activated in the following local government areas:

- Shire of East Pilbara
- Shire of Laverton
- Shire of Leonora
- Shire of Meekatharra
- Shire of Menzies
- Shire of Sandstone
- Shire of Wiluna



The last page of this document includes a map of the activated local government areas. If information becomes available that identifies other local government areas as potentially having been directly impacted by this eligible disaster, those areas may subsequently be included in this activation, subject to further assessment and agreement from the Australian Government.

DRFAWA OVERVIEW

The DRFAWA assistance measures described below are typically made available, as needed, when an eligible disaster is activated. You can contact the relevant agency listed below or the DFES Recovery Funding team for further information on what assistance measures are available for this eligible disaster.

For more information on the Arrangements please refer to the resources at the following link: dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding#resources

Category A – Assistance for individuals and families

This emergency assistance is primarily administered by the WA Department of Communities to help support eligible individuals and families who need assistance to meet their immediate and essential needs as a direct result of the eligible disaster. It may include:

- Emergency accommodation
- Emergency food
- Emergency clothing and personal effects
- Personal or financial support services

Note: Some of these assistance measures may be subject to income and/or asset testing.

Further information and contacts

Department of Communities (WA).

☎ 1800 032 965

💻 wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/departments-of-communities/disaster-and-emergency-support-services

Other assistance that may be provided by applicable delivery agencies may include the replacement of essential household contents; housing repairs to return housing to a safe and habitable condition; removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable; and/or extraordinary counter disaster operations for the benefit of an affected individual.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659



✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au
💻 dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding

Category B – Assistance for local government and state government agencies

Emergency works

Emergency works (EW) are urgent clean-up and repair activities necessary to temporarily restore an essential public asset to enable it to operate/be operated at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community. EW need to be carried out within three months from the date the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.

EW should be followed by *immediate reconstruction works* (IRW) or *essential public asset reconstruction* (EPAR) works to fully reconstruct an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function.

Immediate reconstruction works

Immediate reconstruction works (IRW) are activities carried out to fully reconstruct an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function and occur if no EPAR works are required. They are carried out within three months from the date the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.

Note: EW and IRW should be minor in scope, extent and complexity. If the estimated expenditure to undertake EW and/or IRW on a single essential public asset exceeds \$250,000, DFES should be contacted as soon as possible for additional guidance, as EPAR works requirements may apply.

Essential public asset reconstruction works

Essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR) works allows for an essential public asset directly damaged by an eligible disaster, or an essential public asset re-damaged by an eligible disaster, to be fully reconstructed to its pre-disaster function.

The reconstruction of an essential public asset under this assistance measure must be based on the estimated reconstruction cost developed in accordance with the DRFAWA and approved by DFES.

Counter disaster operations for the protection of the general public

This assistance measure provides for extraordinary costs associated with counter disaster operations (CDO) carried out to protect communities from the eligible disaster and ensure public health and safety in public areas. CDO activities are undertaken to reduce the need for other forms of assistance under the arrangements (i.e. to reduce state expenditure on other assistance measures). This may include activities such as the construction of fire



breaks, sandbagging and construction of temporary levees to prevent the inundation of public areas and buildings.

Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

💻 dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding

Category A and Category B – Assistance for primary producers

This assistance is primarily administered by the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to help support eligible primary producers who need assistance due to damage from an eligible disaster. For most eligible disasters, assistance measures include reimbursement grants for eligible primary producers.

- Category A: Professional advice.
- Category B: Freight subsidy; interest rate subsidy on a new loan to recover from damage from an eligible disaster; and fencing subsidy that is a State based measure under certain circumstances for livestock producers only.

Further information and contacts

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA).

☎ 1300 374 731

💻 agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements

Category B – Assistance for small businesses

Interest rate subsidy

This assistance is administered by DFES and provides an interest rate subsidy on a new loan to support eligible small businesses recover due to damage from an eligible disaster.

Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

💻 dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding



Australian Government



DFES
Department of Fire &
Emergency Services

