



## **2013/14 WANDRRA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION** ***Tropical Lows and Associated Flooding (16 January and 6 February 2014)***

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) on 31 January, pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Determination 2012 Version 1, issued by the Commonwealth Government Attorney-General. The State Government will provide immediate financial assistance to those people who have been affected through joint State and Commonwealth disaster relief and recovery arrangements.

A tropical low which initially formed off the Northern Territory coast near Nhulunbuy on 9 January, was responsible for heavy rain and flooding affecting areas that included the Kimberley; Pilbara; Gascoyne; North Interior; South Interior; Goldfields and Eucla forecast districts. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, heavy rainfall produced by the tropical low was recorded over a prolonged period, commencing 16 January in the Kimberley and ending around 24 January in the Eucla.

A second tropical low resulted in heavy rainfall and flooding commencing 6 February 2014 in the Kimberley region, is forecast to also impact the Pilbara and other forecast districts over southern inland WA. The Bureau of Meteorology has advised that the two tropical low events developed as a direct result of an active monsoon trough that has been impacting the north of Australia over the last six weeks.

Both events have separately met the necessary WANDRRA criteria to be proclaimed eligible events under the WANDRRA. These two events are however being combined for administration purposes and will be referred to as '*Tropical Lows and Associated Flooding (16 January and 6 February 2014)*'.

Pursuant to Section 2.1.1 of the NDRRA Determination 2012 Version 1, 'flood' is deemed to be eligible *natural disaster* event.

WANDRRA is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), with assistance from other agencies. Through WANDRRA, the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments provide help to people who have suffered the direct impact of a proclaimed natural disaster event.

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

- Shire of Ashburton
- Shire of Leonora
- Shire of Broome
- Shire of Meekatharra
- Shire of Coolgardie
- Shire of Menzies
- Shire of Cue
- Shire of Mount Magnet
- Shire of Derby – West Kimberley
- Shire of Murchison

- Shire of East Pilbara
- Shire of Halls Creek
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Shire of Laverton
- Shire of Sandstone
- Shire of Wiluna
- Shire of Wyndham – East Kimberley
- Shire of Yalgoo

The eligible costs for this event are anticipated to be largely associated with the restoration and replacement of essential public assets, mainly the local and state road network infrastructure. It is expected that considerable costs may also be incurred for counter disaster operations type activities including clean-up of local and state government owned property.

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

- **For individuals and families** – Personal Hardship and Distress grants which are administered by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS). 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.
- **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 Agriculture and Food. **Important Note** - Claims should be lodged before 13 August 2014.
- **For Local Governments & State Government Agencies** – Clean-up costs and the restoration or replacement (to pre-disaster standard) of *essential public assets* including local road damage. State road damage is also included through Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA). Only costs incurred that are ‘additional’ costs, and are directly related to the event, will be eligible for reimbursement. **Important Note** - The *allowable time limit* for eligible claims expires on 30 June 2016.

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

***It should be noted that assistance under the WANDRRA 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 for Child Protection and Family Support, by phone on 1800 032 965, or via website [here](#);



- Local Government – Main Roads Western Australia regional offices for road infrastructure via website [here](#);
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Rural Business Development, by phone on 1800 198 231 or via website [here](#); and
- Other enquiries may be directed to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet - contact (WANDRRA Administrator) by phone on (08) 6552 5088 or (08) 6552 6250, or by email to – [WANDRRA@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:WANDRRA@dpc.wa.gov.au)

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