

2021/22 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

AGRN978 SEVERE WEATHER ACROSS THE LOWER SOUTH WEST LAND DIVISION (20-31 JULY 2021).

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 29 September 2021, 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.

The lower south west land division experienced multiple severe weather events, in quick succession, throughout July 2021 with several severe weather warnings issued for areas ranging from the south of Geraldton to Esperance. A number of strong cold fronts and low-pressure systems brought significant rain across the Perth metropolitan area to the Shire of Corrigin in the east and the Shire of Katanning in the south. Recordings ranged from 27.6 mm in one (1) hour at Jarrahdale, 42.6 mm in three (3) hours at Dwellingup and isolated 24 hour rainfall totals of 70-80 mm

Damaging and destructive winds displaced trees and branches closer to the coast including in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River and City of Busselton with wind speeds of between 91 and 135 km per hour recorded.

Due to the volume of rainfall experience through June and July significant river rises were recorded in the Avon River, Swan River, Murray River and Harvey River requiring multiple flood watch and flood warnings to be issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for the Avon, Swan, Murray and Harvey river catchments.

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 '***AGRN978 Severe Weather across the Lower South West Land Division) (20-31 July 2021)***'.

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 29 September 2020

Augusta-Margaret River	Boddington	Busselton
Corrigin	Donnybrook-Balingup	Dumbleyung
Katanning	Narrogin	Pingelly
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	Wagin	West Arthur
West Arthur		

Included on 4 November 2020

Wandering

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 and counter disaster activities for the protection of the general public.

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

- **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 claims related to Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works (EW and IRW), for to Essential Public Assets, expires on 1 November 2021.

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 claims related to Essential Public Asset Restoration Works (EPAR) expires on 30 June 2024.

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, Emergency Services (Child Protection and Family Support) 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 9395 9341 or 9395 9994, or by email to drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

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