

Urgent waste and debris clean-up following STC Seroja

Following STC Seroja there is waste and debris which present an immediate risk to individuals and communities.

Under the DRFAWA Category A and B assistance measures have been activated and the included LGs/agencies can be reimbursed for urgent clean-up activities if the appropriate evidence is provided

Local governments and state agencies (LGs/agencies) can remove and manage disaster related waste and debris from residential properties and essential public assets, including roads and schools.

There are templates available for all clean-up works which clearly identify the information required. Works listed below can be undertaken by contractors and/or an LG or agency's own resources.

Removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable (Category A)

- Activities covered include removal of disaster related debris from residents' homes so the home can be safely accessed and is habitable.
- It does not include non-essential debris from the residential block.
 - If, as a direct result of the eligible disaster, hazardous material that is located immediately beyond the residential block is causing potential health and safety risks for the residents it is also eligible to be removed.
- Eligible costs may include service providers being engaged to undertake debris removal activities, debris transportation and disposal.
- Normal time costs for a LG's/agency's own resources are not eligible, however extraordinary costs such as overtime may be claimed.
- Photographic evidence of impacts to demonstrate the need for work is required.
- Detailed descriptions identifying the urgent clean-up activities undertaken on invoices/supporting documentation are required.
- Appropriate financial evidence must be provided to support claimed activities (see Evidence required to make a claim).

Removal of debris from eligible roads and associated road corridors and other eligible essential public assets (Category B)

The removal of branches and debris from essential public assets, including eligible roads, public school grounds and public hospitals following an eligible disaster can be undertaken as an Emergency Works clean-up activity.

Key points:

- Assets must be defined as an essential public asset (EPA), in accordance with the DRFA and guidelines.
- The clean-up activities must be completed within 3 months of the date of the event, or from the date the EPA becomes safely accessible.
- Activities must be undertaken to restore the asset to a safe and habitable/trafficable state.
- Eligible costs may include service providers engaged to undertake debris removal activities.
- Normal time costs for LG/agency resources diverted to these Emergency Works clean-up activities may be eligible.
- Evidence of the debris/damage will be required. Post-disaster photos are required, however alternative evidence options may include:
 - a certified statement supported by road closure reports,
 - evidence of Police/SES/local government traffic management and make-safe activities,
 - local media regarding the event,
 - evidence from local government vehicles/trucks and rubbish tips demonstrating the emergency activities or utility companies undertaking make-safe activities.
- Information required to support claimed costs includes:
 - asset names
 - asset locations and descriptions
 - description of the damage/debris
 - description of the clean-up activity
 - activity start and end dates and
 - a cost breakdown by asset.

Areas not covered by this urgent waste and debris clean-up assistance

Under Category A and B assistance, the following areas are not covered by this urgent clean-up assistance:

- Public areas, playgrounds, parks, recreational facilities
- Small businesses
- Primary producer properties (beyond the immediate vicinity of any residences)

As a matter of urgency, the State government is working with the Commonwealth to assess the impact of this event and identify any additional assistance required to support the impacted local government areas, including small businesses and primary producers.

It is highly recommended that LGs/agencies collect evidence of any clean-up conducted in areas not included under the Category A and B assistance. Should additional assistance be activated for this event, these clean-up costs may be eligible.

There will be further communication to LGs/agencies should additional assistance become available.

Evidence required to make a claim

Claims must be able to demonstrate that the eligible event resulted in the need for the assistance measure.

Submitted claims should include all of the following:

- Completed 'Claim Template'
- Evidence of the debris/damage to demonstrate works were required – photographs with date and location
- Completion photos of works undertaken (for emergency works on roads)
- Financial evidence requirements:
 - Remittance advices related to the expenditure or general ledger or transaction reports showing all expenditure being claimed.
 - Timesheets for LG/agency own resources being claimed.
 - Compliant tax invoices for all purchases, clearly detailing the goods/services provided and date of supply and all the supporting evidence.
- Asset related evidence for essential public asset clean-up, as highlighted above:

More information and advice

The full suite of DRFAWA fact sheets and other related documents are available on the DFES website (www.dfes.wa.gov.au).

If you have any questions or need additional support, contact the Disaster Recovery Funding team at drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au.