



## **2015/16 WANDRRA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION** ***Bushfires Esperance (15 November 2015)***

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) on 18 December 2015, pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Determination 2012 Version 2.0, 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.

On Sunday 15 November 2015, lightning ignited fires within the Shire of Esperance. The Bureau of Meteorology reported that catastrophic fire conditions were recorded on Tuesday 17 November throughout the South East Coastal District, which included Esperance and Salmon Gums. Damaging winds across the district with gusts up to 100 kilometres per hour were forecast. Temperatures reached above 40 degrees. A complex bushfire developed impacting a broad area of the agricultural district destroying in excess of 133,133 hectares of crops and pasture. The fires were not contained and controlled until 27 November.

Pursuant to Section 1.1.1 of the NDRRA Determination 2012 Version 2.0, 'bushfire' is deemed to be an eligible *natural disaster* event.

For the purposes of the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) this event will be referred to as '***Bushfires Esperance (15 November 2015)***'.

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 district subject to this proclamation is the ***Shire of Esperance***.

If information becomes available that identifies other local government districts as potentially having been directly impacted by this natural 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 essential public assets, mainly the local and state road network infrastructure. It is also anticipated that some costs may be incurred for the 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 18 June 2016.
- **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 2018.

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 6552 5088 or 6552 6250, or by email to – [WANDRRA@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:WANDRRA@dpc.wa.gov.au) END