

## **2019/20 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION**

### ***AGRN903 SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS AND ASSOCIATED FLOODING IN THE SOUTH WEST LAND DIVISION AND ADJACENT GOLDFIELDS (24 to 28 February 2020).***

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 17 March 2020, 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.

A slow-moving trough of low pressure off the west coast of Western Australia provided a series of thunderstorms over the South West Land Division and adjacent Interior (Goldfields) during the period 24 to 28 February 2020.

During this period, the warnings issued by the Australian Government's Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) covered large areas within the South West Land Division warning of thunderstorm activity, damaging winds, heavy rainfall/flash flooding and large hailstones. A number of local government areas within the South West Land Division recorded considerable rainfall and damaging winds during the period 24 to 28 February 2020.

Pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the Arrangements 2018, 'Storm' and 'Flood' is deemed to be an eligible natural *disaster* event.

For the purposes of the DRFAWA this event will be referred to as '***AGRN903 Severe Thunderstorms and Associated Flooding in the South West Land Division and Adjacent Goldfields (24 to 28 February 2020)***'.

DRFAWA is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and administered by the Dept. 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 17 March 2020**

Belmont	Cambridge	Dowerin	Mukinbudin
Trayning	Vincent		

#### **Included on 19 March 2020**

Yalgoo

#### **Included on 21 April 2020**

Bayswater

#### **Included on 29 April 2020**

Victoria Plains

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 clean-up and the restoration and replacement of the road network infrastructure.

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

- **For individuals and families** – Removal of debris, extraordinary counter disaster operations (i.e. tree bracing) 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 (financial institutions). This *eligible measure* is administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Contact DRFAWA Administrators by phone on 9395 9795; 9395 9341 or 9395 9973.
- **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 Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Food (Rural Business and Development Group). **Note** – Primary Producer Claims should be lodged before (18 September 2020).
- **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 expires on 30 June 2022.

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 1800 198 231 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 9973 or 9395 9341, or by email to [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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