

2020/21 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

AGRN962 STORM, HEAVY RAIN AND ASSOCIATED FLOODING IN THE MID WEST AND SOUTH WEST LAND DIVISION (1-5 MARCH 2021).

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 30 March 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 part of the State experienced heavy rainfall and flooding 1-5 March 2021 due to a persistent trough near the west coast combined with a moist, unstable air mass flowing from the north. A broad cloud band extended from the tropics north of Exmouth down the west coast. The trough had some isolated moderate falls on 1 March 2021, with the heaviest and most widespread rainfall occurring on the 3 March throughout much of the western part of the South West Land Division (SWLD), It progressed into the southern two-thirds of the SWLD, with most of the heavier falls in the Mid West and Central Wheat Belt recorded on the 3 March and had largely contracted out of the west-central part of the State by the 4 March. Areas in the South West which had not received much rainfall earlier in the week saw quite substantial falls during the 4 and 5 March.

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 '***Storm, Heavy Rainfall and Associated Flooding in the Mid West and Wheatbelt (1-5 March 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 30 March 2021

Dalwallinu
Menzies
Toodyay

Dandaragan
Mt Marshall
Victoria Plains

Greater Geraldton
Northam

Included on 28 April 2021

Yalgoo

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 assistance to individual impacted by flood waters.

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

- **For individuals and families** – Personal Hardship and Distress grants which are administered by the Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support Section). 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 (financial 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 Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Food (Rural Business and Development Group). **Note – Primary Producer Claims should be lodged before (6 September 2021).**
- **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 6 June 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 2023.

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 9341 or 9395 9994, or by email to drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

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