

## **2020/21 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION**

### ***AGRN974 FLOODING IN THE GASCOYNE AND MURCHISON REGIONS (29-31 MAY 2021).***

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 27 July 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 Gascoyne and Murchison Regions received well above average rainfall from February to April and above rainfall in May, particularly from a rainband on 4 May 2021. These continued above average rainfalls meant that there was significant moisture in the environment when a trough over the north-west of the State began feeding moisture into the western Pilbara and throughout the Gascoyne.

The trough linked up with a cold front moving over southern parts of the State, creating a rainband that moved through the Gascoyne on 29 May 2021 and was accompanied with extensive thunderstorm activity through the Gascoyne and Murchison Regions.

Widespread rainfall of 40-60 mm was observed over the period 29-30 May 2021. As a result of the widespread rainfall, river rises were also observed in the Gascoyne and a 'Minor Flood Warning' was issued for the Gascoyne River in the evening of 30 May 2021.

The State anticipates the eligible costs for this event will primarily be associated with the restoration and replacement of the road network infrastructure.

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

For the purposes of the DRFAWA this event will be referred to as '***AGRN974 Flooding in the Gascoyne and Murchison Regions (29-31 May 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 16 August 2021**

Murchison

Upper Gascoyne

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 31 August 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 (DPIRD) Rural Business Development Unit, 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](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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