



Update 2: 20 August 2018

DRFA-WA – Changes to the processing of local government road claims

A review of the current Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) process has been undertaken to determine what is required to meet the changes associated with the introduction of the new Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Currently, following a WANDRRA event, local governments (LGs) manage their reinstatement of road assets through Main Roads WA (MRWA), including providing estimate and claim information. MRWA processes all claims and reimburses LGs.

Under the new arrangements, the Commonwealth requires far greater assurance to substantiate estimates and an engineer or quantity surveyor is required to verify some of the information being provided. The DRFA does make allowance for immediate and emergency works, which do not require the same level of assurance, however as a result of the change in overall assurance requirements, the process will change for all DRFA-WA estimates and claims made by LGs from 1 November 2018.

Existing approval and reimbursement processes will continue to apply for all current and any further pre-1 November 2018 WANDRRA events.

Summary of the changes

- All LGs will be responsible for providing the necessary estimate information, which includes the damage assessment, cost estimate and asset function information, as well as claim information,
- Information must be signed by suitably qualified personnel, however cost estimates need to be verified by an engineer or quantity surveyor.
- The verifying engineer or quantity surveyor is responsible for providing assurance that the information being provided by the asset owner is accurate and meets the requirements of the new arrangements.
- Specifically, assurance is required that the Commonwealth is only providing funding equivalent to the reconstruction of an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function.
- Consistent with WANDRRA, if LGs wish to enhance their assets at the time of repair or restoration, any enhancement costs must be funded by the asset owner, not the Commonwealth.



- LGs will send their estimate information and, at a later date, claim details directly to Disaster Funding Officers at DFES (currently referred to as the WANDRRA team).
- Information will be reviewed by the Disaster Funding team.
- Main Roads Regional Managers will still be involved in the process, providing support to the DFES officers. DFES officers may refer queries to MRWA to confirm the engineering solution being proposed meets the requirements of the DRFA and the proposed repair is reinstating the asset to its previous function.
- Additional resources will be recruited to support the DFES Disaster Funding Officers.

What can you expect?

- A new set of guidelines, draft templates and checklists are being developed to help users work through the DRFA-WA process.
- A frequently asked questions document is being prepared.
- The DRFA-WA Team is currently scheduling meetings with all agencies and local governments, through Regional Road Groups or other forums as required, to discuss the new arrangements.
- The DRFA-WA team will be looking to present an overview of the new arrangements to consultants currently supporting LGs in the management of their WANDRRA claims.

Who can you contact?

- If you have specific questions or would like a further briefing please contact the team at drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au or Katherine Clarke on 9395 9971.

PLEASE NOTE: The Recovery team, previously situated within the Office of Emergency Management at Albert Facey House, has been relocated to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), in Cockburn. Contact details are as follows:

- Graham Capper – 08 9395 9973; graham.capper@dfes.wa.gov.au
- Terry Asher – 08 9395 9341; terry.asher@dfes.wa.gov.au
- Katherine Clarke – 08 9395 9971; katherine.clarke@dfes.wa.gov.au