



Update 5 – 31 July 2019

DRFAWA practical guidance: Essential Public Asset Reconstruction

The Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA) took effect on 1 November 2018 for eligible disaster events that occurred on or after this date. Western Australia's application of the new arrangement is the DRFAWA. All eligible disaster events that occurred in Western Australia prior to 1 November 2018 will continue to be administered under the WANDRRA.

The DRFAWA has a much greater focus on assurance than WANDRRA. This means that local governments and state agencies will be asked to provide information and evidence that may not have been required in the past. What was suitable under WANDRRA will not necessarily be sufficient under DRFAWA.

The following guidance focuses on key issues that have been highlighted following recent DRFAWA events, and the questions that have been raised by local governments and their consultants. It applies to Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (EPAR) works and NOT emergency and immediate reconstruction works.

The importance of pre-disaster function

Asset owners must clearly identify the function of each essential public asset prior to a disaster event. Asset owners should refer to the DRFAWA Fact Sheet 'Defining essential public asset pre-disaster function' for information on identifying each asset's Category, Sub-category, Type, Capacity, Dimensions, Layout and Materials. All fields must be provided to ensure the submission meets assurance requirements.

Asset owners are encouraged to use their asset management software to produce the information necessary to define pre-disaster function. This source information should be summarised in the template and attached to the submission as evidence.

As some assets may vary in function along their lengths (e.g. dimensions and materials may differ) road asset owners may wish to present pre-disaster function information by SLK or defect. This information can be added to the Damage Pickup worksheet in the DRFAWA Cost Estimate Template. A revised template will be made available with this feature included.

The importance of pre-disaster condition

Evidence of the pre-disaster condition of assets is required with every EPAR submission.

This evidence can be provided in the form of geospatial data, visual data, maintenance records, and asset register extracts or an inspection report.



Certification of pre-disaster condition is an option where other evidence is not complete or available for all damaged assets, however certification alone is not sufficient.

Should a road asset owner choose to use photographic evidence taken after a disaster to show evidence of pre-disaster condition, photographs should clearly show sections of undamaged road very near to damaged locations wherever possible.

Pre-disaster photographs are not mandatory but represent very strong evidence of pre-disaster condition.

Photographs showing completed works following earlier WANDRRA events or maintenance works can be submitted as evidence provided they are less than four (4) years old (local governments) or two (2) years old (state agencies).

Local governments are encouraged to start building a library of images of maintained road networks to support future DRFAWA submissions.

Accurate and detailed maintenance records may be used to provide further evidence that an asset was in good condition prior to an eligible event.

Asset location

Evidence of each damaged essential public asset's location must be provided by the asset owner. Local governments may wish to provide a map showing the location of each asset. Satellite imagery and GPS coordinates are other freely available tools that can be used to provide evidence of location.

Photographic evidence

All supplied photographs must include evidence of date taken, either stamped on the photograph by the device (not merely typed in) or in the file's metadata.

Asset owners are strongly encouraged to provide original, high quality images with geolocation information embedded.

Photographs in this format will allow reviewing officers to clearly identify pre-disaster condition and post-event damage, and can provide the most solid evidence of asset location.

It is also reasonable for asset owners to provide a summary PDF or similar document detailing all photographs taken for an asset or submission.

Ensure enough photographs are collected to enable assessment of the nature and extent of damage sustained to assets. If in doubt, more is better.

When taking photographs, get out of vehicles where safe to do so, and take detailed photographs of assets that may not be fully visible from the road (such as culverts, pipes and under bridges).



Approach the team early

Local governments are encouraged to make contact with Disaster Recovery Funding Officers early in the process to seek feedback and guidance on damage pickup and assessment, cost estimation, DRFA assurance requirements and related matters.

Asset owners may wish to submit draft documentation relating to one or two damaged assets early to ensure new requirements under the DRFA are being met.

Future guidance

A revised Cost Estimate Template will be provided online to include pre-disaster function information by line item.

Further guidance material will be issued to cover the following topics:

- All DRFA assurance requirements
- Good practice photographic evidence
- Complementary works and betterment

Who can you contact?

If you have specific questions or would like further information please contact the team at drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au.

