



2015/16 WANDRRA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

Bushfires in the Peel and South West regions of WA (6 January 2016)

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) on 8 January 2016, pursuant to Section 4.2 of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Determination 2012 Version 2.0, issued by the Commonwealth Government Attorney-General. The State Government will provide immediate financial assistance to those people who have been affected through joint State and Commonwealth disaster relief and recovery arrangements.

A lightning strike at 7.25 am on Wednesday 6 January 2016 ignited the bushfire in the Shire of Waroona. High temperatures and strong winds with gusts reaching up to 80 kilometres per hour have created an unpredictable and out of control bushfire which has now caused damage in the Shires of Harvey and Waroona and is continuing to move in a south westerly direction and 55,000 hectares have now been burnt.

Pursuant to Section 1.1.1 of the NDRRA Determination 2012 Version 2.0, 'bushfire' is deemed to be an eligible *natural disaster* event.

For the purposes of the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) this event will be referred to as '***Bushfires in the Peel and South West regions of WA (6 January 2016)***'

WANDRRA is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), with assistance from other agencies. Through WANDRRA, the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments provide help to people who have suffered the direct impact of a proclaimed natural disaster event.

The Local Government districts subject to this proclamation are as follows:

- Shire of Waroona
- Shire of Harvey

If information becomes available that identifies other local government districts as potentially having been directly impacted by this natural disaster event, subject to further assessment these local government districts may, at a later date, be included in the affected area.

The major eligible costs for this event currently relate to the destruction of a bridge on the South Western Highway. The Shires of Harvey and Waroona are still assessing damage and are yet to provide an assessment of WANDRRA eligible costs, but these are expected to be limited. Based on the advice to date, it is expected that the small disaster criterion of \$240,000 will be exceeded, as the estimated bridge repair or replacement is in the region of \$ 1.5 million.

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

- **For individuals and families** – Personal Hardship and Distress grants which are administered by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS). 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.
- **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 Agriculture and Food. **Important Note - Claims should be lodged before 6 July 2016.**
- **For Local Governments & State Government Agencies** – Clean-up costs and the restoration or replacement (to pre-disaster standard) of *essential public assets* including local road damage. State road damage is also included through Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA). Only costs incurred that are ‘additional’ costs, and are directly related to the event, will be eligible for reimbursement. **Important Note - The allowable time limit for eligible claims expires on 30 June 2018.**

Claims in respect of any other *eligible measures* may also be considered.

It should be noted that assistance under the WANDRRA 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 for Child Protection and Family Support, by phone on 1800 032 965, or via website [here](#);
- Local Government – Main Roads Western Australia regional offices for road infrastructure via website [here](#);
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Rural Business Development, by phone on 1800 198 231 or via website [here](#); and
- Other enquiries may be directed to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet - contact (WANDRRA Administrator) by phone on 6552 5088 or 6552 6250, or by email to – WANDRRA@dpc.wa.gov.au END