



## 2020/21 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

### **AGRN951 TROPICAL LOW AND ASSOCIATED FLOODING (28 JANUARY - 8 FEBRUARY 2021).**

The above event was proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 9 February 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.

On 28 January 2021 the Bureau of Meteorology reported that a tropical low had developed over the Northern Territory coast which proceeded to move southwest over the Kimberley region. The system followed the Western Australia coastline bringing heavy rainfall and flooding over the Kimberley and Pilbara. On 4 February, the system was situated near Carnarvon, and over the coming days produced significant rainfall and flooding that severely disrupted and damaged state and local roads. Stranded travellers required evacuation, power supplies were disrupted and the Department of Communities conducted welfare checks and stood up an evacuation centre.

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 ‘***Tropical Low and Associated Flooding (28 January – 8 February 2021)***’.

The 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 the 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 9 February 2021**

Carnarvon Derby-West Kimberley Upper Gascoyne

**Included on 5 March 2021**

Halls Creek Murchison Port Hedland

**Included on 24 March 2021**

Ashburton

If information becomes available that identifies other local government districts as 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.

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).
- **For Local Governments & State Government Agencies** – Removal of debris from residential properties, counter disaster operations and the restoration or replacement 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 expires on 9 May 2021.

LGs wishing to seek an extension to the Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works allowable time limit should contact the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia team to discuss.

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](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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