

# FACT SHEET

## Waste management

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) provides some assistance to both individuals and eligible asset owners, in regards to their waste management costs, following an eligible disaster event.

### Individuals

Section 4.2 of the DRFAWA details Category A assistance measures that are available to support individuals after a disaster event.

During the clean-up phase following a disaster event, the removal of waste and debris from properties impacted by an eligible disaster causes considerable issues for communities involving the safe handling and treatment of hazardous materials (such as asbestos) and capacity of waste disposal sites to accept, process and store waste.

Section 4.2 of the DRFAWA provides emergency assistance for individuals in regard to clauses:

- 4.2.2 d) Demolition or rebuilding to restore housing to a habitable condition, e.g.:
- Asbestos management protocols including excavation of contaminated soils, validation of excavation void to public open drains, draining headwalls and public soakwells.
  - Costs associated with demolishing a residential property that has been destroyed include the disposal of debris and hazardous material (i.e. asbestos)
- 4.2.2 e) Removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable, e.g.:
- Removal of debris where a health and safety threat could potentially threaten residents i.e. contaminated drinking water.
  - Transportation and disposal costs for the removal of the debris including sanitisation, sterilisation, dumping and processing.
  - Costs to establish or extend dump sites to accommodate debris removal from residential properties; including costs to operate and decommission.
  - To assist an impacted community, tip fees can be waived with the local government being able to claim eligible expenditure for cost recovery.
  - For hazardous materials, any essential component of the process to safely remove the hazardous material including costs to spray substance to stop airborne movement of asbestos fibres.
  - Costs associated with the clean-up, removal and disposal of asbestos to a damaged shed or other building within the vicinity of the principal place of residence so the owner can safely return.
  - Where asbestos has been fire damaged and hazardous airborne material exists, professional advice stating fire damaged asbestos is present, dangerous and removal is required to make the principal place of residence safe and habitable.
  - Costs to clean-up, remove and dispose of asbestos from damaged residential base slabs where the base slab is damaged causing asbestos to be exposed.
  - Removal of livestock as part of the process of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable.

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4.2.2 f) Extraordinary counter disaster operations for the benefit of an affected individual, e.g.:

- Costs to clean-up debris from eligible counter disaster operation activities, e.g.:
  - To protect a threatened house
  - Render a damaged house safe
- Moving debris off the road onto the verge to make a road trafficable and establishing a temporary access route.

## Eligible asset owners

Clause 6.1.1 states an essential public asset directly damaged by an eligible disaster, or a re-damaged essential public asset may be reconstructed to its pre-disaster function.

Examples of waste related issues caused by an eligible disaster that would be deemed eligible for assistance include:

- Damage to landfill facility.
- Damage to access roads to essential public assets i.e. sewer ponds and landfill facilities.
- Removal of debris from:
  - Essential transport assets such as roads and bridges.
  - Public schools and buildings which have emergency management functions such as evacuation and recovery centres.

In dealing with large amounts of waste generated from a disaster event, local governments are encouraged to utilise WALGA 'preferred suppliers'.

## What is not included?

As a general rule, the following items are not eligible for assistance under the DRFAWA:

- Mulching or chipping of green waste for transport to a waste facility.
- Removal of debris (hazardous or otherwise) from sheds, fencing and other farm buildings (i.e. commercial component) of a primary producer property.
- Clean-up costs and removal of housing slabs where the base slab is intact and not damaged (i.e. asbestos is not exposed).
- Clean-up costs and removal of debris from the natural environment including revegetation initiatives, waterways, forest areas and the rehabilitation of natural ecosystems.

To discuss any queries, please contact the Disaster Recovery Funding Team at [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au)