

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW AND KEY PRINCIPLES

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, STATE AGENCIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

This fact sheet provides guidance on the practical application of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) and provides an overview of the DRFAWA, including the principles that guide its implementation.

Overview

The DRFAWA is jointly funded by the Australian and Western Australian Governments and is designed as a safety net to provide eligible assistance to communities directly impacted by an eligible disaster event. They are not intended to fund every possible relief and recovery measure.

In Western Australia, the DRFAWA is administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and is the State's application of the Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA).

The different types of funding assistance that can be made available under the DRFAWA for eligible disasters are referred to as assistance measures and these are separated into four main categories:

- **Category A** includes emergency assistance for communities, individuals and families.
- **Category B** includes assistance to small businesses and primary producers, State Government Agencies and local governments, including assistance to repair or reconstruct essential public assets and counter disaster operations.
- **Category C** is intended to support a holistic approach to the recovery of regions, communities or sectors severely affected by an eligible disaster. This assistance may be provided via community recovery funds and/or recovery grants for small businesses and primary producers due to exceptional circumstances.
- **Category D** assistance is made available to alleviate distress or damage due to exceptional circumstances.

Assistance measures are provided based on the identified needs following the impacts of an eligible disaster and may be different each time the DRFAWA is activated. Category C and D assistance measures are only made available in situations where it can be demonstrated that the impacts caused by the eligible disaster were extraordinary and there is a need for additional assistance to aid the long-term recovery.

Key principles

1. Meeting recovery needs

- The DRFAWA can provide certain assistance, but recovery from disasters is a shared responsibility between individuals, households, businesses, communities and governments.
- Local governments and the relevant State Government Agencies are best placed to identify the type and level of assistance needed following a natural disaster or a terrorist act; are not bound or limited by the assistance measures identified in, or funding available under the DRFAWA; and should make available whatever assistance they deem necessary regardless of whether it is eligible for reimbursement from the DRFAWA.
- Local government and state government agencies are wholly responsible for all aspects of the recovery projects they deliver, including the financial, operational and delivery requirements.

2. Recovery funding and strategies

- The DRFAWA reimburses eligible costs and only expenditure that meets eligibility and evidence requirements will be reimbursed.
- The DRFAWA supports certain recovery needs in relation to eligible disasters and where possible other strategies should also be in place, such as self-help options, insurance and disaster mitigation.
- The DRFAWA does not cover all possible recovery scenarios and is not intended to replace or act as a disincentive for the use of other available funding sources. Funding from other sources may be required to meet recovery needs.

3. Assistance is to be provided in a cost-effective and responsible manner

- Standard business-as-usual rules and practices apply when procuring goods, works and services. For instance, local governments and State Government Agencies should achieve value for money, accountable and transparent procurement outcomes.

Further information and contacts

The full suite of DRFAWA fact sheets and other related documents are available on the DFES website in the Recovery Funding section, including a DRFAWA Key Terms fact sheet that includes definitions.

Contacts:

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