

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

REPAIR OPTIONS FOR ESSENTIAL PUBLIC ASSETS

INFORMATION FOR ESSENTIAL PUBLIC ASSET OWNERS AND OPERATORS

This fact sheet provides guidance on the practical application of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) and summarises the different assistance measures available to repair or reconstruct Essential Public Assets (EPA) under the DRFAWA. It should assist to understand which option may apply and the key things to consider.

Essential Public Asset eligibility

Following a natural disaster or a terrorist act, the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments provide financial assistance in certain circumstances for the repair or reconstruction of damaged EPA.

To be eligible for financial assistance from the DRFAWA, the asset must first meet the following two key criteria:

1. Meet the definition of an EPA under the DRFAWA; and
2. Has been damaged as direct result of an eligible disaster.

Repair options available for EPA

There are three main options to repair or reconstruct damaged EPA.

1. Emergency Works (EW)
2. Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW)
3. Essential Public Asset Reconstruction works (EPAR)

The DRFAWA reimburses eligible costs and EPA owners or operators, such as local government or State Government Agencies, are wholly responsible for all aspects of EPA recovery projects, including the financial, operational and delivery requirements.

Emergency Works

EW are urgent activities necessary to temporarily restore an EPA to enable it to operate/be operated at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community.

Some key points to be aware of in relation to EW:

- The works are to be carried out within three months from the date the EPA becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.
- Temporarily restores an EPA.
- Further work is required to permanently repair damage / reconstruct the EPA. That is, EW is followed by either IRW or EPAR works to fully reconstruct an EPA to its pre-disaster function.
- EW are to be inspected and signed off by the EPA owner's works manager or other nominated representative with a suitable level of expertise and experience to the satisfaction of DFES.
- EW can include emergency removal of fallen trees, branches and other similar debris from roads and road corridors.
- Where EW is only related to the removal of fallen trees, branches and other similar debris and the road is not damaged, IRW or EPAR works is not required.

Immediate Reconstruction Works

IRW are activities carried out to fully reconstruct an EPA to its pre-disaster function and occur if no EPAR works are required. IRW may or may not follow EW.

Some key points to be aware of in relation to IRW:

1. The works are to be carried out within three months from the date the EPA becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.
2. In most cases the IRW should be limited in nature, scope, extent and complexity and may include minor works related to the patching, grading of roads, replacement of road furniture such as signs and guideposts or drainage repair.
3. IRW are to be inspected and signed off by the EPA owner's works manager or other nominated representative with a suitable level of expertise and experience to the satisfaction of DFES.

Important points to consider regarding EW and IRW

If impacted by either of the following two scenarios, you should contact DFES Recovery Funding Team as soon as possible to discuss your options:

1. If delays impact EW or IRW and it cannot be completed within three months from the date the EPA becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.
2. Where the costs of EW and/or IRW for an impacted asset may exceed \$250,000.

Essential Public Asset reconstruction

EPAR allows for an EPA directly damaged by an eligible disaster to be fully reconstructed to its pre-disaster function.

The reconstruction of an EPA under this assistance measure must be based on the estimated reconstruction cost developed in accordance with the DRFAWA and approved by the DFES, which in most cases should occur prior to works being undertaken.

Some key points to be aware of in relation to EPAR:

1. EPAR works are generally greater in scope, extent and complexity than IRW works, cannot be completed within three months from the date the EPA becomes accessible following an eligible disaster and/or the value of the works exceeds \$250,000 per asset.
2. Damage assessments must be completed as soon as reasonably practicable, but no later than 12 months from the date of the eligible disaster.
3. Cost estimates are developed in two stages, Stage 1 – DFES approval of scope of works, and Stage 2 – DFES approval of cost based on market response.
4. Estimates must be approved by DFES within 12 months from the end of financial year in which the eligible disaster occurred and therefore should be submitted to DFES as soon as possible and within 6 months from the end of financial year in which the eligible disaster occurred to allow for assessment timeframes.
5. Works should be completed within 24 months from the end of financial year in which the estimate is established.

Applicants should contact DFES Recovery Funding for further information prior to preparing EPAR applications.

Evidence requirements

Under the DRFAWA, all applications for funding assistance must be supported by eligible evidence. This includes pre-disaster condition evidence and evidence that the damage was a direct result of the eligible event and for which assistance is being sought. Evidence of the completed repair or reconstruction works is required to be provided as part of the claims process.

IMPORTANT: Refer to the *Evidence Requirements for Works on Essential Public Assets* fact sheet for more information.

Further information and contacts

The 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:

- ☎ Phone: 1800 920 659
- ✉ Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au
- 🌐 Website: Click [here](#)