



# DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS ACTIVATION OF AN ELIGIBLE DISASTER NOTICE AND FACT SHEET

## AGRN1280 - SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE NARELLE (25 MARCH ONWARDS) V1

This document has been prepared by the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). It details the activation of an eligible disaster and the available assistance measures for the impacted local government areas under the joint Australian and Western Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) 2018.

### EVENT ACTIVATION

Severe Tropical Cyclone (STC) Narelle, previously a severe Category 5 system in Queensland, reached the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia as a tropical low on 23 March 2026. After re-intensifying into a tropical cyclone on 26 March 2026, STC Narelle continued moving southwest, running parallel to the Pilbara coastline and impacting the western Pilbara as a severe Category 4 cyclone, before weakening to a Category 3 system and making landfall south of Coral Bay on 27 March 2026. Severe impacts have been experienced from the western Pilbara to the northern Gascoyne coast, extending south to Denham. The system is expected to continue to weaken as it moves further south and inland on 28 March 2026, with impacts anticipated for the Central West and South West Land Divisions and the strongest winds expected to occur on the northern and eastern side of the system.

Pursuant to clause 5.1 of the DRFA issued by the Australian Government, an eligible disaster under the DRFAWA was activated on 28 March 2026.

This activated eligible disaster will be referred to as '**AGRN1280 – Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle (25 March onwards)**'.

The State anticipates that the eligible costs for this event will primarily be associated with damage to essential public assets, being roads and associated infrastructure.

### DRFAWA ACTIVATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

In response to this eligible disaster, DRFAWA Category A and Category B assistance has now been activated for the local government areas of:

- Shire of Exmouth
- Shire of Carnarvon
- Shire of Shark Bay

DFES will liaise with local governments and State Government agencies to determine the full extent of the impacts and additional local government areas are expected to be activated over the coming days.



The last page of this document includes a map of the activated local government areas. If information becomes available that identifies other local government areas as potentially having been directly impacted by this eligible disaster, those areas may subsequently be included in this activation, subject to further assessment and agreement from the Australian Government.

## **DRFAWA OVERVIEW**

The DRFAWA assistance measures described below are typically made available, as needed, when an eligible disaster is activated. You can contact the relevant agency listed below or the DFES Recovery Funding team for further information on what assistance measures are available for this eligible disaster.

For more information on the Arrangements please refer to the resources at the following link: [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding#resources](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding#resources)

### **Category A – Assistance for individuals and families**

This emergency assistance is primarily administered by the WA Department of Communities to help support eligible individuals and families who need assistance to meet their immediate and essential needs as a direct result of the eligible disaster. It may include:

- Emergency accommodation
- Emergency food
- Emergency clothing
- Replacement of essential household items and personal effects\*
- Essential housing repairs to return housing to a safe and habitable condition\*
- Personal and/or financial support services

Note: \* These assistance measures are subject to income and/or asset testing.

#### Further information and contacts

Department of Communities (WA).

 1800 032 965

 [www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/emergency-relief-and-support-services](http://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/emergency-relief-and-support-services)

Other assistance that may be provided by applicable delivery agencies may include:

- removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable;
- extraordinary counter disaster operations for the benefit of an affected individual; and
- Community Recovery Officer



Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659

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

💻 [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding)

## Category B – Assistance for local government and state government agencies

### Emergency works

*Emergency works* (EW) are urgent clean-up and repair activities necessary to temporarily restore an essential public asset to enable it to operate/be operated at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community. EW need to be carried out within three months from the date the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.

EW should be followed by *essential public asset reconstruction* (EPAR) – Lite or EPAR works to fully reconstruct an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function.

### Essential public asset reconstruction Lite

Essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR)-Lite are reconstruction works for an essential public asset damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster, to be fully reconstructed to its pre-disaster function, where the total estimated cost of reconstruction works on all damaged EPAs for the local government/state agency for this event is less than \$5 million. EPAR-Lite needs to be carried out within 24-months from the end of the financial year in which the event occurred.

### Essential public asset reconstruction works

Essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR) works allows for an essential public asset directly damaged by an eligible disaster, or an essential public asset re-damaged by an eligible disaster, to be fully reconstructed to its pre-disaster function where the total estimated cost of reconstruction works on all damaged EPAs for the local government/state agency is more than \$5 million.

The reconstruction of an essential public asset under this assistance measure must be based on the estimated reconstruction cost developed in accordance with the DRFAWA and approved by DFES.

### Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659



Australian Government



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

🌐 [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding)

## Category B – Assistance for small businesses

### Interest rate subsidy

This assistance is administered by DFES and provides an interest rate subsidy on a new loan to support eligible small businesses recover due to damage from an eligible disaster.

### Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659

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

🌐 [www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding)

## DRFAWA AGRN 1280 Activated Local Government Areas

### Legend

- DRFAWA Activated Area
- Local Government Area Boundary



0 50 100 150 200  
Kilometres  
1:10,000,000 when printed at A3

Map created by: SoC Mapping  
Department of Fire & Emergency Services:  
Drawn on 28/03/2026  
Data sourced from: DFES, Landgate  
Task No: 1860  
File: DRFAWA Activated Local Government Areas

**DISCLAIMER:** All information depicted in this map is correct as of date of creation. DFES does not accept any responsibilities for assumptions made after this date.

