



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

AGRN 1286 – TROPICAL CYCLONE LUANA AND ASSOCIATED HEAVY RAINFALL ACROSS THE KIMBERLEY AND PILBARA REGIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (22-28 JANUARY 2026) (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

Tropical Low 16U developed on 22 January 2026 over the Indian Ocean north-west of Australia and subsequently intensified to Tropical Cyclone Luana. Luana reached Category 1 intensity on 24 January 2026 and strengthened to Category 2 prior to crossing the coast near Beagle Bay on the northern Dampier Peninsula. The system produced heavy rainfall (including 180–230 mm in some locations, representing the highest daily totals in 20–30 years) and damaging winds (with gusts recorded at 106 km/h and 98 km/h). Following landfall, Luana weakened and was downgraded to a tropical low on 25 January 2026; however, the remnant system continued to generate sustained inland rainfall across parts of Western Australia (including the Pilbara and eastern inland districts), resulting in flooding, road disruption and community isolation, before weakening further through 28 January 2026.

‘Cyclone’ is deemed to be an eligible natural disaster event, pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the DRFA.

Pursuant to clause 5.1 of the DRFA issued by the Australian Government, an eligible disaster under the DRFAWA was activated on 21 April 2026.

This activated eligible disaster will be referred to as ‘**AGRN 1286 – Tropical Cyclone Luana and Associated Heavy Rainfall across the Kimberley and Pilbara Regions (22-28 January 2026)**’.

DRFAWA ACTIVATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

In response to this eligible disaster, DRFAWA Category A assistance measures have been activated in the following local government areas:

- Broome
- Derby/West Kimberley



DRFAWA Category B assistance measures have been activated in the following local government areas:

- Derby/West Kimberley
- East Pilbara

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

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 and personal effects
- Personal or financial support services

Note: Some of these assistance measures may be 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

Other assistance that may be provided by applicable delivery agencies may include the replacement of essential household contents; housing repairs to return housing to a safe and habitable condition; removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe



and habitable; and/or extraordinary counter disaster operations for the benefit of an affected individual.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA).

☎ 1800 920 659

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

💻 www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding

Category B – Assistance for local government and state government agencies

Counter disaster operations for the protection of the general public

This assistance measure provides for extraordinary costs associated with counter disaster operations (CDO) carried out to protect communities from the eligible disaster and ensure public health and safety in public areas.

CDO activities are undertaken to reduce the need for other forms of assistance under the arrangements (i.e. to reduce state expenditure on other assistance measures). This may include activities such as the construction of fire breaks, sandbagging and construction of temporary levees to prevent the inundation of public areas and buildings.

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

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

💻 www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding

DRFA assistance measures activated by local government area

Assistance Category	Assistance Measure	Delivery Agency	Broome	Derby/ West Kimberley	East Pilbara
Category A	Emergency food, clothing or temporary accommodation	Department of Communities	✓	✓	
	Repair or replacement of essential items of furniture and personal effects	Department of Communities	✓	✓	
Category B	Counter disaster operations for the protection of the general public	Local Government/ State Government Agency		✓	
	Emergency works for essential public assets	Local Government/ State Government Agency		✓	✓
	EPAR-Lite - essential public asset reconstruction	Local Government/ State Government Agency		✓	✓
	EPAR - essential public asset reconstruction	Local Government/ State Government Agency		✓	✓



DRFAWA AGRN #1286 Activated Local Government Areas

Legend

- DRFAWA Activated Area
- Local Government Area Boundary



Map created by: DFES Intelligence Systems
 Department of Fire & Emergency Services:
 Drawn on 14/04/2026
 Data sourced from: DFES, Landgate
 Task No: 1860
 File: 1860_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.

