



AGRN1044 INFRASTRUCTURE BETTERMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINE

ROUND 2

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1. Background

Ex-Tropical Cyclone (Ex-TC) Ellie & Associated Flooding in Western Australia (WA) (28 December 2022 onwards) was declared an eligible disaster event under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) on 5 January 2023. Ex-TC Ellie, Australian Government Reference Number 1044 (AGRN1044), caused significant rainfall and flooding across the Kimberley region within the Fitzroy River Catchment.

2. Objectives

Announced in December 2023, the Infrastructure Betterment Program (the Program) is a Category D recovery funding package for AGRN1044 approved by the Prime Minister under the DRFA.

The key objective of the Program is to build back better, more resilient eligible Essential Public Assets (EPAs) damaged by AGRN1044 and reduce the impact of future events on these assets and the communities they serve. This is intended to improve the overall resilience of communities, productivity, economic outcomes, and reduce recovery costs associated with future disasters.

The key objectives of the Program are to provide DRFA Category D funding to enable eligible state agencies and local governments to:

- Access funding that is in addition to DRFA Category B reconstruction of EPA funding available to restore event damaged assets to pre-disaster condition and function.
- Build back better, more resilient essential public infrastructure, and contribute to the objectives of the State Strategic Recovery Priorities.

3. Outcomes

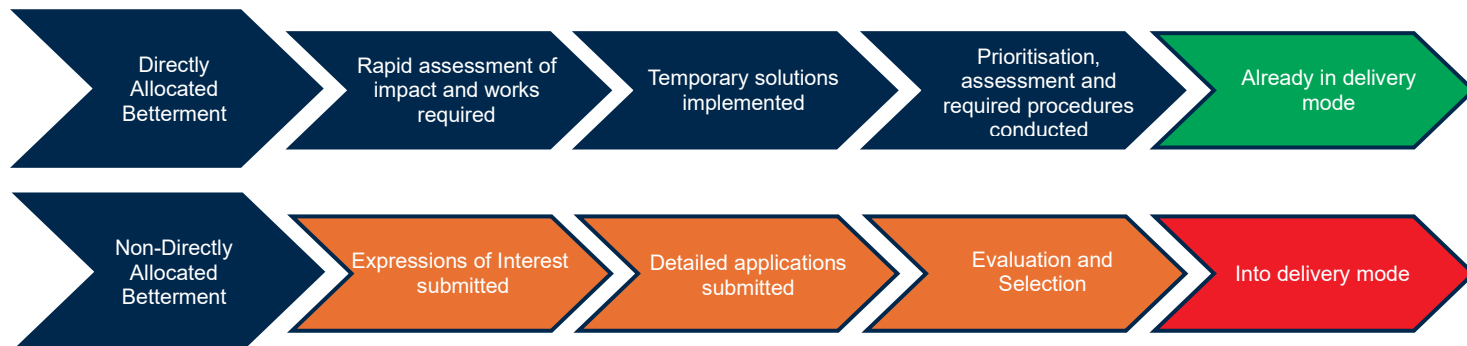
The key outcomes of the Program are to:

1. Provide infrastructure that delivers essential services to the community.
2. Infrastructure is built in accordance with current knowledge and practices for mitigating disaster impact.
3. Infrastructure is built to current Australian standards and relevant codes of practice.
4. Infrastructure is built with regard to local disaster risks.
5. Infrastructure is rebuilt that delivers essential services to the community in a way to minimise future damage and/or build resilience.

4. Project Streams

Betterment Program Funding has been allocated into two streams:

- (1) Directly Allocated Betterment \$76.6 million
- (2) Non-Directly Allocated Betterment \$20 million



Infrastructure Betterment Project Streams

4.1 Directly Allocated Betterment

Extensive consultation occurred with relevant State agencies and local governments during the development of the Category D Assistance Request Form submitted to the Australian Government for this Program. This included the selection of priority projects and primary access roads between communities, that were identified as critical State road infrastructure and subsequently approved as Directly Allocated Betterment.

The State approved Directly Allocated Betterment funding to the Fitzroy River Bridge to:

- raise the bridge deck level;
- widen to accommodate two traffic lanes on this strategic national asset; and
- provide bank stabilisation on river approaches to prevent future undermining of abutments.

The State also approved Directly Allocated Betterment to other eligible EPAs, including floodway/s on the Great Northern Highway, Gibb River Road, and primary access roads between communities in the Kimberley impacted by the flooding event for inclusion under the Program.

The Program funding allocations for each Directly Allocated Betterment project were identified based on preliminary scoping by Main Roads WA, informed by local governments where appropriate, and strategic level cost estimation.

The actual approval/assignment of funds for the Program to any specific Directly Allocated Betterment works projects, remains subject to the Administering Agency's assessment and approval processes under the DRFAWA.

This ensures alignment to eligibility and evidence requirements corresponding to eligible damage relating to the Category B Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW)/Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (EPAR)-Lite or EPAR and Betterment Works, under the Program.

4.2 Non-Directly Allocated Betterment

Non-Directly Allocated Betterment funding is awarded via application processes. Round One was finalised in December 2025, with Round Two to be launched in early 2026. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), as the Administering Agency, will invite local governments with EPAs damaged as a result of AGRN1044 to prepare one Betterment application for each proposed betterment project in accordance with the application process outlined in section 8.

5. Eligibility Criteria

5.1 Eligible Applicants

Round Two is open to local governments activated for AGRN1044 and who:

- own or manage transport (road-related) eligible assets that meet the definition of an EPA under the DRFA; and
- have been assessed by DFES, as the Administering Agency, as eligible for funding under [AGRN1044](#) Category B IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR linked to Betterment Works.

5.2 Eligible and Ineligible Activities

To be considered eligible under the Program, Betterment Works must be undertaken on EPAs that:

- have sustained damage as a direct result of AGRN1044; and
- meet the eligibility and evidence requirements for Category B IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR as outlined in this Program Guideline and associated DRFAWA Fact Sheets – [Essential Public Assets Categories of Reconstruction Works](#) and [Evidence Requirements for Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets](#).

Proposed Betterment Works will be considered where they complement completed IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR works, and do not result in any re-work of completed reconstruction works (that is, any demolition or de-construction of completed works).

The Administering Agency, in consultation with NEMA (where deemed necessary) will assess circumstances where completed IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR works might need to be demolished or de-commissioned to deliver Betterment Works. Where this is considered to reduce the overall benefits of the Betterment investment, it may affect eligibility.

5.2.1 Eligible activities include:

- Strengthening existing road surfaces, bridges, floodways, culverts, drains or shoulders.
- Hardening / lowering or raising crossings to reduce durations of inundation (e.g., the height of a bridge above the flood level).
- Constructing new floodways, drains or culverts.
- Engineering re-design works to modify peak flows, drainage size and flow volume.
- Increasing drainage capabilities (e.g. adding additional culverts that did not exist before the disaster occurred to drainage systems to increase flow capacity).
- Realignment of roads to reduce asset exposure to risk.
- Changes in material type such as sealing unsealed roads or providing edge protection or batter hardening to reduce scour of road pavements (e.g., upgrading vulnerable sections of unsealed roads to sealed assets).
- Targeting the improvement of key waterway crossings on evacuation routes and roads of strategic and economic criticality.
- Increase of heights or hardening to flood levees.

5.2.2 Ineligible activities include:

- Works relating to infrastructure that does not meet the DRFA definition of an EPA. For example, reconstruction and resilience work on non-EPAs or community assets (i.e., recreation parks / playgrounds etc.).
- Any works not directly related to roads or transport related eligible EPAs (except for river flood gauge monitoring stations approved as part of an Eligibility Enquiry in June 2023).
- Any Betterment Works without prior approval via the Non-Directly Allocated Betterment application process.
- Any reconstruction works without a direct demonstrated need for the additional application of Betterment Works.

- Any activities or costs associated with Category B IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR works. Only activities directly related to the approved Betterment Works are claimable under this Program.

The activities listed above may not cover all circumstances. If there is any doubt about the eligibility, please contact the Administering Agency.

To be eligible for funding, Betterment Works must not start without prior written approval from the Administering Agency.

If the project is approved and a contract is already awarded or underway, the local government is responsible for managing any changes to scope, cost, or timelines. Loss-of-profit payments to contractors for changes in scope is not an eligible cost under the Program.

5.3 Eligible and Ineligible Costs

5.3.1 Eligible costs include:

- Normal time, salaries, and wages for local government employees who are directly undertaking on-ground Betterment Works.
- Overtime and associated allowances for local government employees required to work outside normal working hours who are directly undertaking on-ground Betterment Works.
- Engagement of contractors and/or temporary (fixed term) employees (including costs such as salary/wages, overtime, superannuation, workers compensation, onboarding costs) to undertake eligible activities.
- Other costs for contractors or temporary (fixed term) employees such as travel expenses, vehicle hire, accommodation and allowances directly associated with the delivery of Betterment Works.
- Rates for external contractors who are directly undertaking on-ground Betterment Works.
- Procurement of professional service providers in support of eligible activities, including subject matter experts, survey, design, investigation, project management / contract administration directly related to the operational delivery of the Program.
- Costs associated with direct consultation and engagement of key stakeholders such as community leaders, head tenants, cultural navigators and other community engagement service providers directly relating to the Betterment Works where these costs are already funded under other AGRN1044 Program.

- Products and materials, utilised for the eligible works, including road pavements and seals, embankment materials, precast or cast in place, structural or drainage components and road furniture as required.
- Costs associated with the lease/hire of an asset, necessary and directly related to the delivery of the eligible activity, including hiring of specialised machinery (including hire, transport, operation/running costs).
- In exceptional circumstances, where it can be demonstrated by a cost-benefit analysis that it is more cost efficient for a government entity to purchase an asset, to undertake eligible activities, approval will be considered by the Administering Agency in agreement with NEMA. Approval must be sought prior to the purchase of an asset.

5.3.2 Ineligible costs include:

- Any costs that would normally be associated with Category B reconstruction works.
- Any local government road or orphan road projects already providing road access to communities under other AGRN1044 Kimberley Floods Programs.
- Any cultural navigator costs that are reimbursable under other AGRN1044 Kimberley Floods Programs or costs associated with other Programs.
- Any additional costs incurred by local governments to resubmit applications where insufficient DRFAWA evidence was not provided in the original application may not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Any costs not directly related to the eligible event.
- Costs that are reimbursable under other funding sources, including insurance.
- Non-specific indirect costs and overhead costs of local governments.
- Profit margins of local governments including but not limited to the supply or use of plant, labour, or materials.
- Cost associated with business-as-usual activities for local governments.
- Costs of any works completed prior to the approval of the Category D Betterment Works occurring, with the exception of Directly Allocated Betterment projects.

The activities listed above may not cover all circumstances. If there is any doubt about the eligibility, please contact the Administering Agency for clarification.

5.4 Eligible and Ineligible Program Project Management Activities / Costs

The following eligible and ineligible activities and costs relating to Program Administration and Project Management are applicable to local governments administering or delivering IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR that are directly linked to Betterment Works under approved Directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects and Non-Directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects.

The activities and costs listed below may not cover all circumstances. If there is any doubt about the eligibility, please contact the Administering Agency for clarification.

5.4.1 Eligible program administration activities / costs include:

- Engagement of consultants/contractors or salary costs for temporary (fixed term) employees engaged to assist with project management, provide subject matter expertise or administration of the Program.
- Recruitment (i.e. advertising and on-boarding costs).
- Procurement of services to monitor the delivery of eligible activities under the Program, including but not limited to the provision of logistical coordination and assurance and other advisory services to identify and mitigate risk to the Administering Agency or Delivery Agency ensuring efficient Program delivery for the community.
- Travel costs and incidentals, including airfares, hire of vehicles, including fuel and insurance.
- On a case-by-case basis, extraordinary insurance fees may be considered where directly related to the delivery of the Program.
- Monitoring and evaluation activities, which are a requirement under the DRFA, including information sharing with the Administering Agency.

5.4.2 Ineligible program administration activities / costs include:

- Activities that do not directly relate to the delivery of the Program.
- In-kind contributions.
- Core business activities.
- Legal fees (considered business-as-usual).
- Profit margins for Delivery Agencies.
- Duplication of existing initiatives / programs.

- Purchase of core business capital equipment such as motor vehicles, laptops, tablets (iPad etc.), mobile phones and office equipment.
- Ongoing costs for administration, operation, or maintenance.
- Remuneration of executive officers from the delivery organisations.
- Remuneration of employees for work not directly related to the Program.
- Unsupported on-cost charges and non-specific indirect and overhead costs.

5.5 Eligibility of Exceptional Circumstances

During the Non-Directly Allocated Betterment application process, the Administering Agency may consult with NEMA to make an eligibility determination regarding applications that contain Betterment Works in addition to completed IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR works.

5.6 Eligibility of Impacts by Subsequent Events

Where a local government has a Directly Allocated or Non-Directly Allocated Betterment that is impacted by a subsequent disaster event prior to any approved Betterment Works commencing, or during the delivery stage, works should be suspended, and the local government must contact the Administering Agency to seek guidance prior to any works recommencing.

Local governments must ensure flexibility exists within their procurement processes and contracts to manage instances of impacts from subsequent events to contracted works.

6. Funding

6.1 Available Funding

A total of \$104.9 million in cost-shared (50:50) Category D Betterment Works funding is available under the Program. Of this amount, up to \$96.6 million is available for Betterment Works with a notional split between of \$76.6 million allocated to the Directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects and up to \$20 million allocated to the Non-directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects.

Following the completion of Round One of the Non-Directly Allocated Betterment in December 2025, up to \$19.4 million remains available for Round Two, which will open in early 2026. As the Directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects are completed and actual costs are confirmed, any unspent funds may be redirected to the Non-Directly Allocated Betterment by the Administering Agency.

The Program funding is calculated as the difference between the cost to restore an eligible EPA to its pre-disaster function (as defined under the DRFA EPA

Framework) and the cost to build back the damaged asset to a more resilient standard.

The remaining Program funding, up to \$8.3 million covers project contingency, extraordinary Program Administration, and Monitoring and Evaluation which will be led by the Administering Agency under an overarching Monitoring and Evaluation Guideline (M&E Guideline).

The State may seek Commonwealth agreement to cost-share additional funding where the scope and impact has potential to exceed the initial total Program budget, provided it is requested within the approved Allowable Time Limit (ATL) and prior to incurring expenditure above the agreed AGRN1044 Program funding cap.

The Program funding must be expended by the extended ATL Program end date of 31 December 2027, with all claims submitted within three (3) months of the completion of activities and/or services provided.

6.2 Contingency

Contingency has been included in the Directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects funding allocation. For each Non-Directly Allocated Betterment site the State will make allowance for the estimation of contingency and cost escalation, on the same basis as used in establishing the EPAR cost.

6.3 Independent Technical Review

Where the Administering Agency identifies the EPAR Cost Estimate for works associated with an approved Directly Allocated or Non-Directly Allocated Betterment is \$25 million or more, the Administering Agency will procure an Independent Technical Review in accordance with the DRFA.

6.4 Asset Reconstruction Working Capital

The Asset Reconstruction Working Capital (ARWC) is an offer from the Administration Agency to the delivery agency for an advance of 30% of the DFES approved costs estimate value. The advance is designed to support local governments with start-up costs for the reconstruction of eligible EPAs. The advance is offset against delivery agency claims for reimbursements as the Betterment project is delivered.

Where a Non-Directly Allocated Betterment application is approved, the Administering Agency may offer the applicant, in writing, access to ARWC for the Betterment Works components of the approved application.

The ARWC is calculated as 30% of the approved estimated cost established for the Non-Directly Allocated Betterment.

As claims for reimbursement of eligible costs are assessed and paid, the ARWC for the Betterment Works will be offset against the claimed amount in a staged manner until the value of the ARWC has been repaid in full.

Twenty-five per cent of the value of the eligible expenditure in a claim will be deducted from each claim as the repayment of the ARWC until 50% of the approved Betterment Works has been reimbursed.

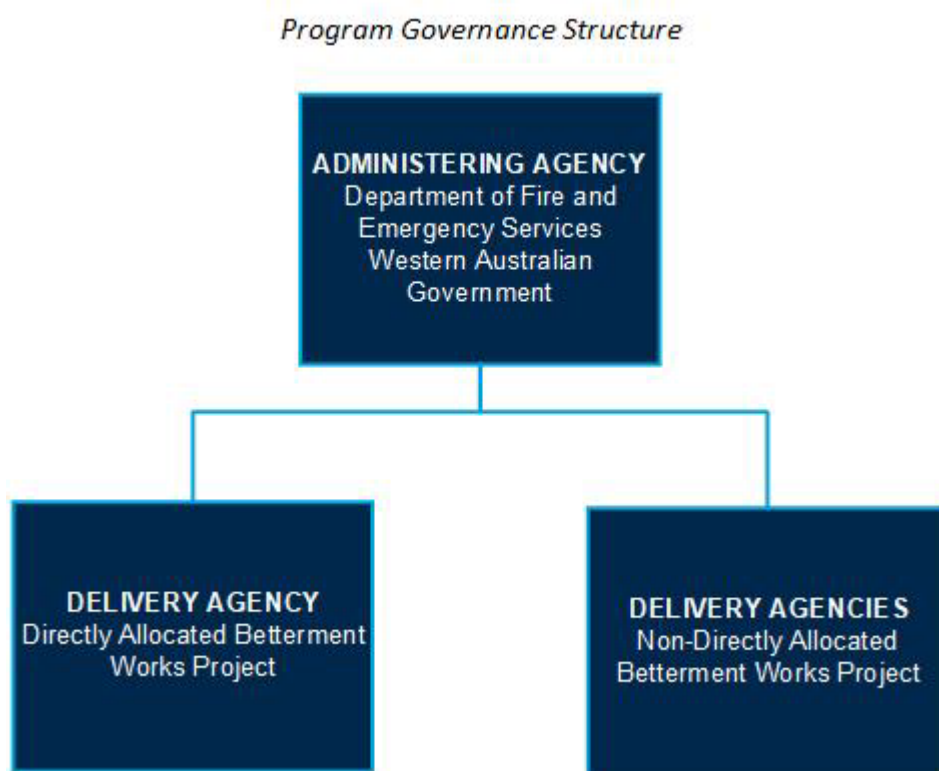
Once 50% of the approved Betterment Works has been reimbursed, 50% of the value of the eligible expenditure in a claim will be deducted as repayment of the ARWC until the value of the ARWC has been repaid in full.

For further clarification on ARWC, please contact the Administering Agency.

7. Program Administration and Governance

7.1 Program Governance Structure

The following governance structure has been developed in consultation with NEMA and Main Roads WA.



The following key roles are identified for the overall delivery of the Program:

- Program Sponsor
 - Administering Agency: Accountable for representing the organisation administering the Program.

- Delivery Agency: Accountable for representing the organisation delivering the Program.
- Program Manager
 - Administering Agency: Responsible for the administration of the funding associated with the delivery of the Program.
 - Delivery Agency: Responsible for delivery of the Program.

7.2 Administering Agency

The Program will be administered by the DFES Recovery Funding Directorate which is responsible for:

- The coordination of the Non-Directly Allocated Betterment application, evaluation process and related administration, including liaison with applicants.
- Assessment and review of DRFAWA claims for reimbursement under the Program.
- Other Program administration functions as described in this Program Guideline.

The DFES Recovery Funding Directorate can be contacted by phone 1800 920 659 or email drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au.

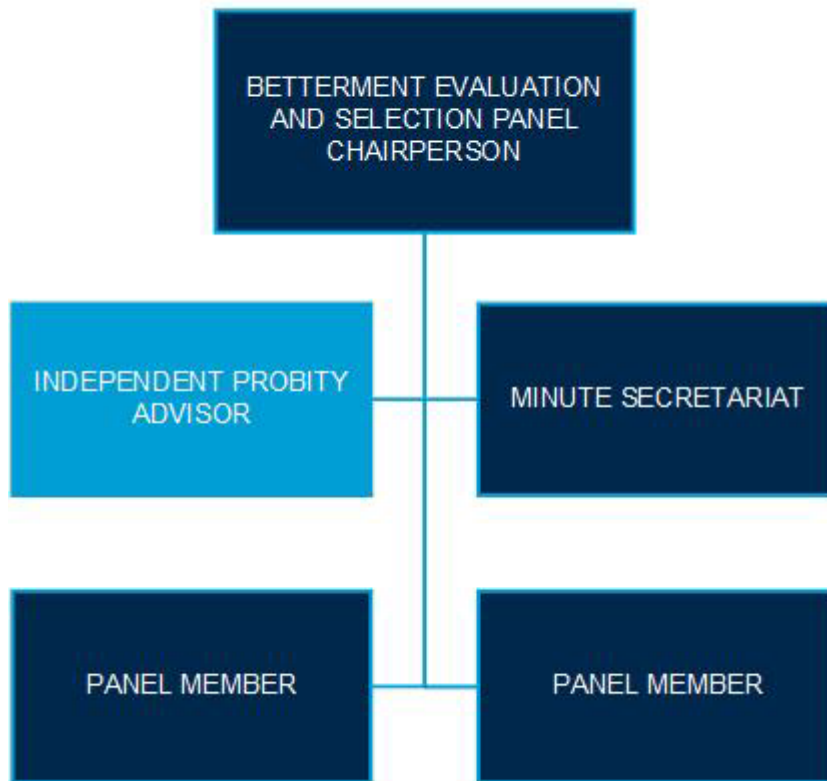
7.3 Delivery Agencies

The Delivery Agency for Directly Allocated Betterment is Main Roads WA. The Delivery Agency(s) for Non-Directly Allocated Betterment will be various State agencies and local governments, subject to successful application outcomes.

7.4 Evaluation and Selection Panel Membership / Terms of Reference

An Evaluation and Selection Panel will be convened consisting of two suitably qualified professionals with an appropriate level of expertise and experience to evaluate and select Non-Directly Allocated Betterment applications against the complete responses to the selection criteria. The panel will be chaired by the Administering Agency (or a delegated authority) and overseen by an external probity advisor. A Terms of Reference has been developed to guide the evaluation and selection panel.

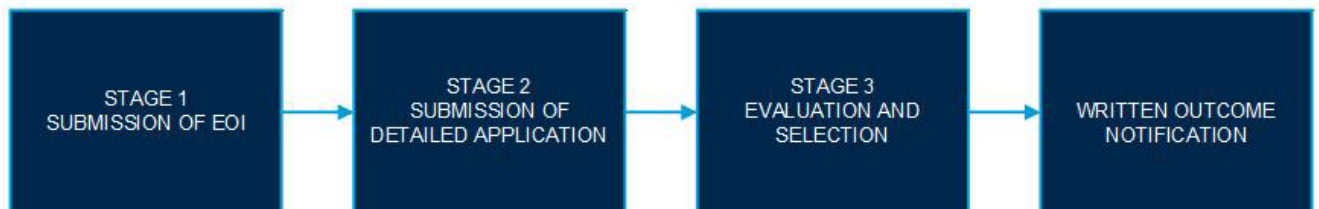
Evaluation and Selection Panel Structure



8. Non-Directly Allocated Betterment Application Process

The Administering Agency will invite eligible local governments to prepare one Non-Directly Allocated Betterment application for each proposed Betterment project. The application process will be as follows:

Non-Directly Allocated Betterment Application Process



Applications must be received by the closing times and dates outlined in section 9.

Late applications will not be accepted.

8.1 Stage 1: Expressions of Interest

The first stage of the Non-Directly allocated Betterment application process will be the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) online through DFES SmartyGrants providing the following information for each proposed Betterment project:

- (i) Asset name and number.
- (ii) Accurate SLK range of IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR work.
- (iii) Status of IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR¹.
- (iv) Accurate SLK range of proposed Betterment site.
- (v) Brief description of damage at proposed Betterment site.
- (vi) Brief description of the proposed Betterment solution to increase resilience.
- (vii) Cost of IRW/EPAR-Lite work, or estimated cost of EPAR work, to reconstruct the asset to pre-disaster function.
- (viii) Approximate project timeframes.

EOIs must be lodged online through DFES SmartyGrants.

The Administering Agency will review each EOI for completeness, before they are provided to the Evaluation and Selection Panel for determining whether the proposed Betterment project proceeds to Stage 2: Detailed Application. If more information is needed, applicants will be notified by the Administering Agency and will have an opportunity to provide further information within a designated timeframe, however, any additional costs to resubmit applications are not eligible for reimbursement.

8.2 Stage 2: Detailed Application

Stage 2 of the application process will require applicants to prepare a Detailed Application online through DFES SmartyGrants to describe the need for Betterment, demonstrate how it will increase resilience or reduce disaster risk and explain the benefit/s it will deliver to the WA community in the context of the Program objectives.

¹ Where EPAR works are being undertaken, applications will not be progressed to the Detailed Application stage until the EPAR Scope of Works and Cost Estimate have been approved.

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All the below assessment criteria must be addressed for each proposed Betterment project, and where requested, evidence must be provided to support statements made. The Administering Agency will also access pre-disaster, post-disaster and (if applicable) project completion evidence provided as part of the IRW/EPAR-Lite claim or EPAR application. Where relevant, this will be provided to the Evaluation and Selection Panel as part of the assessment of the Detailed Application.

The amount of detail and supporting evidence provided should be relative to the project size, complexity and funding amount requested. Word limits (specified in the Detailed Application form) apply to each response.

For detailed Selection Criteria and Description refer to Appendix 1.

Selection Criteria and Description	Document	Weighting %
Criteria 1 – Issue identification	Written Statement	15%
Criteria 2 – Financial and community benefits	Cost Benefit Analysis	50%
Criteria 3 – Evidence based	Technical Report	30%
Criteria 4 – Innovation	Written Statement	5%

The Administering Agency will review each application for completeness, before they are provided to the Evaluation and Selection Panel for Stage 3: Evaluation and Selection. If more information is needed, applicants will be notified by the Administering Agency and will have an opportunity to provide missing information within a designated timeframe, however, any additional costs to resubmit applications are not eligible for reimbursement.

8.3 Stage 3: Evaluation and Selection

Non-Directly Allocated Betterment project proposals will only progress to the Evaluation and Selection stage where:

- a completed EOI has been submitted and deemed suitable for progression to Stage 2 by the Evaluation and Selection Panel;
- a Detailed Application and supporting evidence have been submitted and deemed complete by the Administering Agency; and
- (if applicable) there is written approval of the EPAR Scope of Works and Cost Estimate.

The Evaluation and Selection Panel will assess how well each Detailed Application meets the Program's selection criteria, applying weightings to each criterion. These will then be totalled to generate an overall score. Applications must achieve

a score of at least 50 out of 100 (i.e. be rated suitable or highly suitable) to be considered for funding.

During the assessment of Detailed Applications, the Evaluation and Selection Panel may ask the Administering Agency to seek clarification or additional information from applicants to resolve any ambiguity or inconsistency within an application, provided it will not materially change the nature of the application or cause unfairness to other applicants.

Allocation of Round 2 Non-Directly Allocated Betterment funding will not exceed the available funding as outlined in section 6. Following calculation of the weighted scoring results, and where necessary, the Evaluation and Selection Panel may rank suitable projects from highest to lowest priority within available funding. Where the Program is oversubscribed and approved applications exceed the available Program funding, the Administering Agency may retain applications for further consideration should additional funding become available.

The Evaluation and Selection Panel will make their recommendations to the Administering Agency Program Sponsor for approval.

8.4 Written Outcome Notification

The Administering Agency will notify applicants of the outcome of their application in writing.

For successful Betterment Projects, the Administering Agency will provide written notification, outlining Program end dates, key milestones, reporting and claims acquittal requirements. Betterment Works are not to be started without prior written approval from the Administering Agency.

Any promotion associated with advice on the success of projects must meet the requirements of section 12.4.

9. Key Program Dates

Key dates relating to the Program are as follows:

Activity	Timeframe
Stage 1: EOI opens	2 June 2026
Stage 1: EOI closes	19 June 2026
Administering Agency undertakes EOI completion checks and request for further information (if required)	Completed by 26 June 2026
Evaluation and Selection Panel completes EOI assessment	Completed by 17 July 2026

Stage 1: EOI outcome notifications	Completed by 24 July 2026
Stage 2: Detailed Application opens	27 July 2026
Stage 2: Detailed Applications closes	14 August 2026
Administering Agency undertakes application completion checks and request for further information (if required)	Completed by 21 August 2026
Stage 3: Evaluation and Selection	Completed by 11 September 2026
Round 2: Outcome notifications sent	Completed by 16 October 2026
2026/27 claim submissions finalised	30 September 2027
Program End Date.	31 December 2027
2027/28 claim submissions finalised	31 March 2028
Final Program Completion Report due	31 March 2028

10. Program Claims and Payments

10.1 Claims to the Administering Agency

Local governments with approved Non-Directly Allocated Betterment, are wholly responsible for all aspects of the IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR and Betterment Works, including the financial, operational and delivery requirements.

The Administering Agency will make available a DRFA Recovery Funding Claim Template for use per project site for IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR and Betterment Works.

Claims for EPAR and Betterment Works reimbursement by local governments must be submitted to the Administering Agency through DFES SmartyGrants and submitted within 3-months of the costs being incurred Claim submissions for financial years close of the 30 September i.e. for costs incurred in the 2025-26 financial year, all claims must be submitted by 30 September 2026.

As the Betterment funding is calculated as the difference between the IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR eligible costs and the total cost to build back the damaged asset to a more resilient standard, claims for reimbursement, where the works are discreet and can be separated from other reconstruction works completed, will be based on actual costs incurred.

As IRW/EPAR-Lite claims have already been assessed and eligible expenditure reimbursed, all Betterment Works associated with IRW/EPAR-Lite will be claimed on actual cost incurred.

Where costs cannot be easily separated into discreet costs for Betterment Works, claims will be based on an apportionment of costs calculated on the difference between EPAR eligible costs and the total cost to build back the damaged asset to a more resilient standard.

The Betterment Works costs will be reimbursed to the Delivery Agency in the year in which the cost was incurred based on the proportion (%) calculated.

For example, for an approved project that has total estimated cost (i.e. both EPAR and Betterment Works components) where the EPAR component constitutes 80% of the total estimated cost and Betterment Works constitutes 20%; the actual expenditure will be claimed as 80% of the actual cost for Category B EPAR, and 20% of the actual cost for Category D Betterment Works.

Claims for reimbursement must be:

- forwarded to the Administering Agency by the timeframes outlined in section 9;
- submitted on the Claims Template provided by the Administering Agency; and
- supported by appropriate evidence of expenditure incurred.

For further information regarding evidence requirements, please refer to the DRFAWA Fact Sheet – [Evidence Requirements for Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets](#).

The IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR evidence must clearly demonstrate the damage was a direct result of the eligible event for which assistance is being sought. This includes pre-disaster function (purpose) and condition evidence to demonstrate that the asset has been properly maintained (as per DRFA Clause 6).

Evidence of the costs incurred must also be provided. Examples of evidence includes but is not limited to:

- A general ledger or transaction report (or similar financial document produced from the applicant's financial system) supporting the claimed amount and demonstrating the actual expenditure incurred against the approved scope of works.
- Source documents (e.g., tax invoices) supporting the claimed expenditure.
- Where own resources are used, a breakdown of wages claimed (i.e., overtime), payroll reports and timesheets.

- Reasons for any variances in activities, time, and cost.

In addition, as part of the claims process, final visual completion evidence demonstrating the completed IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR and Betterment Works is required. All evidence requirements should align to those outlined in the DRFAWA Fact Sheet - [Evidence Requirements for Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets](#).

10.2 DRFAWA Claims to the Australian Government

The State will seek reimbursement of the Australian Government's funding contribution through ordinary DRFAWA claims process, consistent with the DRFA.

- IRW/EPAR-Lite are claimed by the State for reimbursement from the Australian Government based on actual costs incurred in the financial year the expenditure is incurred.
- EPAR works are claimed by the State based on the Estimated Reconstruction Cost (ERC) in the year in which the ERC was established.
- Betterment Works costs are claimed on actuals in the year in which the cost was incurred. Any savings will be reported at the project acquittal as an underspend.
- The methodology for splitting costs between IRW/EPAR-Lite or EPAR and Betterment Works will be consistent with the proportional response as outlined in this section.

11. Reporting

The following information is to be provided to the Administering Agency by State agencies and local governments delivering Directly Allocated and Non-Directly Allocated Betterment Works Projects:

- Progress reports² will be required detailing: actual expenditure reported against the approved capped amount, percentage of scope of works completed, project start and finish dates, reasons for, and details of, any variances in scope, cost or time, and details of complementary works.
- Qualitative or quantitative data, as required by the Administering Agency, including for NEMA quarterly financial reporting purposes.

² Where a Directly Allocated Betterment has been completed prior to the finalisation of this Program Guideline progress reporting is not required.

- Other reporting as part of the proposed M&E Guideline as agreed by the State and / or NEMA, which may include participation in the data collection process by M&E external consultants in the development of case studies.

12. Program Governance and Compliance

12.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E Guideline has been developed to assess the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of DRFA implemented recovery programs, including the Infrastructure Betterment Program, and how these programs collectively support the recovery of individuals and communities. The M&E Guideline also considers the efficacy of each individual Category C and D program. The monitoring and evaluation methodology is designed to align with the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Disaster Recovery Program's.

To support the reporting requirements of the M&E Guideline, State agencies and local governments can provide information to support Project Site specific end-of-program evaluation, which may include:

- Relevant dashboard indicator information.
- Risks realised during the Program.
- Quantitative and qualitative data as required to support the evaluation of the goals and outcomes achievement.
- Other information that may be useful for Program evaluation.

Note: The end-of-program evaluation will form part of the Program Completion Report under the M&E Guideline, however this may be completed separately as agreed between the State agency, local government, and the Administering Agency if the timing of the evaluation does not support the timing of the Project Completion Report.

12.2 Procurement

The procurement of goods or services must be in accordance with the State and local government procurement policies, noting exceptional circumstances may be applied in accordance with the relevant procurement policy. If expenditure is in breach of the relevant procurement policy, reimbursement of these costs is unable to be sought under the DRFAWA.

12.3 Record Keeping

For DRFA audit and assurance purposes, State agencies and local governments must keep an accurate audit trail. DRFA records for the Program, must be

available for seven (7) years from the end of the financial year the claim is acquitted by the Australian Government.

For assurance purposes, the Australian Government may, at any time, request via the Administering Agency, documentation from State agencies and local governments to evidence the State's compliance with any aspect of the DRFA. This may include and is not limited to access to project level information, to confirm eligibility in accordance with the DRFA.

12.4 Public Acknowledgement

Under the DRFAWA, any announcement or media related to this Program must be done jointly by the Australian Government and the State, unless otherwise agreed. Prior agreement must be reached with the Australian Government on the nature and content of any subsequent events, announcements, promotional material, or publicity relating to DRFAWA assistance measures. This includes but is not limited to media releases, events, social media, signage, and advertising.

The Administering Agency and Delivery Agencies will identify and inform the Australian Government of media opportunities relating to the Program.

12.5 Enquiries and feedback

All complaints and any questions applicants have about the assessment process must be directed to DFES.

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the way in which an application has been handled by the Administering Agency, they can contact DFES and lodge a complaint via the [DFES website](#). The complaint will be considered internally by a DFES officer, independent from the original process. DFES will not reconsider applications as part of the DFES complaints process.

12.6 Fraud

Applicants should be aware that the giving of false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)*.

13. Appendix 1- Stage 2 Detailed Application Selection Criteria

For each Detailed Application for Non-Directly Allocated Betterment, local governments must submit complete responses to each Selection Criterion through DFES SmartyGrants.

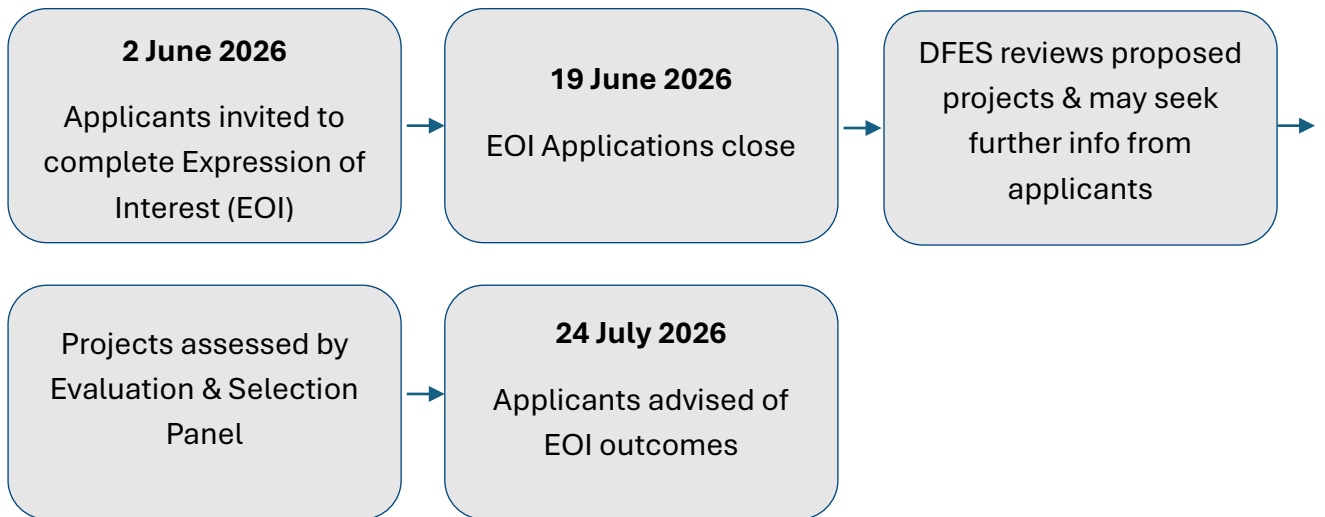
The level of detail required in each Detailed Application submitted is expected to be proportionate to the complexity, risk profile, treatment, and attributable cost of the proposed Non-Directly Allocated Betterment per site including any regulatory requirements.

A strong application will fully justify the need for the proposed Betterment, demonstrate how it will reduce disaster risk and explain the benefit/s it will deliver to the WA community in the context of the Program goals and objectives.

Selection Criteria and Description	Document	Weighting %
Criteria 1 - Issue identification		
The Detailed Application must include a Written Statement to demonstrate how the proposed Betterment project addresses the assessed natural hazard flood risk and is the preferred Betterment Work treatment option to address the identified need, risk, or vulnerability.	Written Statement	15%
Criteria 2 - Financial and Community Benefits		
A Cost Benefit Analysis must be included to demonstrate financial and non-financial benefits of the proposed Betterment project, and importantly the avoided costs when calculating financial benefits. The Cost Benefit Analysis must also demonstrate how the proposed Betterment technical treatment restores an eligible Essential Public Asset to a more resilient standard so that future costs associated with a similar disaster are reduced. It must also demonstrate how the proposed Betterment project restores an eligible Essential Public Asset to a more resilient standard so that communities are more resilient to future disasters. The community resilience benefits of the proposed Non-Directly Allocated Betterment must demonstrate both the quantitative and qualitative benefits identified.	Cost Benefit Analysis	50%
Criteria 3 - Evidence based		
A Technical Report is required to demonstrate the proposed Betterment project is informed by investigation and/or consultation that consider a measured approach to the identified risk, the forecast effectiveness of the betterment solution, and compliance with legislative requirements, current infrastructure construction industry standards and other applicable regulatory requirements.	Technical Report	30%
Criteria 4 - Innovation		
The Detailed Application may include a Written Statement to demonstrate any innovative mitigation solutions to long-standing risks or the introduction of new methods or approaches to enhance the existing landscape.	Written Statement	5%

14. Appendix 2 – Application Process Map

STAGE 1 – EOI Submission & Review (2 June– 24 July 2026)



STAGE 2 – Application Submission & Review (27 July– 16 October 2026)

