GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

Overview and Key Principles

Information for local governments, state government agencies and the general public

This fact sheet provides an overview of the purpose and the key principles of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA).

Overview

The DRFAWA is jointly funded by the Australian and Western Australian (WA) governments to help communities recover from disasters. It supports, but does not replace, insurance, existing responsibilities or other recovery funding sources.

The intent of the DRFAWA is to complement existing roles and responsibilities of individuals, businesses, communities and government and provide eligible assistance to communities directly impacted by an eligible disaster event. It is not intended to cover every relief, response or recovery cost that may arise following a disaster.

In Western Australia, DFES administers the DRFAWA as the State's implementation of the Australian Government's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018.

Funding assistance under the DRFAWA is grouped into four main categories, known as assistance measures. The assistance measures available for a disaster depend on the nature and severity of the event, the impacts experienced, and the assistance approved for that activation.

Not all measures are available for every disaster. The WA Government determines what Category A and B assistance measures are made available on activation of each eligible disaster.

Category	Purpose	Common examples
A	Immediate emergency assistance to individuals, families and communities.	Food, clothing, temporary accommodation, hardship assistance and other urgent relief.
B	Eligible response and recovery activities by agencies, local governments, small businesses and primary producers.	Counter disaster operations, essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR), freight subsidies and concessional loans.
C	Broader recovery support for severely affected regions, communities or sectors.	Community recovery funds and grants for small businesses or primary producers, where exceptional circumstances apply.

D	Exceptional assistance where disaster impacts are extraordinary.	Special assistance packages to reduce hardship, address exceptional impacts and support longer-term recovery.

Assistance measures must be directly linked to an eligible disaster event and must meet the relevant eligibility, evidence and assurance requirements before reimbursement can be approved.

Key principles

1. ***Meeting recovery needs***
   - **Shared responsibility:** Recovery from disasters involves everyone - individuals, households, businesses, communities, and all levels of government.
   - **Local knowledge is best:** Local governments and state government agencies are often best placed to identify local impacts, assess recovery needs and determine the most appropriate response. These are not limited to DRFAWA funding and should provide necessary assistance regardless of DRFAWA funding reimbursement eligibility.
2. ***Recovery funding and strategies***
   - **Evidence-based:** DRFAWA reimburses eligible expenditure only where the relevant eligibility, evidence and assurance requirements are met.
   - **Not full compensation:** The DRFAWA assistance is intended as a helping hand. It does not compensate for losses or restore lifestyles to pre-disaster standards.
   - **Use own resources first:** State government agencies and local governments are expected to use their own available resources, including any applicable insurance, before applying for DRFAWA assistance.
   - **Explore other funding sources:** DRFAWA funding should not discourage the use of other available funding sources. It supports certain recovery activities but does not replace the need for insurance or disaster mitigation strategies.
3. ***Cost-efficient and responsible assistance***
   - **Efficient and responsible use:** Agencies remain fully responsible for the recovery activities they undertake, including financial, operational, and delivery obligations. For example, all applicable procurement processes must be followed when purchasing goods, works, or services.
   - **Service standard:** DRFAWA support should be delivered efficiently, with responsible use of public funds and adherence to high standards of integrity.

What DRFAWA does not do

DRFAWA does not automatically cover all disaster-related costs. It does not replace insurance, compensate for all losses, or fund activities that are not directly linked to an eligible disaster event. Assistance must meet the relevant eligibility, evidence and assurance requirements.

Further information and contacts

Further information about the DRFAWA, including fact sheets, guidelines and training is available here:

💻 DFES Recovery Funding website

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