GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

Activation Process

Information for local governments and state government agencies

This fact sheet is for local governments (LGs) and state government agencies (SGAs). It explains the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) activation process and outlines the steps LGs and SGAs should take if they are impacted by a disaster that may be eligible for activation under the DRFAWA.

When can the DRFAWA be activated?

The DRFAWA can only be activated if a disaster is deemed eligible under the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA).

To be eligible, the disaster event must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. The event was either a defined natural disaster or a terrorist act.

   A natural disaster is one, or a combination, of the following rapid-onset events: bushfire, earthquake, flood, storm, cyclone, storm surge, landslide, tsunami, meteorite strike or tornado.

   A terrorist act is determined by the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the DRFA.
2. A coordinated, multi-agency response was required; and
3. Estimated eligible State expenditure for emergency assistance and/or damage to essential public assets (EPAs) exceeds the Commonwealth's small disaster criterion, currently $240,000.

What to do if impacted by a disaster?

1. Contact the DFES Recovery Funding Team on 1800 920 659 or drfawa.dfes.wa.gov.au as soon as possible to discuss the situation.
2. Complete and submit a Preliminary Event Notification (PEN) form through the Recovery Funding Portal as soon as possible after the event. The PEN form should include:
   - details of the natural disaster or terrorist act;
   - known disaster impacts, including supporting evidence that confirms the nature of the event, extent of damage and any direct consequences;
   - evidence that a coordinated, multi-agency response was required; and
   - estimated costs for eligible assistance and/or essential public assets (EPA) reconstruction works required as a direct result of the event.
3. DFES uses PEN forms submitted by LGs and SGAs to help determine whether the eligibility criteria for DRFAWA activation have been met.

Collecting impact and damage evidence

The DRFAWA is an evidence-based program. LGs and SGAs should begin documenting disaster impacts, response activities and associated costs as soon as it is safe to do so. This will support any future request for reimbursement under the DRFAWA.

Where EPAs have been damaged, supporting material should clearly show the location, nature and extent of damage caused as a direct result of the eligible disaster. Applications must also include relevant pre-disaster condition evidence to demonstrate the asset's condition before the event.

For more information on evidence requirements for EPA repair or reconstruction, refer to the DRFAWA Fact Sheet: *Evidentiary Requirements for Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets*.

Further information about the different categories of EPAR works is available in the DRFAWA Fact Sheet: *Essential Public Assets – Categories of Reconstruction Works*.

Who manages the activation process?

DFES manages the DRFAWA activation process on behalf of the Western Australian Government and coordinates communications with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Commonwealth agency responsible for the DRFA.

If DFES determines the event activation criteria have been met, it notifies NEMA of the event and the assistance measures proposed by the State. A joint Commonwealth and WA Government media statement may be released to confirm activation.

A DRFAWA Activation Notice and Fact Sheet is published on the DFES Recovery Funding website and shared with relevant stakeholders. The notice includes the Australian Government Reference Number (AGRN) allocated to the event. The AGRN should be referenced in all communications, claims and funding applications to DFES for that event. The notice also outlines key timeframes for DRFAWA application and claim processes.

Can a LG or SGA be included after an event has been activated?

Yes. Additional eligible LGs and SGAs may be added to an activation after the event has been activated, where approved by DFES. Contact the DFES Recovery Funding Team to discuss whether a LG or SGA can be included in an existing activation.

Further information and contacts

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

💻 DFES Recovery Funding website

☎ Phone: 1800 920 659

✉ Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au