GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

Essential Repairs to Housing

Information for local governments and state government agencies

This fact sheet provides local governments (LGs) and state government agencies (SGAs) with an overview of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) Category A assistance for essential repairs to housing including when costs may be eligible for reimbursement.

Category A: Essential repairs to housing, including temporary repairs and repairs necessary to restore housing to a habitable condition (clause 4.2.2.c)

This assistance is intended to support individuals whose homes have been directly damaged by an eligible disaster and who need to undertake essential repairs that make the home safe, secure and habitable, where they do not have the means to fund those repairs themselves. Examples of assistance that may be eligible include:

- Safety inspections.
- Temporary repairs, such as tarping damaged roofs and covering broken windows.
- Permanent structural repairs, including roof repairs and structural support repairs.
- Reconnecting essential household services, e.g. repairs to water, gas, electricity and sewerage.

Assistance is considered on a case-by-case basis and is subject to income and asset testing.

Who provides this assistance?

Under Western Australia's State Emergency Management Arrangements, the Department of Communities is the support organisation responsible for the coordination and provision of emergency relief and support services.

LGs may support delivery in some circumstances; however, any assistance provided for potential DRFAWA reimbursement should be undertaken in consultation with, and with the agreement of, the Department of Communities. For support, contact the Emergency On-Call Officer on 0418 943 835. Other response-related agencies may be involved in delivering this assistance, where appropriate.

What costs may be eligible?

Costs incurred by LGs or SGAs may be eligible for reimbursement where the expenditure is necessary, reasonable, directly related to an eligible disaster and supported by appropriate records. Subject to assessment, examples may include:

- Engaging additional temporary personnel or service providers, such as a private company to undertake safety checks or repair works.
- Operational costs, including consumables such as ropes and tarpaulins.
- Additional salary, wage, plant and equipment costs directly attributable to eligible disaster activities, such as:
    - Overtime for state and local government employees, outside normal working hours.
    - Employment costs for contractors or temporary (fixed term) employees as well as other associated costs such as travel expenses, accommodation and on costs including superannuation and workers compensation.
    - Eligible costs of backfilling employees who have been seconded to assist with eligible disaster activities.
    - Additional fuel and maintenance costs required as a direct consequence of using internal plant and equipment.

Do timeframes apply to this assistance?

The Department of Communities manages the timeframes associated with the delivery of this assistance in liaison with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, as the administrator of the DRFAWA. Availability is assessed based on whether the assistance is necessary, reasonable and directly related to the eligible disaster.

Evidence required to make a claim

Costs for this assistance must be related to eligible repairs (that is, repairs are associated with direct damage from the eligible disaster and are necessary to make the home safe and habitable).

Supporting documentation should include invoices, evidence of payment, records of approvals or decisions to provide assistance, and itemised cost information that clearly identifies:

- the AGRN, activated local government area, dates and location of assistance, and the applicant delivering or incurring the cost;
- the goods or services provided, who was assisted, and why the assistance was required as a direct result of the eligible disaster;
- relevant cost breakdowns, staff timesheets, contractor records, travel, accommodation, plant or other operational records, where applicable; and
- confirmation that costs have not been recovered, reimbursed, donated, insured or claimed under another assistance, grant or funding program.

Further information and contacts

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

💻 DFES Recovery Funding website

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