Australian Government | GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA | DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

Essential Public Asset Reconstruction (EPAR)-Lite

Information for local governments and state government agencies

This fact sheet is for local government (LG) and state government agency (SGA) asset owners/operators. It provides guidance on when and how asset owners/operators can undertake essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR) works using EPAR-Lite.

Overview

Under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) to-date, permanent reconstruction works on essential public assets (EPA)(s) have been undertaken using Immediate Reconstruction Works (IRW) or EPAR works.

In late 2025, the National Emergency Management Agency offered jurisdictions an alternative, scalable assistance approach that replaces immediate reconstruction works where the total estimated cost of reconstruction on all damaged assets for a LG or SGA is less than $5 million. Western Australia has opted into this approach.

This fact sheet must be read in conjunction with DRFAWA fact sheets: *Evidence Requirements for Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets* and *Essential Public Assets – Categories of Reconstruction Works.*

What is EPAR-Lite?

EPAR-Lite are reconstruction works on EPA(s) damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster, to permanently reconstruct the damaged asset to its pre-disaster condition and function, where the total estimated cost of reconstruction works on all damaged EPAs for the LG/SGA is less than $5 million.

Where the total estimated cost of the reconstruction works for all damaged assets is less than $5 million, the asset owner/operator can commence the reconstruction works immediately where:

- a detailed damage assessment, proposed scope of works and estimated cost of reconstruction at the asset level have been submitted to DFES Recovery Funding, and
- the asset owner/operator has verified:
  - that all the EPAR-Lite evidence requirements can be met and will be provided to support their claim for reimbursement of eligible costs on completion of the works, and
  - they will only reconstruct the asset to its pre-disaster condition and function, on a like-for-like basis.

Key features of EPAR-Lite

- May or may not follow Emergency Works.
- No approval is required from DFES Recovery Funding. Works may commence immediately on the basis that asset owner/operator has provided DFES:
  - a detailed damage assessment, proposed scope of works and estimated cost of reconstruction at the asset level; and
  - verification that all evidentiary requirements for EPAR-Lite have been met.
- Works must be completed within 24 months from the end of the financial year in which the event occurred.
- Asset Reconstruction Working Capital, being 30% of the estimated cost of reconstruction may be requested on submission of the detailed damage assessment, proposed scope of works and estimated cost of reconstruction, and verification process. DFES will pay this at the commencement of reconstruction works.
- Recovery Funding will continue to work with asset owners/operators to help them in meeting their DRFAWA requirements.

Eligible reconstruction works

- Asset owner/operator can only reconstruct a damaged EPA to its pre-disaster condition and function, on a like-for-like basis.
- Works that increase capacity, level of service, or provide betterment are not eligible, unless explicitly required to meet legislated codes and standards, or approved under a separate resilience/betterment initiative.

Claiming and eligible expenditure

- Eligible reconstruction works are those that permanently reconstruct the EPA(s) to its pre-disaster condition and function.
- Claims submissions must be submitted within 60 calendar days of the work being completed.
- Claiming is based on actual eligible expenditure only (excluding GST).
- Expenditure must meet the definition of State expenditure under the DRFAWA and be incurred within the event Allowable Time Limit (ATL) of two years-years from the end of the financial year the event occurred.

Scope changes during delivery

Scope changes may occur during project delivery providing the following conditions are met:

- The total project cost remains $5 million or less.
- The expenditure is incurred within the event ATL. Requests for ATL extensions can be made, where works have not been able to be completed due to exceptional circumstances.

- The scope change does not reconstruct the damaged EPA beyond pre-disaster condition and function, on a like-for-like basis.

EPAR-Lite funding limit

- The EPAR-Lite $5 million funding limit is non-negotiable.
- Any expenditure above $5 million is ineligible for reimbursement. LGs or SGAs will be responsible for any expenditure that exceeds $5 million.
- Projects initially estimated to exceed $5 million must progress through the standard EPAR application process.

EPAR-Lite applications

EPAR-Lite applications are to be submitted using the DFES Recovery Funding Portal. All documents must be prepared using the DFES Recovery Funding templates for EPAR-Lite.

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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