GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DRFAWA FACT SHEET

Counter Disaster Operations

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

This fact sheet provides guidance on the practical application of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) Category A for counter disaster operations including when costs may be eligible for reimbursement.

Category A: Extraordinary Counter Disaster Operations for the benefit of an affected individual (clause 4.2.2.f)

Extraordinary counter disaster operations are activities only undertaken prior to, during or immediately after an event. This assistance is intended to support individuals who are under threat from, or who have been directly affected by, an eligible disaster. Examples of assistance that may be eligible include:

- Search and rescue operations.
- Evacuation of threatened/affected people.
- Sandbagging and/or construction of portable/temporary levees/flood barriers to prevent inundation of residential properties.
- Bushfire response activities to directly assist an individual.
- Tree bracing to protect damage to residential properties.
- Rapid damage assessment on residential properties.
- Residential water safety testing.
- Cleaning and refilling potable water systems and septic tanks.
- Establishment of temporary access routes to allow individuals to return home or to undertake any of the above activities.

Who provides the assistance?

Local governments are primarily responsible for administering this assistance measure, however other response related agencies may provide this assistance as required. For example, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and their volunteers such as the State Emergency Service or the WA Police.

What costs may be eligible?

Costs incurred by local governments or state government agencies 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 service providers to undertake tree bracing activities.
- Non-capital expenses incurred while undertaking eligible CDO activities including tarpaulins, ropes, chainsaw chains, fuel and fire retardant.
- Hire of plant and equipment.
- 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.

What criteria applies to this Category A assistance measure?

Assistance is only eligible for reimbursement under the DRFAWA where an event is activated as an eligible disaster and the relevant local government area is included in the activation.

In order to claim this assistance measure, the event must be significant in nature and scale. The State must be able to demonstrate that the costs are extraordinary, which is defined as:

- a significant incident that requires a large-scale response or where multiple incidents have occurred; and
- where local governments have contributed their own resources in the immediate days following the event, or state government agencies have been required to apply for supplementary funding.

Evidence required to make a claim

Claims must be supported by sufficient information and evidence to demonstrate the link between the eligible disaster, the emergency assistance provided and the expenditure claimed.

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 approvals, supplier invoices, proof of payment, cost breakdowns, staff timesheets or plant records where applicable; and
- confirmation that costs have not been recovered, reimbursed, donated, insured, or claimed under other assistance, grant or funding program.

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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