

C1681

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Question Without Notice**

28 November 2023

Hon Martin Aldridge MLC to the Minister for Emergency Services.

My question without notice of which some notice has been given is to the Minister for Emergency Services.

I refer to recovery funding and support in the aftermath of the Mariginiup bushfire, and I ask:

1. Please identify the recovery funding and support measures which have been made available to impacted residents to date?
2. Where can people access information about this recovery support?
3. What category of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) assistance has been made available for this event?
4. Please table the DRFA Activation for the Mariginiup Bushfire and any request from the State Government to the Commonwealth in respect to this activation.

Answer

1. Premier's Relief Payments (PRP) and the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) have been activated for impacted households.
2. The information is in tabular form and I seek leave to have it incorporated into Hansard.
3. Category A and Category B assistance measures have been made available under the DRFA activation.
4. I table the document. This activation can also be found on the DFES website.

**Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; INNOVATION
AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY; SCIENCE; MEDICAL RESEARCH**

| | |
|---|--|
| Department of Fire and Emergency Services State Recovery | 1800 490 678 recoverygrants@dfes.wa.gov.au |
| Department of Fire and Emergency Services Recovery Funding | 1800 920 659 |
| Premier's Relief Payment | Application Portal: dfes.smartygrants.com.au/premiersreliefM |
| Department of Communities | 1800 032 965 |



DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS ACTIVATION OF AN ELIGIBLE DISASTER NOTICE AND FACT SHEET

AGRN 1082 - MARIGINIUP BUSHFIRE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (22 November 2023 onwards) (V1)

This document details the activation of an eligible disaster under the joint Commonwealth and Western Australian Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA), and the assistance measures available for the impacted local government areas.

DRFAWA OVERVIEW

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (2018) (DRFA) is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments and is designed as a safety net to provide eligible assistance to communities directly impacted by an eligible disaster.

In Western Australia, the DRFAWA is administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and is the State's application of the Commonwealth Government's DRFA.

The DRFAWA may not cover all possible relief and recovery requirements, nor are they intended to replace or act as a disincentive for self-help, insurance or the implementation of other mitigation and resilience strategies.

EVENT ACTIVATION

The Mariginiup Bushfire was reported at 13:09 on 22/11/2023, south of Underwood Road in Melaleuca. The fire initially burnt through young pine plantations, rapidly developing with significant spotting propagating the fire spread. The fire had travelled approximately 10.5 km west of its ignition point by the evening of the 22/11/2023 and by the morning of 24/11/23 had burnt through approximately 2000ha with a perimeter of 60kms and is 10.7km long east to west and 2km wide. Impacts included damage to residential, non-residential buildings, infrastructure, businesses and significant areas of vegetation.

"Bushfire" is deemed to be an eligible natural disaster event, pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the DRFA.

Pursuant to clause 5.1 of the DRFA issued by the Commonwealth, an eligible disaster has been activated under the DRFAWA on 24 November 2023.

Further information about DRFAWA:

Ph: 1800 920 659

Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery



Australian Government



This activated eligible disaster will be referred to as **AGRN 1082 - Mariginiup Bushfire in Western Australia (22 November 2023 onwards)**.

DRFAWA ACTIVATED LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

In response to this eligible disaster, DRFAWA assistance has been activated in the following local government area/s:

Included on 24 November 2023:

- City of Wanneroo
- City of Swan

The last page of this document contains a map showing the activated local government areas. If information becomes available that identifies other local government areas as potentially having been directly impacted by this eligible disaster, subject to further assessment and agreement from the Commonwealth, these local government areas may subsequently be included in this activation.

DRFAWA ASSISTANCE MEASURES ACTIVATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The different types of funding assistance that can be made available under the DRFAWA for eligible disasters are referred to as assistance or eligible measures and these are broken down into four main categories:

- **Category A** includes emergency assistance for communities, individuals and families.
- **Category B** includes assistance to small businesses and primary producers, state government agencies and local governments, including assistance to repair essential public assets and counter disaster operations.
- **Category C** is intended to support a holistic approach to the recovery of regions, communities or sectors severely affected by an eligible disaster. This assistance may be provided via community recovery funds and/or recovery grants for small businesses and primary producers due to exceptional circumstances.
- **Category D** assistance is made available to alleviate distress or damage due to exceptional circumstances.

Assistance measures are provided based on the needs identified when an eligible disaster event occurs and therefore may be different each time the DRFAWA is activated. The DRFAWA assistance measures described below are typically made available, as needed, when an eligible disaster is activated. You can contact the relevant agency listed below for further information on what assistance measures are available for this eligible disaster.

Further information about DRFAWA:

Ph: 1800 920 659

Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery



Category A – Assistance for Individuals & Families

This emergency assistance is primarily administered by the WA Department of Communities to help support eligible individuals and families who need assistance to meet their immediate and essential needs as a direct result of the eligible disaster and this may include:

- Emergency accommodation
- Emergency food provision
- Emergency clothing and personal effects
- Personal or financial support services.

Note: Some of these assistance measures may be subject to income and/or asset testing.

Further information and contacts

Department of Communities Disaster and Emergency Support Services:

☎ 1800 032 965

💻 [Click here](#)

Other assistance that may be provided by applicable delivery agencies may include the replacement of essential household contents, housing repairs to return housing to a safe and habitable condition, removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable and/or extraordinary counter disaster operations for the benefit of an affected individual.

Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Recovery Funding:

☎ 1800 920 659

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

💻 [Click here](#)

Category B – Assistance for Local Government & State Government Agencies

Emergency Works

Emergency works (EW) are urgent clean-up and repair activities necessary to temporarily restore an essential public asset to enable it to operate/be operated at an acceptable level of efficiency to support the immediate recovery of a community. EW need to be carried out within three (3) months from the date the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.

EW should be followed by immediate reconstruction works (IRW) or essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR) works to fully reconstruct an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function.

Further information about DRFAWA:

Ph: 1800 920 659

Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery



Immediate Reconstruction Works

IRW are activities carried out to fully reconstruct an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function and occur if no essential public asset reconstruction (EPAR) works, as described below, are required and are carried out within three (3) months from the date the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible disaster.

Note regarding EW and IRW: Works should be minor in scope, extent and complexity and if the estimated expenditure to undertake EW and/or IRW on a single essential public asset exceeds \$250,000, DFES should be notified as soon as possible for additional guidance, as EPAR works requirements may apply.

Essential Public Asset Reconstruction

EPAR works allows for an essential public asset directly damaged by an eligible disaster, or an essential public asset re-damaged by an eligible disaster to be fully reconstructed to its pre-disaster function.

The reconstruction of an essential public asset under this assistance measure must be based on the estimated reconstruction cost developed in accordance with the DRFAWA and approved by the DFES.

Counter Disaster Operations for the Protection of the General Public

This assistance measure provides for extraordinary costs associated with counter disaster operations carried out to protect communities from the eligible disaster. It ensures public health and safety in public areas were carried out to reduce the need for other forms of assistance under the arrangements (i.e., to reduce state expenditure on other assistance measures).

Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Recovery Funding:

☎ 1800 920 659

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

🖱 Click [here](#)

Category B – Assistance for Primary Producers

This assistance is primarily administered by the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to help support eligible primary producers who need assistance due to damage from an eligible disaster. For most eligible disasters, assistance measures include reimbursement grants for eligible primary producers:

- Professional advice
- Freight subsidy
- Interest rate subsidy on a new loan to recover from damage from an eligible disaster.

Further information about DRFAWA:

Ph: 1800 920 659

Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery



Australian Government



Further information and contacts

Department of WA Primary Industries and Regional Development:

☎ 1300 374 731

💻 Click [here](#)

Category B – Assistance for Small Businesses

Interest Rate Subsidy

This assistance is administered by DFES and provides an interest rate subsidy on a new loan to support eligible small businesses recover due to damage from an eligible disaster.

Further information and contacts

Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Recovery Funding:

☎ 1800 920 659

✉ drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

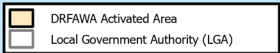
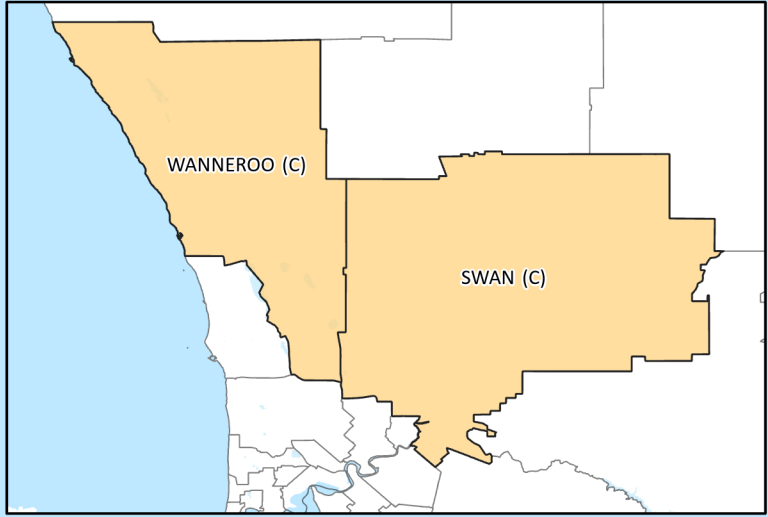
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Further information about DRFAWA:

Ph: 1800 920 659

Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

Website: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery



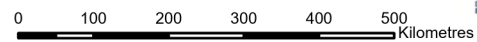
DRFAWA AGRN 1082 Activated Local Government Areas

DISCLAIMER: All information depicted in this map is correct as of date of creation. DFES does not accept any responsibilities for assumptions made after this date.



THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

1:10,060,000 when printed at A4



Map created by DFES Intelligence Systems
Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Drawn on 27/11/2023
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