

16/2  
T/P

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Thursday, 16 February 2023**

**C096. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Emergency Services**

I refer to the activation of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) in response to Tropical Cyclone Ellie and associated flooding, and I ask:

1. Please table the State Government request to the Australian Government for DRFA activation;
2. Please table the Australian Government response in relation to (1);
3. How many applications have been made for the WA Freight Resupply Subsidy for 'essential consumer goods'; and
4. Is the Minister aware of the need to support freight exports from the Kimberley region and is he considering extending support for this purpose?

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**Answer**

1. The process for requesting DRFA activation happens at a department level, as a preliminary notification to the Commonwealth Government. I table the attached DRFA Notification Form.
2. I table the attached DRFAWA Eligible Disaster Proclamation Notification.
3. As at 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 33 applications have been received.
4. The Western Australian State Government is investigating the necessary support packages for the Kimberley region.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES; INNOVATION  
AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY; MEDICAL RESEARCH; VOLUNTEERING**



# Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018

## ATTACHMENT A – Notification Form

In accordance with clause 5.1.1 of the *Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018* (the *arrangements*), when an *eligible disaster* occurs and the relevant *state* knows, or expects, the *eligible disaster* to be an *eligible disaster* the *state must* notify the *department* of that fact within three (3) months. The *state must* do this by submitting a completed Notification Form to Emergency Management Australia (EMA).

### How to complete the Notification Form

Throughout the form, red text brackets denote where *state* input is required: **^example^**. *States must* ensure that the following sections of the Notification Form are completed in full and provided to EMA:

- **Section 1 – Event Details**

The information provided in Section 1 of this form will be used to inform the *Commonwealth* about the *eligible disaster*. Please provide a detailed description of the event including, but not limited to, the impacts/damage caused and how it meets the definition of an *eligible disaster* in accordance with clause 1.1 of the *arrangements*.

- **Section 2 – Assistance Measures**

The information provided in Section 2 of this form will be used to inform the *Commonwealth* about the assistance measures the *states* intend to claim cost against in relation to the notified event. Please list the notified Local Government Areas (LGA) and identify the assistance measures being made available under Categories A and B. *States must* clearly identify the assistance measures they intend to claim against, by using a cross (☒) and/or dating accordingly.

Assistance approved by the *Commonwealth* under Categories C and D (including dollar amounts) will be completed in the Notification Form by EMA and provided to the *state* via a supplementary Notification Form.

- **Section 3 – Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA) Event Factsheet**

The information provided in Section 3 will help *states* to develop a jointly branded factsheet that can be used by both the *Commonwealth* and notifying *state*. The factsheet must include detailed descriptions of the assistance measures including advice on how affected individuals and communities can access assistance (e.g. contact details for administering agencies/hotlines).

Factsheet content examples are provided in Section 3 of this form, these examples are intended to assist *states* to provide detailed information to the *Commonwealth* about the assistance measures available under the *arrangements* in response to the notified event. *States must* provide a factsheet to the *Commonwealth* at the time of submitting the completed Notification Form. The factsheet template is available on Zeus as an attachment to this Notification Form.

The assistance measures in this section should align with the information provided in Section 2 of this Notification Form, except for instances where *states* do not wish to publicly announce certain measures.

In accordance with clause 5.3.1 of the *arrangements*, *states must* provide the *Commonwealth* with details of all *eligible measures* which may be available during the financial year in response to an *eligible disaster*. Completion of Section 3 of this Notification Form will ensure the *state* complies with this clause.

- **Section 4 – Public Announcement**

The information provided in Section 4 of this form will be used to inform the *Commonwealth* about whether the *state* wishes to issue a media release to announce the assistance being made available under the *arrangements*. In accordance with clause 5.2.1 of the *arrangements*, the announcement of an *eligible measure* or *eligible measures must* be through a joint media release, or other joint announcement, unless otherwise agreed by the *Commonwealth*. Where the *state* requests the urgent release of a media announcement, it is the responsibility of the *state* to provide a draft joint *Commonwealth-state* Government media release to EMA to announce the assistance.

### **Supplementary notifications**

If a *state* activates additional assistance measures or extends assistance to more LGA in response to an eligible event, an updated supplementary Notification Form and factsheet *must* be submitted to EMA. All sections of the Notification Form and factsheet *must* be updated to reflect the extension of notified assistance measures and LGA. Additional notified assistance measures and LGA *must* be highlighted or dated accordingly, to distinguish the supplementary assistance being activated.

### **Submitting a completed Notification Form**

When complete, please delete all ^red text^ and email to [recovery@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:recovery@homeaffairs.gov.au) and copy in the relevant *state* recovery liaison officer and the Director, Disaster Recovery Programmes Section.

If *states* require assistance completing this form, or have related enquiries, please contact [recovery@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:recovery@homeaffairs.gov.au) or the relevant *state* recovery liaison officer.

Where possible, the *state* should give advanced notice to their *state* recovery liaison officer about a potential or forthcoming event notifications. This will assist with the timely processing of the Notification Form.

Once processed, the *state* will receive confirmation from the *department*, including the Australian Government Reference Number (AGRN) for the event.

Please note that EMA may come back to the *state* to request additional information to assist with the processing of the notification.



## DRFA Notification Form

The information provided in this Notification Form will be used to inform the Australian Government regarding this eligible event and the activation of DRFA assistance. Please provide as much detail as possible to support this notification. Throughout the form, red text brackets denote where state input is required:

SECTION 1 - EVENT DETAILS													
Notification Version Number	V1 (Form to be updated as required as the disaster event continues)												
State	Western Australia												
Name and date of <i>eligible disaster</i>	<b>Event name:</b> Ex TC Ellie and Associated Flooding <b>Date event occurred:</b> 28 December 2022 onwards <b>Date event finished (if applicable):</b> TBC												
Type of disaster (please select by checking the appropriate box/es)	<table><tbody><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Bushfire</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Storm surge</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Terrorist act</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Landslide</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Tornado</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Meteorite strike</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storm</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cyclone</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bushfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Storm surge	<input type="checkbox"/> Terrorist act	<input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake	<input type="checkbox"/> Landslide	<input type="checkbox"/> Tornado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood	<input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami	<input type="checkbox"/> Meteorite strike	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storm	<input type="checkbox"/> Cyclone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bushfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Storm surge	<input type="checkbox"/> Terrorist act											
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood	<input type="checkbox"/> Tsunami	<input type="checkbox"/> Meteorite strike											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Storm	<input type="checkbox"/> Cyclone												
Please provide an overview of the <i>eligible disaster</i> . <b>Note:</b> supplementary notification forms must include further impact information in support of the extension of assistance and additional notified LGA (if applicable).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ex - Tropical Cyclone Ellie crossed into the Kimberley region of Western Australia from the Northern Territory on 28/12/022 as a slow-moving tropical low. The low has been slowly tracking west across the Kimberley region resulting in significant rainfall and flooding across the region.</li><li>Daily rainfall totals of 20 - 80 mm with isolated heavier falls were initially recorded in the East Kimberley areas between the 28 December to 30 December 2022.</li><li>Since the 30 December 2022 widespread rainfall totals between 200-500mm have been recorded across the Kimberley Region, particularly in the Fitzroy River Catchment Area with further widespread heavy falls forecast for the next few days.</li><li>Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie is currently centred just east of Broome with heavy rainfall and strong winds impacting the area.</li><li>Major flooding is occurring along the Fitzroy River to Fitzroy Crossing, where the river at Fitzroy Crossing peaked at 15.81 meters on the 4 January 2023 which exceeds the previous record flood level of 13.95 in 2002.</li><li>Major flooding is occurring along the Fitzroy River from Fitzroy Crossing to Noonkanbah where the river at Noonkanbah is currently at 12.34 meters (5 January 2023), with the possibility of reaching 14.00 meters by Friday 6 January.</li><li>Flooding is predicted to occur further down the Fitzroy River between Noonkanbah to Willare where it is predicted to exceed the minor flood level of 8 meters by Saturday 7 January.</li></ul>												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River rises and areas of flooding are adversely affecting road conditions in the region with many roads impassable and damaged, homes, other buildings and businesses inundated, communities isolated and people displaced and evacuated.</li> <li>• 200mm of rain observed in Broome in last 24 hours prior to 4am 4/01/23, with 2 more days of similar falls expected.</li> <li>• Gail force winds are also impacting the Shire of Broome including the townsite of Broome.</li> </ul> <p>The event was declared a Level 3 Incident by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services on 3/1/2023 at 9:30am. Level 3 is the highest level as this event was assessed as such due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requiring significant coordination of a multi-agency response;</li> <li>• there is a protracted response duration;</li> <li>• resources need to be sourced from multiple levels (for example, State, National or International level);</li> <li>• there is a high level of complexity;</li> <li>• there is a significant - actual or imminent impact on critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• there is a significant impact on the community (social, built, economic and natural);</li> <li>• evacuation and/or relocation of community is required;</li> <li>• there is an actual or potential loss of life or multiple, serious injuries; and</li> <li>• declaration of an 'Emergency Situation' has occurred.</li> </ul>
<b>Specific impacts on each of the notified Local Government Areas</b>	<p><b>Impacts experienced across the Kimberley, including in the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, Shire of Broome, Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across the Kimberley region river rises and areas of flooding has adversely affected communities, roads and other infrastructure with many roads impassable and damaged; homes, other buildings and businesses inundated and damaged; communities isolated; and/or people displaced and evacuated.</li> <li>• Current state road closures include (Main Roads WA – 5/1/2023): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gibb River Road: Meda Turn off – West Kimberley and Great Northern Highway</li> <li>○ Great Northern Hwy between Derby/Great Northern Hwy intersection and Fitzroy Crossing</li> <li>○ Great Northern Hwy between Brooking Channel Bridge and Fitzroy Crossing Lodge</li> <li>○ Great Northern Hwy between Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek at Two Mile and Blue Bush, 10km east of Fitzroy Crossing</li> <li>○ Great Northern Highway: Roebuck Roadhouse and Willare Roadhouse</li> <li>○ The Fitzroy River Bridge at Fitzroy Crossing has suffered structural damage and can't be crossed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A significant number of local roads in the region are currently closed or have been closed due to the event.</li> <li>• A large number of communities and towns across the region have been isolated, inundated and/or had access significantly disrupted, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fitzroy Crossing</li> <li>○ Broome</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Derby</li> <li>○ Burawa</li> <li>○ Bungardi</li> <li>○ Ngumpan</li> <li>○ Willare</li> <li>○ Mt Barnett</li> <li>○ Camballin</li> <li>○ Noonkanbah</li> <li>○ Towns and communities east of Fitzroy Crossing</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telstra has reported failures across the network within the Kimberly region.</li> <li>• Power supplies have been disrupted.</li> <li>• Road closures and the weather throughout the region is causing disruption to supply chains, including the supply of food and other goods to towns and communities.</li> </ul> <p>Given the response phase is still underway and due to flooding and weather conditions it has not been possible to assess the full extent of damage, but information in relation to event related impacts will continue to be collected from local governments and agencies in the region.</p>
<b>Please provide detailed advice in relation to the multi-agency response required in response to the event.</b>	<p>Agencies involved include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Fire and Emergency Services</li> <li>• Kimberley SES/VFES</li> <li>• WA Police</li> <li>• Main Roads WA</li> <li>• Local Governments</li> <li>• Department of Communities</li> <li>• Water Corporation</li> <li>• Commonwealth Government / Defence Force</li> <li>• WA Country Health Service</li> <li>• RFDS</li> <li>• DWER</li> <li>• Telstra</li> <li>• Horizon Power</li> </ul>

Has the *state* taken appropriate steps to know, or expect, that the event will exceed the *small disaster criterion*?

☐ No   ☒ Yes



SECTION 2 – DRFA ASSISTANCE MEASURES

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 - Category A and Category B assistance available: State to list all LGA and state agencies affected by the event and indicate the assistance measures being provided in the table below.

	Category A							Category B																					
Notified LGA/State agency  (LGA to be listed in alphabetical order)	Personal hardship & distress			Demolition or rebuilding	Removal of debris	Extraordinary Counter disaster operations	Personal & financial counselling	Community Recovery Officer	Counter Disaster Operations	Reconstruction of Essential Public Asset			Loans for small businesses				Loans for primary producers				Loans for non-profit organisations				Loans for needy individuals		Freight subsidy to primary producer	Grants to non-profit org.	Grants to needy individuals
	4.2.2 (a)	4.2.2 (b)	4.2.2 (c)	4.2.2 (d)	4.2.2 (e)	4.2.2 (f)	4.2.2 (g)	4.2.2 (h)	4.3.2 (a)	4.3.2 (b)	4.3.2 (c)	4.3.2 (d)	4.3.2 (e)	4.3.2 (g)	4.3.2 (h)	4.3.2 (j)	4.3.2 (e)	4.3.2 (g)	4.3.2 (h)	4.3.2 (j)	4.3.2 (f)	4.3.2 (g)	4.3.2 (i)	4.3.2 (j)	4.3.2 (f)	4.3.2 (i)	4.3.2 (k) (4.3.35)	4.3.2 (l) (4.3.36-4.3.37)	4.3.2 (l) (4.3.36-4.3.37)
										(4.3.4-4.3.7)	(4.3.8-4.3.9)	(4.3.10-4.3.11)	(4.3.14-4.3.15)	(4.3.19-4.3.22)	(4.3.28-4.3.29)	(4.3.32-4.3.34)	(4.3.14-4.3.15)	(4.3.19-4.3.22)	(4.3.28-4.3.29)	(4.3.32-4.3.34)	(4.3.16-4.3.18)	(4.3.19-4.3.22)	(4.3.30-4.3.31)	(4.3.32-4.3.34)	(4.3.16-4.3.18)	(4.3.3-4.3.31)			
										Emergency Works	Immediate Works	Estimated Reconstruction Cost	Concessional interest rate loan		Interest rate subsidy		Concessional interest rate loan		Interest rate subsidy		Concessional interest rate loan		Interest rate subsidy		Concessional interest rate loan	Interest rate subsidy			
										Direct damage	Loss of income	Direct damage	Loss of income	Direct damage	Loss of income	Direct damage	Loss of income	Direct Damage	Loss of income	Direct damage	Loss of income	Direct damage	Loss of income	Direct damage	Direct damage				
Shire of Derby West Kimberley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X								X		
Shire of Broome	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X								X		
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X								X		
Shire of Halls Creek	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				X								X		
Indicative cost (\$)	>\$240,000																												

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 - Category C and Category D assistance available: EMA to list the assistance under Categories C and D (including amount) that has been approved by the Australian Government.

LGA/ State agency	Category C			Category D
	Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Clause 4.4.2 (a)	Clean up and recovery grants - small business and non-profit organisations Clause 4.4.2 (b)	Clean up and recovery grants – primary producers Clause 4.4.2 (c)	
^LGA (community or region or sector) e.g. Dorset/state agency^	^Please provide a description of the agreed community recovery fund including the date agreed, components of the fund and amounts^	^Please include the date of agreement and the amounts of the grants^	^Please include the date of agreement and the amounts of the grants^	^Please provide a description of the agreed Category D measure including the date agreed, components of the fund and amounts^
^Insert rows as required^				

Indicative total cost of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 measures  
Please provide the total indicative state cost on assistance measures identified in this form: >\$240,000

Authorisation

I certify that the event notified in this form is an eligible disaster that required a coordinated multi-agency and community response, on which state expenditure on eligible measures is expected to exceed the small disaster criterion in accordance with clauses 1.1 and 5.1 of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018.

Name: Robbie Stainton

Position: Manager Disaster Recovery Funding

Department: Department of Fire and Emergency Services WA

Phone: 6392 1639

Signed:

Date:





Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

#### SECTION 4 - PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

##### JOINT COMMONWEALTH-STATE GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

Does the *state* wish to issue a joint Commonwealth-State Government media release to announce assistance for this event?

☐ No ☒ Yes

If the state does not wish to issue a joint media release for this event please complete the below:

Please provide details below as to why the *state* does not wish to issue a joint media release for this event.

N/A

If the state does wish to issue a joint media release for this event please complete the below:

Relevant *state* minister to announce the DRFA assistance.

Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services

Does the *state* wish to issue an urgent media release to announce this assistance?

☐ No ☒ Yes

If **yes**, please attach a draft joint Commonwealth-State Government media release when submitting the completed Notification Form. (A media release template is available on Zeus as an attachment to this Notification Form).

Local government areas and/or assistance measures to be excluded from the media release (if any).

N/A

Does the *state* wish to include relevant state disaster assistance website/s and contact number?

☒ No ☐ Yes



**Australian Government**

**Department of Home Affairs**

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WEBSITE	
Local government areas and/or assistance measures to be excluded from Australian Government website (if any).	N/A



## 2022/23 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

### ***AGRN1044 – EX – TROPICAL CYCLONE ELLIE AND ASSOCIATED FLOODING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (28 DECEMBER 2022 ONWARDS)***

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 5 January 2023, pursuant to clause 5.1 of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) (the *Arrangements 2018*), issued by the Commonwealth Government Department of Home Affairs. The State Government will provide financial assistance to those people who have been affected through joint State and Commonwealth disaster relief and recovery arrangements.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie crossed into Western Australia from the Northern Territory on December 28, 2022 as a slow moving tropical low. The low slowly tracked west across the Kimberley region resulting in significant rainfall and flooding across the region. Widespread rainfall totals between 200 - 500mm were recorded across the Kimberley region with major flooding occurring along the Fitzroy River. Flood levels peaked at Fitzroy Crossing, reaching a record level of 15.81m.

The Great Northern Highway has been significantly impacted by flooding and communities being isolated, including the towns of Fitzroy Crossing, Derby and Broome. Many remote indigenous communities along the Fitzroy River have also been isolated with damage reported to community infrastructure and homes.

Pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the *Arrangements 2018*, ‘Storm’ and “Flood” are deemed to be eligible *natural disaster* events.

For the purposes of the DRFAWA this event will be referred to as ***AGRN1044 Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie and Associated Flooding in Western Australia (28 December 2022 Onwards)***.

DRFAWA is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments and administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), with assistance from other agencies. Through DRFAWA, the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments provide assistance to people who have suffered the direct impact of a proclaimed disaster event.

The Local Government districts currently subject to this proclamation are as follows:

Included 5 January 2023:

- Shire of Broome
- Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Shire of Halls Creek
- Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

If information becomes available that identifies other local government districts as potentially having been directly impacted by this disaster event, subject to further assessment these local government districts may, at a later date, be included in the affected area.

Assistance may be available for the following measures (*where appropriate*) typically covered by the DRFAWA:

- **For individuals and families** – Personal Hardship and Distress grants which are administered by the Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Support Section). Potential measures include

emergency food, accommodation, clothing, temporary living expenses, replacement of essential household contents and housing repairs to return housing to a habitable, safe and secure condition. **Note – some of these measures are subject to income and/or assets testing.**

- **For small businesses** – interest rate subsidies on ‘new’ loans approved by Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions (financial institutions).
- **For Primary Producers** – Assistance may be available toward freight costs, materials for boundary fences (***only where it is demonstrated that public safety is at risk***), professional advice grants and interest rate subsidies on ‘new’ loans approved by Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions. These *eligible measures* are administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Agriculture and Food (Rural Business and Development Group). Note – Primary Producer Claims should be lodged before 28 June 2023.
- **For Local Governments & State Government Agencies** – Clean-up costs and the restoration or replacement (to pre-disaster function) of *essential public assets* including local road damage. State road restoration is through Main Roads Western Australia. Only costs incurred that are ‘additional’ costs, and are directly related to the event, will be eligible for reimbursement.

Note - The *allowable time limit* for eligible on-ground activities related to Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works (EW and IRW), to Essential Public Assets, expires on 28 March 2023.

LG’s wishing to seek an extension to the EW and IRW allowable time limit should contact the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements team to discuss.

Note - The *allowable time limit* for eligible on-ground activities related to Essential Public Asset Restoration Works (EPAR) expires on 30 June 2025.

Claims in respect of any other *eligible measures* may also be considered.

***It should be noted that assistance under the DRFAWA is not designed to supplant or operate as a disincentive for self-help by way of commercial insurance.***

### **Primary Contacts**

Primary contacts for assistance/advice are:

- ☐ Department of Communities, Emergency Services (Child Protection and Family Support) by phone on 1800 032 965, or via website [here](#);
- ☐ Main Roads Western Australia regional offices for road infrastructure via website [here](#);
- ☐ Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Agriculture and Food) Rural Business Development Group, by phone on 1300 374 731 or via website [here](#); and
- ☐ Other enquiries may be directed to the Dept. of Fire and Emergency Services. Contact DRFAWA Administrators by phone on 9395 1642 or 9395 1639, or by email to [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au)

END