



2021/22 DRFAWA ELIGIBLE DISASTER PROCLAMATION NOTIFICATION

AGRN1010 SHACKLETON COMPLEX BUSHFIRE (6-15 FEBRUARY 2022)

The above event has been proclaimed an *eligible disaster* under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, Western Australia (DRFAWA) on 24 February 2022, 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.

The bushfires that began on February 6 burnt through more than 45,000 hectares in WA's Wheatbelt, with the Shire of Corrigin bearing most of the impact. Hundreds of local volunteer firefighters and strike teams from surrounding areas fought to contain the blaze amid high temperatures and strong winds. The efforts of emergency services saw the bushfires contained and controlled by February 10 but both incidents caused significant damage to community and agricultural infrastructure.

Pursuant to subclause 1.1.1 of the *Arrangements 2018*, 'Bushfire' is deemed to be an eligible *natural disaster* event.

For the purposes of the DRFAWA this event will be referred to as '***Shackleton Complex Bushfire (6-15 February 2022)***'.

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 on 24 February 2022

- Corrigin

Included on 16 March 2022

- Bruce Rock

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.

The eligible costs for this event are anticipated to be largely associated with the restoration and replacement of the road network infrastructure and counter disaster activities for the protection of the general public.

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 24 August 2022.

- **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), for Essential Public Assets, expires on 16 May 2022.

LGs 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 2024.

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 9994 or 9395 9949, or by email to drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

END