

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – DRFA

What is DRFA-WA and why was it established?

The Commonwealth Government established the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to assist the recovery of communities who have had their social, financial, and economic well-being severely affected by a natural disaster. While primary responsibility for safeguarding and restoring public and private assets affected by natural disasters rests with the owner, who should always plan for the uncertainties of nature, DRFA recognises that disaster affected communities do not always have the resources to provide for their own recovery.

DRFA-WA is the Western Australian component and is administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the State Government and delivered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on behalf of DFES assistance measures to primary producers.

What assistance measures can be made available to primary producers under DRFA-WA?

Support measures are made available after a declared event. There are a range of measures that can be invoked for primary producers, including grants to obtain professional advice, assistance with freight costs, assistance with replacing/restoring fencing to preserve public safety, and interest rate subsidies on new borrowings needed to repair damage caused by the declared event.

For information in relation to the assistance measures refer to the [DRFAWA Fact sheet](#).

Who is a primary producer under DRFA-WA?

For the purposes of DRFA-WA, a primary producer is someone who operates a commercial scale farming, pastoral, horticultural, or fishing business.

Primary production is defined as enterprises listed under the [Australian New Zealand standard Industrial Classification 2006 ANZSIC codes - primary sector industries](#):

- 01 Agriculture
- 02 Aquaculture
- 03 Forestry and Logging
- 04 Fishing, Hunting and Trapping.

What disasters are covered by DRFA-WA?

For the purposes of DRFAWA, eligible disaster types include bushfire, cyclone, tsunami, flood, storm, storm surge, meteorite strike, earthquake, landslide, and tornado.

How will I know if there are any relief measures available to me?

The Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) will announce when a Disaster Event has been activated, specifying the areas eligible and the support measures being provided. Details of which can be found on the [DFES Recovery Funding website](#).

How long will I have after the disaster to lodge an application?

Applications will be accepted for six (6) months following the disaster declaration date, unless otherwise specified by DRFAWA. If any changes occur, details will be published on the DPIRD website.

Can I apply for help if I do not own any farm land?

At the time of an event, an applicant must either own the farm land or hold a current minimum five year (60 months) written agreement to sharefarm or lease the property for the purpose of primary production. If the property is not owned, the applicant must provide, a copy of the lease/sharefarming agreement in their application.

Interest Rate Subsidy

Primary Producers may be eligible to receive an interest rate subsidy on new loans taken out for the purposes of repairing damaged assets or business carry-on costs incurred as a direct result of an eligible disaster. The loan must be provided by an Authorised Deposit taking Institution (ADI), such as a bank, building society or credit union.

Further details on the Interest Rate Subsidy can be found on the DFES [DRFAWA Fact Sheet](#).

What do I need to provide to apply for an Interest Rate Subsidy?

To submit and expression of interest for an Interest Rate Subsidy, you will need to provide your latest Statement of Assets and Liabilities that is less than six (6) months old. It is recommended that you prepare an updated one for submission with your application. This statement should reflect the market value of assets and the actual value of liabilities at the time of lodging your application for all partners, shareholders, and beneficiaries. It should not be based on tax financial statements.

If your statement lacks relevant details, you may be asked to provide additional information. This could include balance sheets and financial statements for the farm enterprise, such as profit and loss statements, trading accounts, and depreciation schedules, to support your application.

Why do I need to provide a current statement of assets and liabilities if I am just expressing my interest in getting an interest subsidy?

Applicants must demonstrate to the satisfaction of DPIRD that funds are not available from within their own resources. It would be expected applicants would have committed all liquid assets and credit sources for normal operation of the business and will need to access extra borrowings to recover from the disaster.

Is there a template I can use for the Statement of Assets and Liabilities?

A template is available under the documents section of the [DPIRD DRFA-WA web page](#). You should save the file to your computer with your business name as the file name. Type in your details where applicable and upload the document when you lodge your application via the online Smartygrants portal.

How do I apply for a grant?

To apply for a grant, complete the online [DPIRD Smartygrants form](#) and upload all relevant documents within six (6) months of the declared date of the event. Relevant documents include photographic evidence of damage incurred, evidence of expenditure and payments including suppliers' tax invoices and receipts, and any other documents that verify the identity and financial status of the business.

If approved, reimbursement payments will be paid directly to your nominated bank account.

By submitting your application, you consent to DPIRD and/or DFES seeking any additional relevant information required to assess and process your application.

Important Disclaimer

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