



Update #7: Wednesday 26 May 2021.

The City has now completed three weeks of visiting rural properties to check in with our residents and provide information and advice. This has proved extremely helpful to enhance the accuracy of DFES' rapid damage assessment role to ascertain the extent of damage across our farming community. If you haven't been visited over the past weeks by a City officer or haven't been home to discuss your circumstances, please feel free to contact the City to talk with a staff member and seek any specific information that you may require.

The City will continue to communicate information and advice via our media channels including website and Facebook, and will look at another round of communication to touch base over coming months to check in during recovery. The City has also arranged for a local contractor (who has geared up with additional resources) to commence clearing road side trees etc. that were downed during the cyclone. Works have commenced and we are hoping that a week will put a large dent in the clean-up but will re-assess as work progresses.

Power Update

The Three Springs to Moora transmission line has been returned to service and work on the Three Springs to Mungarra transmission line was expected to be complete on 22 May.

- The Mungarra to Geraldton transmission line has been restored.

Durawah, Eradu South, Eradu, Wicherina

- The backbone to Mullewa has been restored.
- There are two lines which require significant work in the area.
- Ambania: A small spur line, south of the main Mullewa line, servicing 4 customers, has not yet been restored. Work will commence here on Wednesday 26 May.
- Northern Gully and Durawah: this line has been scoped and there are a number of poles to replace or repair, and powerlines down. There are 29 customers on this line. Work will commence this week and we estimate this line will be back in service by Sunday 30 May.
- Eradu South: this line which heads south from the mainline to Mullewa and crosses the Nangetty-Walkaway Road has been scoped and poles and other equipment has been delivered to site. There are 37 poles to replace and 20 bays of powerline to restrain, servicing 25 customers. Work to replace a pole and insulator is set to commence this week and we aim to have this line in service by Sunday 30 May.
- Work on the spur in the Mullewa area successfully restored power to 7 customers yesterday.
- Crews today anticipate to finish working on the spur lines west of Mullewa and then move on to work on spur lines in the Northern Gully/Durawah area .

- Work is approximately 45% complete in this area.

Northampton, Nabawa, Dongara, Geraldton, Port Denison

- Work is 100% complete in this area and crews are being moved to assist with repairs in the Binu and Ajana areas

DPIRD Survey

Primary Industries Primary producers in the Mid West and Wheatbelt affected by Tropical Cyclone Seroja are urged to complete a survey to inform recovery measures to be made available under the national disaster recovery funding arrangements.

Head to: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/news/announcements/tropical-cyclone-seroja-primary-industries-response>

Read the header 'Primary industries damage assessment/impact survey – NEW' to access the link to the survey. The deadline has been extended to 31 May 2021.

Rural Aid Australia

Rural Aid provides critical support including water, fodder, financial and counselling assistance to help farmers (primary producers) who endure drought, flood and fire.

Are you a farming needing financial assistance? Follow these steps:

1. Register so Rural Aid know what type of support you need, fodder, water, groceries, counselling, workers etc.
2. Once you've registered apply for a once off \$1000 immediate bill assistance.
3. Already registered, apply for a once off \$1000 immediate bill assistance.

Head online to register now: www.ruralaid.org.au/

BlazeAid efforts continue

We would like to extend our ongoing thanks to the tireless work and efforts of the BlazeAid team and volunteers. They have been very active visiting a number of rural properties across Northampton and Chapman Valley, assisting with tree clearing, fencing reinstatement and debris clean up and removal. BlazeAid have now opened up another satellite camp. As well as their site in Yuna, there is now a camp at Oakabella Homestead near Northampton. BlazeAid are still seeking volunteers for their ongoing efforts. Anyone who can offer time to add to the numbers of volunteers and maximise their effort, needs to be at their camp base in Yuna at the Community Centre, or Oakabella Homestead in Northampton by 7.15am to be registered as a volunteer and deployed for the day. Please contact Judy Bland from BlazeAid on 0427 614 546 if you can offer some time to them.

Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund

Payments of \$25,000 will be made available for every house classified as totally destroyed following Tropical Cyclone Seroja cutting a path of destruction through Mid-West communities last month. A further \$10,000 is also available for every property assessed to have suffered major damage making it uninhabitable, such as loss of roofs.

Who is eligible to apply for assistance?

Assistance from the LMDRF Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal is currently available to owner/occupiers and occupiers (tenants) where the property was:

- their primary place of residence;
- impacted by Tropical Cyclone Seroja;
- located within the declared disaster area; and

- either totally destroyed or suffered major damage to property making it uninhabitable.
Only one application per dwelling will be accepted.

Who decides on my claim?

The Board of the Lord Mayor’s Distress Relief Fund will decide on eligibility and the associated level of assistance for individual claims.

What Local Government areas are eligible for assistance through the appeal?

Assistance is available to eligible residents of the following Local Government areas: Carnamah, Chapman Valley, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Greater Geraldton, Mingenew, Morawa, Mount Marshall, Northampton, Perenjori, Shark Bay and Three Springs.

What type of loss may be considered by the LMDRF?

- Grants may only be provided to cover repairs to a primary residence to make them safe and habitable or to replace contents that are irreparably damaged.
- Assistance cannot be paid in respect of damage to cars, boats and caravans (except caravans being used as a primary residence), as it is to be expected that insurance cover would be taken out on these items.
- The Fund is not established to assist business operations that have been impacted by the cyclone.
- If your primary residence is at your place of work, eligibility will only be for personal effects and not business-related losses (such as crop and livestock losses or destroyed machinery).

What are the categories for assistance, so people can start applying?

The Board has reviewed the advice received from the affected Local Governments and Recovery Committees and decided on the following.

Round 1 assistance measures

Owner/occupier	
Total loss of property	Up to \$25,000
Major damage to property making it uninhabitable	Up to \$10,000
Occupier (tenant)	
Total loss of property	Up to \$25,000
Major damage to property making it uninhabitable	Up to \$10,000

It is anticipated that applications will open for acceptance on Monday 31st May 2021, however please keep an eye on the appeals.wa.org.au website for confirmation of this date.

If you need to chat or you’re struggling, Lifeline provide crisis support calls on 13 11 14. You can reach them 24/7 or visit the Lifeline website for resources.

Important Contact Details

Western Power: 13 13 51
 Telstra: 1800 888 888
 Insurance Council: 1800 734 621
 Water Corporation: 13 13 75

Department of Communities’
 Disaster Response Hotline: 1800 032 965
 SES: 13 25 00
 DFES: 13 33 37
 Emergency: 000
 City of Greater Geraldton: 9956 6600

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE ARE EXPERIENCING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT

LIFELINE: 13 11 14 RURALINK: 1800 552 002 SAMARITANS: 135 247 OR 1800 198 313

