



Department of Communities

Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC background information – 4th quarter 2023-2024

State-wide audit evacuation centres

- Department of Communities (Communities) is conducting audits of the State's nominated evacuation centres.
- The audits are to identify hazard-specific risks relevant to the region and to identify opportunities for local governments to upgrade facilities to mitigate these risks.
- Communities would like to engage with local governments (LGs) and WALGA to discuss opportunities through the Disaster Ready Fund grants for 2025 to improve these facilities and mitigate risks in emergency events.
- Reach out to your Emergency Relief and Support Regional Coordinator or email erspartners@communities.wa.gov.au for more information.

Disaster Ready Fund

Several LGs in Western Australia (WA) submitted applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) in 2024 to support the improvement of their facilities used as evacuation centres.

Communities had the opportunity to review LGs applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) provided to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for 2024 and assessed that the projects would contribute to the State's ability to provide emergency accommodation for evacuating communities. All applications were considered suitable to progress for further consideration in the DRF process.

Local EM Information

- Evacuation Centre Training will be a priority for all the regions over the next 6 months. Can all LEMC members please identify staff that require training. Ideally it would be best suited to conduct this training in a gazetted evacuation centre.
- Exercising - please ensure that any exercises that occur that the department of Communities are invited. We would be happy to consider an inject to this exercise if it is appropriate.

Communities 2023/24 High Threat Season Activations

The Communities Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) Directorate would like to acknowledge and thank all of our local and state partners for the assistance and support provided over the 2023-24 season.

Since October 2023, there has been a total of 40 events supported by Communities including:

- Activation under the AUSRECEPLAN– Israel and Gaza repatriation
- Pre-planning undertaken for 3 high threat weather events, that didn't result in activation.
- 457 people were supported during events through our client management system
- 1 active and declared recovery event (under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements) - Mariginiup Fire.
- just prior to Christmas 2023, there were 6 activations supported by Communities over just 2 days (20-22 December).

Our team looks forward to working with you all over the coming months as we prepare for the 2024-25 season.

Communities Recovery Activities

1. Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

- The Kimberley Floods Recovery program has moved into its second year, with a revised focus on community resilience and wellbeing with an aim of creating a way forward for the community post the floods.
- Communities maintains community recovery officers at the Fitzroy Crossing Flood Hub operated by the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, working in partnership with the Shire, DFES, DPIRD and other partner agencies to deliver the outcomes of the State Recovery and Resilience Plan.
- [Kimberley-Floods-State-Recovery-and-Resilience-plan-2023-2024.pdf \(website-files.com\)](#)
- Communities is managing the recovery needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by the flood. This is called the Social domain and is focused on safety, security, shelter, health, the psychosocial wellbeing of displaced individuals and community resilience.
- Communities also manages a component of the infrastructure and built environment Domain, with recovery activities focussed on clean-up, repair and reconstruction of buildings homes and roads.

2. Mariginiup Fires Recovery Program

- Communities is supporting the City of Wanneroo to deliver the psychosocial wellbeing and financial support elements of the recovery program.

Communities Recovery Activities

- Communities has engaged several psychologists to support impacted resident referrals and has delivered a financial assistance package aimed at supporting the replacement of essential household items damaged in the fires.
- Communities is currently supporting the City with site visits to damaged properties to commence the clean-up program to ensure residents have access to support services if required.
- [Mariginiup Bushfire Recovery Information.pdf](#)

3. Great Southern News

- Sharon Austin is no longer in the acting position of ERS Regional Officer a Regional Coordinator for the Great Southern will be announced shortly. The Great Southern emergency phone number is still 0403 906 639.
- **If there is an emergency, please phone the All Hazards on Call phone
0418 943 835**
- Friday 26/4/2024 activation and set up of an evacuation centre in Walpole.