

DRFA & SDRA

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

State Disaster Relief Arrangements

Information sheet 2019-20

What is the DRFA?

The DRFA is a joint funding initiative of the Australian and state governments to provide disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters and terrorist acts. In Queensland, this program is managed on a whole-of-government basis by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

Definition of an eligible disaster

A natural disaster or terrorist act for which:

- a coordinated multi-agency response was required and
- state expenditure exceeds (Commonwealth-set) small disaster criterion (2018-19 is \$240,000).

DRFA eligible disasters include:



Activation

In Queensland, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services is responsible for activating the DRFA. The DRFA activation relies on the damage, loss and personal hardship information provided by state and local governments.

Activation of the DRFA allows for eligible expenditure to be reimbursed by QRA to activated state agencies and local governments and loans to be disbursed to eligible individuals, not-for-profit organisations, primary producers and small businesses, in compliance with the:

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) 2018 and
- Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Guidelines (QDRR).

The DRFA can be activated when the event meets the definition of an eligible disaster (refer to definition).

If an event does not meet this criteria, the State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA) may be activated.

Note: The *activation* of the DRFA is not dependent upon the *declaration* of a disaster situation. A *declaration* of a disaster situation is a separate action and provides extraordinary powers for the protection of the public during a disaster situation under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

The Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements are based upon partnership arrangements between the state and local governments.

The declaration of a disaster situation and/or the activation of the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements and/or the activation of the DRFA are independent and are not interlinked or conditional, although they may occur for the same event.

Australian Government – State funding of DRFA

For simplicity, the publicly acknowledged DRFA funding split is:

- **Categories A and B** – 75% Commonwealth and 25% State
- **Category C** – 50% Commonwealth and 50% State funding
- **Category D** – funding split is agreed to when the measure is approved.

Should there be any (unintended) inconsistencies between this information sheet and the Australian Government DRFA 2018, the Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Guidelines then those documents will take precedence.

Relief and recovery assistance measures under the DRFA

Category A

Counter Disaster Operations – reimbursement of extraordinary costs associated with eligible activities to alleviate personal hardship and distress. Note: local governments do not have a trigger point for this relief measure.

DRFA activation can be requested by any state agency or local government by submitting an Activation Request form to QRA via email to DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au detailing the disaster situation and requesting activation of this relief measure.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRA. Ph: **1800 110 841** Email: Submissions@qra.qld.gov.au

Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme – to alleviate personal hardship and distress:

- Emergency Hardship Assistance – a grant to address the immediate needs (e.g. food, clothing, emergency accommodation or medical supplies) of individuals and families who are unable to support/fund their own relief and recovery.
- Essential Services Hardship Assistance – a grant to individuals or families who are suffering hardship by loss of essential services for more than five days, and are unable to provide for their own recovery from their own resources.
- Essential Household Contents Grant – a financial contribution towards the repair or replacement of uninsured essential household contents.
- Structural Assistance Grant – a financial contribution towards the repair of damage to an uninsured dwelling (including caravans and residential vessels) to return it to a safe, habitable and secure condition.

The Essential Household Contents and Structural Assistance Grants are income tested.

DRFA activation requested and administered by: Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS). Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**.

If DCDSS identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster, DCDSS will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DCDSS directly.

Category B

Counter Disaster Operations – reimbursement of extraordinary costs associated with eligible activities aimed at protecting the general public and ensuring public health and safety in public areas (e.g. the community as a whole will benefit from the activity being undertaken). Note: local governments do not have a trigger point for this relief measure.

DRFA activation can be requested by any state agency or local government by submitting an Activation Request form to QRA via email to DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au detailing the disaster situation and requesting activation of this relief measure.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRA. Ph: **1800 110 841** Email: Submissions@qra.qld.gov.au

Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme – to assist homeowners with grants up to \$5000 to inspect and/or repair damaged essential services (electricity, gas, water, sewerage/septic systems) that are uninsured. Income tested.

DRFA activation requested and administered by: DCDSS. Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**.

If DCDSS identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster, DCDSS will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DCDSS directly.

Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (including Immediate Reconstruction Works and Emergency Works) – reconstruction of eligible uninsured essential public assets damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster to pre-disaster function. Local governments must have eligible expenditure exceeding their trigger points to be able to submit for reimbursement.

DRFA activation can be requested by any state agency or local government by submitting an Activation Request form to QRA via MARS or email DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au detailing the disaster situation and estimated damage expenditure of assets.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRA. Ph: **1800 110 841** Email: Submissions@qra.qld.gov.au

Disaster Assistance (Not-for-profit organisations) Loans – concessional loans up to \$100,000 to not-for-profit organisations to repair or replace damaged plant and equipment, and/or repair essential premises.

DRFA activation requested by: DCDSS. Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

DCDSS regional officers source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, non-government organisations and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure.

If DCDSS identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DCDSS will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DCDSS directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA). Ph: **1800 623 946**

Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans – concessional loans up to \$250,000 to small business operators to repair or replace damaged buildings, plant and equipment, or stock.

DRFA activation requested by: Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT). Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) in conjunction with DESBT will provide regional support to source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, small businesses and “on the ground” observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure.

If DESBT identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DESBT will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DESBT directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRIDA. Ph: **1800 623 946**

Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans – concessional loans up to \$250,000 to primary producers to repair or replace damaged buildings, plant and equipment or livestock.

DRFA activation requested by: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). Ph: **13 QGOV (13 74 68)**

DAF regional officers source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure.

If DAF identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DAF will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DAF directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRIDA.
Ph: 1800 623 946

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not-for-profit organisations – concessional loans up to \$100,000 to profit organisations that have suffered a significant loss of income by providing a loan for essential working capital required to continue operations.

DRFA activation requested by: DCDSS. Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

DCDSS regional officers source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, non-government organisations and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure.

If DCDSS identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DCDSS will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DCDSS directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRIDA.
Ph: 1800 623 946

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business – concessional loans up to \$100,000 to small businesses that have suffered a significant loss of income by providing a loan for essential working capital required to continue business operations.

DRFA activation requested by: DESBT. Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

DSDMIP in conjunction with DESBT will provide regional support to source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, small businesses and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If DESBT identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DESBT will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DESBT directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRIDA.
Ph: 1800 623 946

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers – concessional loans up to \$100,000 to primary producers that have suffered a significant loss of income by providing a loan for essential working capital required to continue operations.

DRFA activation requested by: DAF. Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

DAF regional officers source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If DAF identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DAF will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DAF directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRIDA.
Ph: 1800 623 946

Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers – assistance up to \$5000 for movement of stock, feed, machinery, fuel, water and building/fencing materials.

DRFA activation requested by: DAF

DAF regional officers source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting affected areas to determine a need for this relief measure. If DAF identifies a need for the activation of this relief measure, DAF will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DAF directly.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact DAF.
Ph: 13 25 23

Category C

Category C relief measures may be made available where the community is severely affected by an eligible disaster and existing standard DRFA relief measures are insufficient to support community recovery. Category C is only available in exceptional circumstances.

Approval is by the Prime Minister and the Premier.

Community Recovery Fund – aimed at community recovery, community development and community capacity building for the future.

DRFA activation requested by: DCDSS. Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

DCDSS will collate and review impact data, and if required, a business case will be drafted and forwarded to QRA for review, then on-forwarded to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact DCDSS.
Ph: 13QGOV (137468)

Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants up to \$25,000 may be made available for communities that have suffered direct impact from the eligible disaster. Grants can be used for clean-up and reinstatement but not for providing compensation for losses (i.e. loss of income/trade):

Not-for-profit organisations – **DRFA activation requested by:** DCDSS

Small business – **DRFA activation requested by:** DESBT

Primary producers – **DRFA activation requested by:** DAF

The requesting agency will source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, Chambers of Commerce, primary producers, small businesses and ‘on the ground’ observation from staff visiting the affected areas for each sector. The requesting agency will then review the information collated and if it meets the requirements as set by the Commonwealth (e.g. more than 33 per cent of small businesses are directly affected), a business case will be forwarded to QRA for review, then on-forwarded to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

Further information on the requirements for Category C activation is located in the Commonwealth Determination, Guideline 3.

Administrating Authority: Once activated, please contact QRIDA.
Ph: 1800 623 946

Category D

Category D relief measures may be made available when the community is so severely affected by an eligible disaster that additional funding is required to meet particular circumstances of the event and where a gap or need for special assistance above and beyond the standard suite (Category A and B) of the DRFA assistance arises.

Approval is by the Prime Minister and the Premier.

If local governments identify a need for a Category D Extraordinary Special Assistance relief measure, they are encouraged to contact the relevant state government agency. The state government agency will collate and review the information and, if necessary, prepare a business case for QRA to review and on-forward to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

Administrating Authority: Dependent upon the type of assistance made available.

State Disaster Relief Arrangements (SDRA)

The SDRA is an all hazards relief program that is **100% State funded** and **covers natural and non-natural disasters**. The purpose of the SDRA is to address personal hardship and community response needs for disaster events where the DRFA is unable to be activated. SDRA relief measures for Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme and Counter Disaster Operations are the same relief measures that are activated under the DRFA, as detailed above.

The SDRA is able to be activated when the DCDSS identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people identified as experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist in the event of a disaster.

The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (supported by QRA) is responsible for activating the SDRA. QRA will coordinate the delivery of the SDRA assistance measures.

Additional funding outside the DRFA & SDRA could be made available by the Commonwealth to assist communities to recover, such as the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) and the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Allowance (AGDRA). Information on funding available from the Commonwealth is located on:

www.disasterassist.gov.au

Further Information:

Commonwealth DRFA 2018

www.disasterassist.gov.au

Queensland Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements Guidelines

www.qra.qld.gov.au

For information concerning the DRFA/SDRA program please contact:

Resilience and Recovery Branch
Queensland Reconstruction Authority

Ph: **1800 110 841**

Email: info@qra.qld.gov.au

www.qra.qld.gov.au

Key contacts quick guide

Category A

Counter Disaster Operations

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Ph: 1800 110 841

Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme

- Community Recovery Hotline Ph: 1800 173 349
- DCDSS Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Category B

Counter Disaster Operations

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Ph: 1800 110 841

Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme

- Community Recovery Hotline Ph: 1800 173 349
- DCDSS Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets (including Immediate Reconstruction Works and Emergency Works)

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Ph: 1800 110 841

Disaster Assistance (Not-for-profit organisations) Loans

- DCDSS Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not-for-profit Organisations

- QRIDA Ph: 1800 623 946

Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans

- DESBT Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business

- QRIDA Ph: 1800 623 946

Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans

- DAF Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
- QRIDA Ph: 1800 623 946

Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers

- DAF Ph: 13 25 23

Category C

Community Recovery Fund

- DCDSS Ph: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants

- QRIDA Ph: 1800 623 946

Category D

Extraordinary Special Assistance

- The Adminstrating Authority is dependent upon the type of assistance made available.

DRFA/SDRA Activation

- Queensland Reconstruction Authority
- Email: DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au
- Ph: 0417 644 595

Where there are (unintended) inconsistencies between this tip sheet, the Australian Government DRFA and the QDRR Guidelines, the DRFA will prevail.