

DRFA & SDRA

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

State Disaster Relief Arrangements

Information sheet

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 the Commonwealth's small disaster criterion, which is set at \$240,000 for 2021–22.

DRFA eligible disasters include:



bushfire



cyclone



earthquake



flood



landslip



meteor strike



storm



storm surge



terrorist act



tornado



tsunami

Activation

DRFA Activation Requests can be made by any state agency or local government via QRA's Management and Reporting System (**MARS**) disaster funding application portal at www.recovery.qldra.org.au

Note: Activation Requests can still be made via email to DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au

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 agencies and local governments.

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

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) 2018, and
- Queensland Disaster Funding Guidelines (QDFG) 2021.

The DRFA can be activated when the event meets the definition of an eligible disaster.

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 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** – up to 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, the Australian Government DRFA and the QDFG, then the Australian Government DRFA 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 [MARS](#) or email DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au detailing the disaster situation and requesting activation of this relief measure.

Administering Authority once activated: QRA.
Email: Submissions@qra.qld.gov.au

Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme

One-off payments 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 due to loss of essential services for more than five days, and are unable to support/fund their own relief and recovery
- Essential Household Contents Grant – a financial contribution towards the repair or replacement of uninsured essential household contents (income tested)
- 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 (income tested).

If Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (DCHDE) identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people experiencing personal hardship as a direct result of a disaster event, or that there are no local service providers to assist, DCHDE will contact QRA to request activation. If local government identifies a need for activation, they are to contact DCHDE directly.

DRFA activation requested and administered by: DCHDE.

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 [MARS](#) or email DRFA@qra.qld.gov.au detailing the disaster situation and requesting activation of this relief measure.

Administering Authority once activated: QRA.
Email: Submissions@qra.qld.gov.au

Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme

To assist homeowners to inspect and/or repair damaged essential services (electricity, gas, water, sewerage/septic systems) that are uninsured (income tested).

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

DRFA activation requested and administered by: DCHDE.

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

Reconstruction to pre-disaster function of eligible, uninsured, essential public assets damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster.

Note: 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 expenditure.

Administering Authority once activated: QRA.
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.

DCHDE regional officers source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, non-government organisations and on the ground observations from staff visiting affected area.

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

DRFA activation requested by: DCHDE.

Administering Authority once activated: Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA).

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.

Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS) in conjunction with Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) will provide regional support to source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, small businesses and on the ground observations from staff visiting affected area.

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.

DRFA activation requested by: DESBT.

Administering Authority once activated: QRIDA.

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.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) regional officers source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and on the ground observations from staff visiting affected area.

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.

DRFA activation requested by: DAF.

Administering Authority once activated: QRIDA.

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

Concessional loans up to \$100,000 to not-for-profit organisations that have suffered a significant loss of income for essential working capital required to continue operations.

DCHDE regional officers source information from state government agencies and local governments, industry bodies, non-government organisations and on the ground observations from staff visiting affected area.

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

DRFA activation requested by: DCHDE.

Administering Authority once activated: QRIDA.

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 for essential working capital required to continue business operations.

DTIS 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” observations from staff visiting affected area.

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.

DRFA activation requested by: DESBT.

Administering Authority once activated: QRIDA.

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 for essential working capital required to continue operations.

DAF regional officers source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and “on the ground” observations from staff visiting affected area.

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.

DRFA activation requested by: DAF.

Administering Authority once activated: QRIDA.

Freight Subsidies to Primary Producers

Assistance up to \$5000 for movement of stock, feed, machinery, fuel, water and building/fencing materials.

DAF regional officers source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, primary producers and “on the ground” observations from staff visiting affected area.

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.

DRFA activation requested by: DAF.

Administering Authority once activated: DAF.

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.

DCHDE will collate and review impact information, and if required, a request will be forwarded to QRA for review, then on-forwarded to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC). If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

DRFA activation requested by: DCHDE.

Administering Authority once activated: DCHDE.

Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants

Up to \$25,000 may be made available for small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations 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: DCHDE.

Small business – DRFA activation requested by: DESBT.

Primary producers – DRFA activation requested by: DAF.

The requesting agency will source information from state agencies and local governments, industry bodies, Chambers of Commerce, primary producers, small businesses and on the ground observations 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, a request will be forwarded to QRA for review, then on-forwarded to DPC. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

Administering Authority once activated: QRIDA.

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 the particular circumstances of the event; and where a gap or need for special assistance arises that is above and beyond the standard suite (Category A and B) of the DRFA assistance.

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 agency. The state agency will collate and review the information and, if necessary, prepare a request for QRA to review and on-forward to DPC. If endorsed by the Premier, it will be forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval by the Prime Minister.

Administering 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 needs for disaster events where the DRFA is unable to be activated. SDRA relief measures for the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme and Counter Disaster Operations are the same relief measures that are activated under the DRFA.

The SDRA is able to be activated when DCHDE identifies that local service providers have reached their capacity to provide a service to people 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 DPC (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 Funding Guidelines 2021
www.qra.qld.gov.au

Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Ph: 1800 110 841
Email: info@qra.qld.gov.au
www.qra.qld.gov.au

MARS disaster funding application portal
www.recovery.qldra.org.au

Key contacts quick guide

ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

Emergency Hardship Assistance Grant

Essential Services Hardship Assistance Grant

Essential Household Contents Grant

Structural Assistance Grant

Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme

Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy
Ph: 1800 173 349
www.chde.qld.gov.au

ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, PRIMARY PRODUCERS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Disaster Assistance Loans

Disaster Assistance Essential Working Capital Loans

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Ph: 1800 623 946
www.qrida.qld.gov.au

Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Ph: 132 523
www.daf.qld.gov.au

ASSISTANCE FOR STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Counter Disaster Operations

Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets - including Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works

Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Ph: 1800 110 841
www.qra.qld.gov.au