



LORD MAYOR'S  
DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

# Annual Report

2024-25







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# About the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (the Fund) was established in 1961, following the disastrous Dwellingup fires where 123 people were left homeless and the timber towns of Holyoake, Nanga Brook, Marrinup and Banksiadale were completely burnt out.

The Fund was established in conjunction with the State Government to provide financial assistance to individuals for the alleviation and relief of distress, suffering and personal hardships, brought about by any disaster or emergency within Western Australia declared by the Western Australian Government or for which the Fund's Board considers assistance is warranted.

The Fund is incorporated under the *Charitable Collections Act (1946)* and has Australian Taxation Office tax deductibility status. The Fund is administered by an independent Board which consists of up to 11 members.

The City of Perth has supported the Fund since its inception. The City of Perth seeks no reimbursement for the costs associated with providing support to the Fund. 100% of donations raised through appeals goes directly to those in need.

The objects (Rule 3) of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund are:

1. To provide a permanent fund for the alleviation and relief of distress, suffering, hardship and misfortune brought about by any disaster or emergency of a general application which has been declared as such by the relevant West Australian Government agency or department of the time;
2. To provide relief and aid as determined by the Board of the Association from time to time to persons undergoing such distress, suffering, hardship or misfortune brought about by any event mentioned in rule 3(1) or as determined by the Board on a case-by-case basis;
3. To provide supplementary funds for the alleviation and relief of distress, suffering, hardship or misfortune to any major disaster whether within Western Australia or outside Western Australia where such a disaster has been so determined by any government or statutory authority.

# Past Appeals

## 1960s

Dwellingup Bushfire	1961
Tasmanian Disaster Relief Fund	1967
Meckering Earthquake	1968

## 1970s

Queensland Flood Relief	1974
Darwin Cyclone Relief	1974/75
Port Hedland Cyclone	1975
Queensland Cyclone & Flood Damage Relief Fund	1975
Fruili (Italy) Earthquake Appeal	1976
Carnarvon Flood Relief	1976
Cyclone Alby (South West)	1978
Fruili (Italy) Earthquake Appeal	1976

## 1980s

South West Floods (Great Southern)	1982
Lord Mayor's South Atlantic Trust Fund May	1982
Ash Wednesday Bushfires (South Australia & Victoria)	1983
South-West and Great Southern Floods	1987
South Eastern Suburbs Flood Relief	1987
Cyclone Herbie	1988

## 1990s

New South Wales/Queensland Floods	1990
New South Wales Bushfires	1994
Cyclone Olivia	1997
Ashburton River Floods	1997
Brookton Pingelly Fire	1997/98
Jerdacuttup Fires	1998
Esperance Bushfires	1998
Esperance Floods	1999
Moora Floods (Cyclone Vance)	1999
Exmouth Floods (Cyclone Vance)	1999

## 2000s

Carnarvon Floods (Cyclone Steve)	2000
WA Bali Casualties	2002
Gingin Fires	2002
Cranbrook/Plantagenet/Bridgetown Fires	2003
Dumbleyung Fires	2004
Tsunami	2004
Lake Grace Floods	2006
Gascoyne/Murchison Floods	2006
Dwellingup Fires	2007
Stoneville Fire	2008
Bridgetown Fires	2009
Toodyay Fire	2009

## 2010s

Gascoyne and Mid-West Floods	2010 (\$2.57m)
Lake Clifton Fires	2011 (\$0.5m)
Perth Hills Fire	2011 (\$3.75m)
Margaret River Fire	2011 (\$1.15m)
Pastoral Wildfires	2012
Parkerville Fire	2014 (\$2.62m)
Esperance Fires	2015 (\$1.67m)
Waroona and District Fire	2016 (\$8.86m)

## 2020s

Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire	2021 (\$16.96m)
Tropical Cyclone Seroja	2021 (\$8.12m)
Kimberley Floods	2023 (\$12.02m)
Parkerville Bushfire	2023
Mariginiup Bushfire	2023 (\$0.7m)





## Our Board

Name	Position
LM Basil Zempilas	Presiding Person (Oct 2020 to Mar 2025)
Michelle Reynolds, City of Perth	Honorary Secretary (Aug 2023 to current)
Ann Thampoe, City of Perth	Honorary Treasurer (May 2022 to current)
Ms. Noelene Jennings, PSM*	Board Member (Feb 1996 to current)
Ms. Sue Ash, AO*	Board Member (Jul 2018 to current)
Cr Karen Chappel, AO*, WALGA President	Board Member (Apr 2022 to current)
Dr Garry Hunt PSM*	Board Member (Jan 2023 to current) Deputy Presiding Person (Dec 2024 to current)
Martin Black*	Board Member (May 2024 to current)
Jonathan Seth*	Board Member (May 2024 to current)

\* The Fund wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Board members who provide their service on a voluntary basis and thank them for their invaluable time and expert advice.





# Our Activities

## Appeals

During the 2024–25 financial year, the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund did not launch any new appeals. The Fund's activities were therefore focused entirely on the ongoing administration of the Kimberley Floods Appeal.

For the Kimberley Floods Appeal, the Fund remained focused on supporting communities affected by the severe flooding. This involved receiving and assessing applications for financial assistance, allocating funding in line with established criteria, and making payments to individuals and groups to help them recover and rebuild. The Fund worked closely with local authorities and community organisations to ensure that resources were directed where they were most needed, and that the distribution of funds was both timely and transparent.

## Kimberley Floods 2023 Appeal

The Kimberley Floods 2023 Appeal was activated by the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund on Monday, 9 January 2023.

The Board contributed \$500,000 of its Reserve funds to the Kimberley Floods Appeal and raised \$12.02m in total donations for flood affected victims.

At 30 June 2025, the Board had pledged \$12.02m of the donations to the following categories of assistance:

Privately owned property damage - Minor	\$125,000
Privately owned property damage - Major	\$750,000
Engagement of Glenn SMITH registered builder	\$10,500
<b>Total Funding - Privately Owned Properties - Residential</b>	<b>\$885,500</b>
Silt Removal	\$160,000
Fencing - (Fitzroy Crossing)	\$400,000
Fencing - (Camballin)	\$550,000

Private property - additional payment - Minor	\$250,000
Private property - additional payment - Major	\$1,500,000
2nd Dwelling - Minor	\$150,000
2nd Dwelling - Major	\$600,000
<b>Total Additional Funding - Residential Properties</b>	<b>\$3,610,000</b>
Replacement of vehicles	\$1,690,000
Repairs to vehicles	\$195,000
<b>Total Funding - Vehicle Repair and Replacement</b>	<b>\$1,885,000</b>
Fixtures and content	\$2,565,000
Fixtures and Contents top up for major damage	\$1,425,000
<b>Total Funding - Fixtures and Content</b>	<b>\$3,990,000</b>
Kalyeeda Airstrip	\$107,394.78
<b>Total Funding - Kalyeeda Airstrip</b>	<b>\$107,394.78</b>
Homemaker Centres - Flood inundated buildings	\$225,668.62
Homemaker Centres - Damaged in affected communities	\$550,000
<b>Total Funding - Homemaker Centres</b>	<b>\$775,668.62</b>
Balginjirr Community Private Property	\$450,000
Balginjirr Community - Contribution towards Chlorination unit	\$169,878
<b>Total Funding - Balginjirr Community</b>	<b>\$619,878</b>
Pastoral Property & Fencing	\$150,000
<b>Total Funding - Pastoral Property &amp; Fencing</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
Unallocated Funds	\$952.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,024,393.57</b>



# Our Activities

## Kimberley Floods Appeal Disbursements as of 30 June 2025

During the year 1 July 2024 through to 30 June 2025, the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (the Fund) continued to provide significant financial assistance to individuals, households, community groups, and affected facilities following the Kimberley Floods disaster. A total of \$12.02m in donations was allocated across various funding categories, and \$10.14m disbursed to eligible applicants by financial year-end.

Funding was directed primarily towards supporting privately owned residential properties, vehicle replacement and repair, essential household fixtures and contents, and priority community facilities.

Support for privately owned residential properties included payments for minor and major property damage, silt removal, fencing replacement, and additional top-up assistance. In total, \$4.50m was allocated to residential properties, all of which had been fully paid by 30 June 2025.

Funding towards 56 vehicle repairs and replacements totalled \$1.89m, with \$1.71m paid to eligible recipients by financial year-end.

A significant portion of funding supported the replacement of fixtures and household contents. At 30 June 2025, \$3.99m had been allocated and \$3.10m paid. This included top-up payments for households that experienced major property damage.

Community infrastructure also received targeted support, including \$107,394 for the Kalyeeda Airstrip and \$775,668 for recovery of Homemaker Centres, of which \$725,503 had been disbursed.

Funding allocations were also allocated for the Balginjirr Community and for pastoral property and fencing repairs, totalling \$769,878. These payments had not yet been disbursed at 30 June 2025 and are expected to be paid as projects progress and eligibility requirements are met.

At financial year-end, unallocated funds of \$952 remained available for distribution.

The Fund continues to work closely with affected communities to ensure that allocated funds are distributed promptly and equitably, supporting recovery and rebuilding across the Kimberley region.









# Our Supporters

The support of thousands of individuals and families as well as corporate and private donors and state and local government agencies is essential to the success of our work. We are immensely grateful for the commitment to the Fund.

## Mariginiup Bushfire 2023

### Corporate Donors $\geq \$100,000$

Woodside

### Local Government Donors $\$100,000$

City of Wanneroo

### Corporate Donors $< \$100,000$

Chevron

Roy Hill Holdings Pty Ltd

Stan Perron Charitable Foundation

Australian Nursing Federation (ANFIUWP)

Atlas Iron Pty Ltd

### Public Donors $\$212,146$



## Kimberley Floods 2023

### Corporate Donors

≥ \$100,000

Australian Nursing Federation (ANFIUWP)

BHP

Chevron

INPEX

Mineral Resources

Newmont

Pilbara Minerals

Rio Tinto

Santos

Shell Australia

South32

Woodside

### Local Government Donors

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

Shire of Capel

City of Joondalup

City of Kwinana

City of Melville

Shire of Mundaring

Shire of Peppermint Grove

City of South Perth

City of Stirling

Shire of Tammin

Shire of Victoria Plains

City of Wanneroo

### State Government Donors

Department of Premier and Cabinet

### Public Donors

\$573,345





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