



## LORD MAYOR'S DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

### About Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund

- The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) is Western Australia's official State emergency fund.
- The fund is used to raise and coordinate donations to support the victims of natural disasters occurring within the State.
- City of Perth administers the LMDRF. All administration costs are wholly absorbed by the City of Perth, so 100 per cent of all funds raised go directly to those in need.
- The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund has now been activated to assist victims of the bushfires in the affected local government areas.
- The City is urging the community to donate to the LMDRF to help those in the Wooroloo and Hills bushfire 2021. While we can't replace what people have lost, we can help ease the financial burden.
- The LMDRF was established in 1961 and has raised significant funds to assist those impacted by many disasters, including more recently the Yarloop/Waroono Fires (2016), Esperance Fires (2015), Dwellingup Fires (2007), Toodyay Fire Appeal (2010), two appeals for the Gascoyne and Mid-West Floods and the Perth Hills Fire (2011), Parkerville Fire Appeal (2014), Esperance Fires Appeal (2015).
- For more information go to [www.appealswa.org.au](http://www.appealswa.org.au) or [www.facebook.com/Distress.Relief.Fund](https://www.facebook.com/Distress.Relief.Fund)

### About Wooroloo Fires

- An out of control fire started in Wooroloo on February 1 and continues to rage across Perth's north-eastern suburbs, destroying homes and threatening lives.
- There are reports that up to 70 homes have been lost, with many more in Brigadoon, Gidgegannup, Ellenbrook, The Vines and Aveley under direct threat.
- In all the areas, there is a threat to lives and homes.

### How can donations be made?

Donations to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire 2021 Appeal can be made in the following ways:

- Via EFT: BSB: 306-188 Account 0340258
- Via credit card donation:
  - o go to [www.appealswa.org.au](http://www.appealswa.org.au) and click on the link to the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfires 2021 Appeal; or

- phone the City of Perth on 9461 3886 – if calling after business hours, please follow the message prompts;
- In person over the counter at any Bankwest Branch or at Council House during opening hours.
- By mail to LMDRF **Wooroloo and Hills Bushfires 2021 Appeal**, c/- City of Perth, GPO Box C120 Perth 6839.

Donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

### **How will the money be spent or distributed? Where do the funds go?**

The Fund will work with the affected local governments and the State Recovery Coordinator to ensure money is disbursed directly to those who need it.

All administration costs are absorbed by the City of Perth so 100 percent of funds raised will go directly to those in need. While we can't replace what people have lost, we can help ease the financial burden.

### **Who is eligible to receive donations?**

Everyone impacted within the designated Wooroloo and Hills bushfire zone and has suffered loss of property is encouraged to apply for assistance through the LMDRF.

The below applies for individuals:

1. The applicant must be an individual who is an owner or occupier and has had property destroyed or damaged as a direct result of the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire as defined by the area declared as a disaster by the [Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#).
2. Multiple applications for the same address and category can be received if it has been confirmed there were multiple dwellings at that address and the LMDRF Board is satisfied by reasonable means that separate households existed.
3. In the event multiple households live in one dwelling, only one application will be received.
4. Using the application, the applicant must submit a claim to their relevant local government authority's local recovery committee.

Applications are available for download from the City of Swan, the Shire of Mundaring and the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Funds websites:

[www.swan.wa.gov.au/bushfire2021](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/bushfire2021)

[www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au)

[www.appealswa.org.au](http://www.appealswa.org.au)

Application forms are also available from the affected local government offices.

### **When will the Categories for Assistance be released so people can start applying?**

Rapid response grants are now available for people who have lost their home as a result of the fire.

Categories for these grants are listed below:

- For Owner /Occupiers of properties impacted by the bushfire where the place of residence and contents have been totally destroyed. (Level 1)

- For Occupiers (those renting) of properties impacted by the bushfire where the house contents have been totally destroyed as a consequence of the house being totally destroyed. (Level 4)

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund will continue to work closely with the City of Swan and the Shire of Mundaring as they complete their impact assessments and to determine appropriate categories for assistance.

### **How do affected people register to receive donated funds?**

Assistance is available to residents of the Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan who suffered personal hardship due to the loss or damage to their primary residence, property, furniture or personal effects as a result of the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire.

The Lord Mayor Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) Board has activated a rapid response grant of \$25,000 for everyone who has lost a home in the devastating Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire. The LMDRF board encourages grant applications from all owners and occupiers who have experienced total loss of property as a result of the bushfires.

Applications are available for download from the City of Swan and the Shire of Mundaring and the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Funds websites:

[www.swan.wa.gov.au/bushfire2021](http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/bushfire2021)

[www.mundaring.wa.gov.au](http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au)

[www.appealswa.org.au](http://www.appealswa.org.au)

Application forms are also available from your local government offices.

A Local Recovery Committee for the Shire of Mundaring and the City of Swan has been established from representatives of the local government authority.

The Local Recovery Committees will receive and assess claims and make recommendations to the Board of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund on an appropriate level of assistance for individual claims.

Please be aware that the final decision regarding the extent of assistance for each claim rests with the Board of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund.

### **I am a joint owner of a property with my ex-partner. We are now separated. Can we put in separate applications?**

No. We can only accept one application per property owner. Therefore, as joint property owners, a joint application needs to be submitted.

### **I own two or more houses on one property; can I make more than one claim?**

We can accept one application per property owner. If multiple dwellings have been confirmed on one property, please ensure all loss is recorded on your application form to assist with the assessment process.

### **I rent a house that was destroyed and the owner has already put in an application. Can I put in an application for the same property?**

Yes, as an occupier you are eligible to apply for assistance. Please ensure your personal house contents are listed on the form, including any other items you own and were destroyed or damaged such as shed contents, play equipment or pot plants etc.

### **When can I expect to receive financial assistance?**

The LMDRF Board is keen to make some initial disbursements and therefore encourages everyone within the designated fire zone to complete their application form and submit it to their local shire as quickly as possible.

It is expected that first disbursements will be some weeks away. It is requested that people be mindful of the enormity of the task ahead for your Local Government and that they will be working very hard to assess applications as quickly as possible.

### **What do I record under property loss?**

If you have lost your whole house and all contents, there is no requirement to list each individual item lost. Please state house 100 per cent destroyed and contents 100 per cent destroyed. Where there is partial loss or damage to property, please state the loss as accurately as possible.

### **In total, how many applications for assistance are expected to be received?**

Once impact assessments are complete, the Fund will have a better idea.

### **Will residents have to wait long for their financial assistance payments?**

The LMDRF aims to disburse funds as quickly as possible once applications are received and have been assessed.

### **Can we donate clothes, items for animals and food?**

Local governments, the Department of Communities and the Australian Red Cross are not actively seeking any physical donations at this time and are encouraging financial donations through the LMDRF.

Any food donations should be directed to SecondBite, Foodbank or OzHarvest so distribution can be coordinated. These organisations will then lead a coordinated response for food donations.

### **How can I volunteer or offer accommodation assistance?**

If you want to volunteer your time to help with the bushfires, or offer accommodation, please register with Volunteering WA who will pass on your details to the relevant organisations:

Register to [offer accommodation](#)

Register to [volunteer to help](#)

Emergency relief organisations are on hand to assist people affected by the devastating bushfires and Volunteering WA are working together with them.

Please hold any donations until after this incident has eased as we are unable to process an influx of goods while we are focusing on the response.

## **Can I set up a donation page on behalf of LMDRF?**

Anyone wanting to set up a donation page on behalf of the LMDRF will require registration. For those making donations, please do your due diligence and make sure people raising funds on behalf of the LMDRF are legitimate.

If in doubt, please donate direct to the LMDRF via [www.appealswa.org.au](http://www.appealswa.org.au) or contact us for further information.

For more information go to [www.perth.wa.gov.au/lmdrf](http://www.perth.wa.gov.au/lmdrf), email [lmrdf@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:lmrdf@cityofperth.wa.gov.au) or call 9461 3886.