



## 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 Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) was established in 1961, following the disastrous Dwellingup fires where 123 people were left homeless.
- The LMDRF 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 LMDRF Board considers assistance is warranted.
- The perpetual fund is incorporated under the Charitable Collections Act and has Australian Taxation Office tax deductibility status. The LMDRF is administered by an independent Board which consists of up to 15 members.
- The City of Perth has donated administrative and other support services to the LMDRF since its inception. The City of Perth seeks no reimbursement for the costs associated with providing support to the LMDRF. This means 100 per cent of donations raised through appeals goes directly to those in need.
- The LMDRF was established in 1961 and has raised significant funds to assist those impacted by many disasters, including more recently the Yarloop/Waroona 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)

### The objectives of the LMDRF are

- to provide a permanent fund for the alleviation and relief of distress, suffering, hardship and misfortune to individuals brought about by any disaster or emergency of a general application which has been declared as such by the Western Australian government through the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA);
- to provide relief and aid as determined by the Board of the Fund from time to time to individuals undergoing such distress, suffering, hardship or misfortune brought about by any event mentioned above; and

- to provide assistance to individuals for the alleviation and relief of distress, suffering, hardship or misfortune following a minor localised disaster.

## **About Cyclone Seroja**

- Destruction and property damage across WA's mid-west caused by Tropical Cyclone Seroja has led to the activation of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) – the second time this year.
- Homes have been destroyed and more than 20,000 residents were left without power after the cyclone made landfall as a category three storm at about 8pm on Sunday 11 April, bringing wind gusts of up to 170 kilometres per hour.
- The Fund has been activated to raise and coordinate monetary donations to financially support the community affected by Tropical Cyclone Seroja.

## **All questions relating to donations**

### **How can donations be made?**

Donations to the Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal can be made:

- via EFT: BSB: 306-188, Account: 0347404
- over the counter at any BankWest branch or agency to the dedicated appeal account BSB: 306-188, Account: 0347404
- on the phone via credit card on 9461 3886 during normal business hours
- by mail to LMDRF, Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal, City of Perth, GPO Box C120, Perth WA 6839
- by credit card at [appeals.wa.org.au](http://appeals.wa.org.au)

**Please be aware the account number for the appeal has changed, and is different to the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire appeal.**

Donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, donations cannot be made in person at the City of Perth or at a Bankwest branch.

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

We will reach out to the affected Local Governments and work with them to get forms out as quickly as possible.

### **Can we donate clothes and other items?**

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.

### **How do I offer accommodation for people, or shelter for animals?**

Please contact the Australian Red Cross.

## **All questions relating to disbursements**

### **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.

## **All questions relating to applications**

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

Households who have lost property will be eligible to apply for assistance.

Criteria and categories will be developed in consultation with the affected local government authorities and the State Recovery Coordinator.

It is important to acknowledge in some areas damage assessments haven't been completed and impact assessments are still pending.

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

The Board is meeting next week to review the advice received from the affected Local Governments and Local Recovery Committees. In some areas damage assessments haven't been completed and information is still pending.

### **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.