



LORD MAYOR'S DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal 2021: FAQ - Applicants

What is the LMDRF?

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) is Western Australia's official state emergency fund.

The LMDRF was established in 1961 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.

What is the LMDRF Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal 2021?

An out of control fire started in Wooroloo on February 1 and raged across Perth's north-eastern suburbs for days, destroying homes and threatening lives.

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) Appeal was launched on 3rd February 2021 to raise and coordinate monetary donations to financially support the communities affected by the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire.

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

The LMDRF will work with the affected local governments, being the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring, and the State Recovery Controller for the incident of Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire 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.

Who is eligible to apply for assistance?

Assistance from the LMDRF Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal is available to owners, owner/occupiers and occupiers (tenants) where the property was:

- their primary place of residence;
- impacted by Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal;
- located within the declared fire zone disaster area; and
- has suffered loss of property.

Only one application per dwelling will be accepted.

What Local Government areas are eligible for assistance through the appeal?

Assistance is available to eligible residents of the following Local Government areas: The City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring.

What if there are multiple dwellings on a property?

Multiple dwellings per property are eligible for assistance, however only one application per dwelling can be submitted.

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.

What type of loss may be considered by the LMDRF?

Grants may only be provided to cover repairs to a residence to make them safe and habitable or to replace contents that are irreparably damaged.

Assistance cannot be paid in respect of damage to cars, boats and caravans (except caravans being used as a primary residence), as these are considered luxury/recreational items.

The Fund is not established to assist business operations that have been impacted by the cyclone.

If your primary residence is at your place of work, eligibility will only be for personal effects and not business-related losses (such as crop and livestock losses or destroyed machinery).

Who decides on my claim?

The Board of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund will decide on eligibility and the associated level of assistance for individual claims.

What are the categories for assistance?

The Board has reviewed the advice received from the affected Local Governments and Recovery Committees and decided on the following.

Grants/Subsidies Categories	Total Grant \$
Owner/Occupiers	
Level One A - The place of residence and contents have been totally destroyed	Up to \$130,000
Level One B - The place of residence (converted shed/caravan/transportable) and contents have been totally destroyed	Up to \$80,000
Level Two - The place of residence has sustained structural damage and contents have been damaged	Up to \$65,000
Level Three A - Other property damage / loss with loss >\$100,000	\$30,000
Level Three B - Other property damage / loss with loss <\$100,000	Up to \$20,000
Owners	
Level One A - The place of residence and contents have been totally destroyed	Up to \$105,000
Level One B - The place of residence (converted shed/caravan/transportable) and contents have been totally destroyed	Up to \$80,000
Level Two - The place of residence has sustained structural damage and contents have been damaged	Up to \$65,000
Level Three A - Other property damage / loss with loss >\$100,000	\$30,000
Level Three B - Other property damage / loss with loss <\$100,000	Up to \$20,000
Occupiers (those renting)	
Level Four - The house contents have been totally destroyed as a consequence of the house being totally destroyed.	Up to \$50,000
Level Five A - Partial damage/loss of house contents loss >\$100,000	\$20,000
Level Five A - Partial damage/loss of house contents with loss <\$100,000	Up to \$10,000

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.

What sort of evidence do you require the support your application?

Photo identification will be required, such as your drivers licence, passport or student card.

Evidence to confirm that the residence impacted is your primary place of residence will be required where you are an owner/occupier or occupier. This can include: driver's licence; electricity bill with residential address noted or lease agreement. Where you are a tenant and no formal lease agreement exists, a [statutory declaration](#) can be provided, preferably signed by a managing agent or owner.

When can I lodge my application?

Applications are open.

How do I apply?

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

www.mundaring.wa.gov.au

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.

How long will the application assessment process take?

The process normally takes 6-8 weeks, however may take longer if the information provided in the application is incomplete. Timely responses to your local government and LMDRF queries will assist in speeding up the process.

The funds raised will be disbursed as quickly as possible once applications are received and assessed.