



LORD MAYOR'S DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

## Tropical Cyclone Seroja 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 Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal?**

Destruction and property damage across WA's mid-west caused by Tropical Cyclone Seroja on 11 April 2021 led to the launch of the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal.

The Appeal was launched to raise and coordinate monetary donations to financially support the communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Seroja.

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

The LMDRF will work with the affected local governments and the State Recovery Controller for the incident of Tropical Cyclone Seroja 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?**

### ***Round 1 assistance***

Assistance from the LMDRF Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal is currently available to owner/occupiers and occupiers (tenants) where the property was:

- their primary place of residence;
- impacted by Tropical Cyclone Seroja;
- located within the declared disaster area; and
- either totally destroyed or suffered major damage to property making it uninhabitable.

Only one application per dwelling will be accepted.

### ***Round 2 assistance***

Assistance from the LMDRF Tropical Cyclone Seroja Appeal is currently available to owners where the property was:

- their second place of residence or investment;
- impacted by Tropical Cyclone Seroja;
- located within the declared disaster area; and
- either totally destroyed or suffered major damage to property making it uninhabitable.

Only one application per dwelling will be accepted.

## **What if there are multiple dwellings on a property?**

Multiple dwellings on one property are common in farming communities, where the owner may reside in the main dwelling, and family or workers reside in secondary dwellings.

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

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

Assistance is available to eligible residents of the following Local Government areas: Carnamah, Chapman Valley, Coorow, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Greater Geraldton, Mingenew, Morawa, Mount Marshall, Northampton, Perenjori, Shark Bay, Three Springs, Carnarvon, Irwin and Koorda.

## **What type of loss may be considered by the LMDRF?**

Grants may only be provided to cover repairs to a primary 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 the fund will not replace 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.

### How can I lodge an application?

Applications can be downloaded from [appealswa.org.au](http://appealswa.org.au) or a hard copy can be obtained from your relevant local government office.

Your application must be lodged with the local government office where the dwelling is located.

### When can I lodge my application?

Applications are open for acceptance from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

### What are the categories for assistance, so people can start applying?

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

#### *Round 1 assistance measures*

Owner/occupier	
Total loss of property	Up to \$25,000
Major damage to property making it uninhabitable	Up to \$10,000
Occupier (tenant)	
Total loss of property	Up to \$25,000
Major damage to property making it uninhabitable	Up to \$10,000

#### *Round 2 assistance measures*

Owner/occupier	
Where ‘major damage’ is greater than \$100,000 receive a further \$15,000	Up to \$25,000
Owner	
Total loss of property	Up to \$5,000
Major damage to property making it uninhabitable	Up to \$5,000

Further assistance measures will be decided by the Board as additional information of the extent of damage across the affected districts is received from relevant emergency coordination bodies.

### 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. 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.

### **What is considered total loss and/or major damage?**

Total loss of property

- Complete failure of major structural components (e.g. collapse of walls or roof), or roof off building.
- Structure is unrepairable (without demolition), unsafe and not habitable

Major damage to property making it uninhabitable

- Complete loss of roofing material
- Roof structure significantly damaged (damage to roof trusses)
- Structural damage that requires major repairs
- Structure is not usable or habitable

Please note:

- Total or major damage cannot relate to business assets.
- Only one application per dwelling will be accepted.

### **What sort of evidence do you require to support the damage to my residence?**

The DFES Rapid Damage Assessment Report (RDA) will be used as the basis for the application being approved. Where the property is not listed on the RDA, the applicant will be requested to provide further evidence such as photos, insurance assessor and/or structural engineer reports. This information will be requested by the LMDRF during the assessment process.

### **What if my property is classified at a lower level than total loss or major damage and at a later date it can be proved that the damage was worse than originally assessed?**

The Fund understands that the initial assessment of your property may not be an accurate reflection of the actual damage after either an insurance assessor and/or structural engineer report has been received. If the loss is greater than originally assessed, you may provide subsequent advice via your local government to the Fund with supporting evidence. The Fund will then reassess your claim.

### **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.