

# Potential grants, funding and supports for flood affected Kimberley

\*This information is current as at 17/01/2023. KPCA have compiled this list from various government and inter-agency sources and have summarised this information as a guide only. KPCA can not endorse or recommend particular supports and services. Please conduct your own research when considering your options

## Commonwealth Government

### Services Australia

Centrelink is the arm of Services Australia that provides social security payments. There are lots of rules and eligibility criteria around these payments so these need to be investigated to see if your personal circumstances fit the requirements.

In addition to normal [Centrelink payments](#), two additional disaster payments are now available to eligible applicants affected by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie:

- [Disaster Recovery Allowance](#) may provide support if you've lost some or all of your income as a direct result of Ex-TC Ellie so that you earn less than \$1,769.80 per week. If you're eligible, you'll get the maximum equivalent rate of JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance, depending on your circumstances, for up to 13 weeks. You must be in one of the following Shires: Broome, Derby-West Kimberley, Halls Creek or Wyndham-East Kimberley. You have until 6 July 2023 to make a claim.
- [Disaster Recovery Payment](#) may help with major damage to your property or other assets and is available if you are in the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley only. You have until 12 July 2023 to make a claim. The payment is \$1000 per adult and \$400 per child younger than 16. You must have been affected by Ex-TC Ellie, for example have been injured or the event caused major damage to your home or a major asset at your home, e.g. buildings, vehicles, caravans, water tanks or large scale machinery with a combined market value over \$20,000.

If you are eligible, you can get both the Disaster Recovery Allowance and Disaster Recovery Payment. Services Australia also provides [Crisis Payment](#), but not if you are eligible for either of the disaster payments.

[Farm Household Allowance](#) is a payment for farming families in financial hardship. It is available at all times, not just when there's been a disaster. You must be farmer or partner of a farmer, and will need to work with a case officer to prepare an application.

### Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

The [Farm Management Deposit \(FMD\) Scheme](#) isn't a support program as such, but allows primary producers to make tax deductible deposits during years of good cash flow and withdraw them during bad years. If you have an FMD account you will have been making deposits and will know about it, so best to talk with your financial adviser.

The [Regional Investment Corporation](#) (RIC) doesn't provide immediate disaster support but is something to keep in mind for when things settle down. A RIC loan is a partnership between your farm business, your commercial lender and the RIC.

### [Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\)](#)

Again, the ATO doesn't provide disaster support, but may for example make allowances for timing of BAS returns and provides information on claiming eligible expenses – talk with your financial adviser.

### [National Emergency Management Agency \(NEMA\)](#)

Minister Murray Watt visited the flood affected area and met with KPCA on 10 January 2023. NEMA doesn't provide direct support to flood affected primary producers but has arrangements with State governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Information on support provided by DPIRD under the DRFA-WA is provided below.

## [WA Government](#)

### [Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development \(DPIRD\)](#)

Ex-TC Ellie was activated as an emergency under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia 2018 (DRFA-WA) from 28 December 2022. Applications will close on 27 June 2023.

Assistance measures for primary producers under **CATEGORY B** of the DRFA-WA are in the form of **reimbursement grants**, not upfront payments. Reimbursements will be able to be claimed for:

- Professional advice
- Freight subsidies
- Fencing

DPIRD's information sheet and link to the application process are available on its website [here](#). But briefly the reimbursement arrangements are as follows:

#### 1. Professional advice

Reimbursement of fees to obtain professional advice relating directly to addressing issues arising from the flood. The maximum reimbursement available is \$1,500.

#### 2. Freight subsidies

Reimbursement of a maximum 50% of the costs to the producer to transport the following items as a direct result of the flood:

- livestock
- fodder or water for livestock
- building or fencing equipment or machinery.

#### 3. Fencing

Reimbursement of 100% of the costs associated with the following:

- restoration/replacement of **boundary fencing** (to pre-disaster standard) where the fencing has been deliberately dismantled or damaged due to counter disaster operations activities undertaken to combat the eligible natural disaster event; and/or

- reimbursement of the costs of materials only (to pre-disaster standard) to repair/replace **boundary fencing** damaged/lost as a direct result of the eligible natural disaster event. This measure is only available where the fencing adjoins a major road/rail transport corridor and where the roaming of livestock may present a danger to the travelling public.

#### Interest rate subsidy

Also under Category B, an expression of Interest can be submitted for an interest subsidy on a new loan to recover from the flooding event. The loan must be taken to repair/replace lost or damaged assets, repair damage caused by the flood, implement the next season's production program, or replace livestock lost in the disaster. The interest rate subsidy payments are:

- capped at a maximum of \$6,000 per annum (being 4% of a loan maximum of \$150,000); and
- for a maximum period of 10 years, of which the first two years may be free of capital repayments.

The WA Government can apply to the Australian Government to get **recovery grants for primary producers** under **CATEGORY C** of the DRFA-WA, but this is not a given. We will let people know if/when recovery grants become available.

Generally these are up to \$10,000 and aimed at covering the cost of clean-up and reinstatement, but not at providing compensation for losses, for example:

- cost of equipment and materials to undertake clean-up, including the removal and disposal of damaged goods or produce and injured or dead stock
- additional labour costs (above and beyond day-to-day staffing)
- replacement or repair of fencing, essential plant and equipment
- salvaging crops, grain and feeds or replacing lost or damaged plant stock if the replacement is essential to immediately resume business activities
- health maintenance for livestock and poultry and purchase of fodder for livestock (not covered by other assistance)
- purchase or hire/lease costs for equipment, if the replacement is essential to immediately resume business activities
- replacing dead livestock, where satisfactory evidence of loss is provided
- water cartage and replacement of essential water, used for fire fighting
- essential repairs to (business) premises and internal fittings (e.g. flood covering, electrical rewiring, shelving), including payment for tradespeople to conduct safety inspections.

#### Department of Communities

The Department of Communities operates the Disaster Response Hotline on **1800 032 965**.

Depending on the event, available support may include:

- emergency accommodation
- emergency food provision
- emergency clothing and personal requisites
- personal support services
- registration and reunification
- financial assistance.

## Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

DFES administers DRFA-WA but doesn't provide any support itself. Support is provided through:

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
  - See section above
- Department of Communities
  - Please visit a local Recovery Centre or contact the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965 to discuss what assistance is available to you.

If you have any questions about support that might be available, please contact Jeremy at KPCA by email [workforce@kpca.net.au](mailto:workforce@kpca.net.au) or on [0400 478 194](tel:0400478194).