

INFOSHEET – VERSION 1.0 (23/12/2021)

# Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangements Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy

## Response

The Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangements (TRRA) Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy provides financial support for local governments to defray the cost of eligible relief and recovery activities following natural disasters.

The TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy is administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) Office of Security and Emergency Management (OSEM).

## Response

### Overview

This infosheet provides information about response activities for which costs may be eligible for reimbursement under the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy. All local governments should deliver the response activities that are appropriate to their obligations under the Tasmanian Emergency Management Arrangements (TEMA).

This infosheet should be read in conjunction with the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy and associated Guidelines. In case of inconsistency between this infosheet and the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy or any Guidelines, the Policy and Guidelines prevail.

### Potentially eligible response activities

Under the TRRA, local governments can claim reimbursement for costs incurred delivering eligible response activities. Potentially eligible response activities are of three types:

1. Emergency assistance to individuals and households
2. Counter-disaster operations for the protection of the public
3. Emergency works and immediate reconstruction of essential public assets

Refer to Guideline 4: Eligible Expenditure for further information.

## Emergency assistance to individuals and households

Potentially eligible response activities include a range of forms of emergency assistance for individuals and households. Local governments are likely to deliver many of these forms of assistance at evacuation centres, but assistance can be delivered directly to the homes of affected individuals or in other locations.

Emergency assistance to individuals and households includes:

- Emergency food, clothing and accommodation (including as delivered at evacuation centres);
- Repair or replacement of essential household items of furniture and personal effects;
- Emergency repairs to housing;
- Demolition to prepare a residential block for rebuilding;
- Removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable; and
- Personal financial counselling.

Refer to Guideline 3: Emergency Assistance for further information.

## Evacuation centres

Many costs associated with the operation of evacuation centres are potentially eligible for the purposes of the TRRA. These include:

- Additional staffing costs (overtime and allowances for employees, including additional hours worked by casual employees);
- Engaging additional temporary personnel, including short-term contractors assisting operation of evacuation centres;
- Engaging service providers, including not-for-profit organisations providing food or clothing at evacuation centres;
- Transportation costs;
- Establishment costs (such as bedding, food or other consumables); and
- Operational costs (such as rental charges and power costs).

It is important that eligible costs are recorded separately from ineligible costs that may be associated with facilities that are used as evacuation centres. These include:

- Ordinary salaries and wages of council employees assisting operations at an evacuation centre; and
- Ordinary operational costs of evacuation centre facilities.

As part of their preparedness for natural disasters, local governments should ensure they have appropriate arrangements for recording eligible costs (including relevant evidence of eligibility) associated with operating evacuation centres.

## Counter-disaster operations

Local governments may claim eligible expenditure related to a range of counter-disaster operations including:

- Search and rescue operations;
- Evacuating threatened or affected people;
- Sandbagging or constructing temporary barriers to prevent inundation of residential properties;
- Tree bracing to protect residential properties;

\* Local governments may claim eligible expenditure for asset restoration or debris clean-up related to the counter-disaster operations of a third party, such as a Tasmanian Government agency with firefighting responsibilities.

- Establishing temporary access routes to undertake counter-disaster operations and to allow individuals to return home;
- Restoring assets directly damaged by counter-disaster operations activities, such as fencing damaged during firefighting activities;\* and
- Cleaning-up debris resulting from counter-disaster operations activities.\*

Refer to Guideline 3: Emergency Assistance for further information.

## **Emergency works and immediate reconstruction of essential public assets**

Local governments may claim eligible expenditure incurred in the delivery of emergency works and immediate reconstruction of essential public assets.

Refer to Guideline 2: Essential Public Asset Reconstruction and the Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets Infosheet for further information.

\* Local governments may claim eligible expenditure for asset restoration or debris clean-up related to the counter-disaster operations of a third party, such as a Tasmanian Government agency with firefighting responsibilities.

## Response – FAQs

### **Can local governments claim costs associated with memoranda of understanding or other agreements with not-for-profit organisations to deliver emergency assistance to individuals?**

Yes, local governments can claim costs associated with the activities of other organisations with which they have existing agreements. Costs must directly relate to eligible response activities for an event.

If a local government arranges for another organisation to deliver emergency assistance, these arrangements must be clearly documented before any assistance is delivered. This documentation should include appropriate financial and cost recovery arrangements. The Tasmanian Government will only pay assistance under the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy directly to Tasmanian local governments.

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