

INFOSHEET – VERSION 1.0 (23/12/2021)

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

Infrastructure Reconstruction

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).

Asset Reconstruction

Overview

The TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy allows local governments to access financial support for the reconstruction of essential public assets damaged during an eligible natural disaster. For many eligible natural disasters, reconstruction costs are likely to be the largest expense for which local governments are able to seek financial support.

There are specific evidentiary requirements that must be met for local governments to access support for the reconstruction of essential public assets. The exact requirements depend on the nature and duration of rehabilitation projects. This infosheet provides additional information about the evidentiary requirements and the circumstances under which they apply.

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.

Types of essential public asset reconstruction work

The TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy distinguishes between three types of essential public asset reconstruction work. It is important that works are classified correctly to ensure that the correct evidence is collected to support claims.

1. Emergency Works are urgent activities to temporarily restore essential public assets to enable the assets to operate at an acceptable level to support the immediate recovery of a community. Examples are provided at Clause 5.2.2 of the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy. Emergency Works must:
 - a. be completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible natural disaster; and
 - b. not fully or permanently restore damaged essential public assets.
2. Immediate Reconstruction Works are activities to fully restore essential public assets. Immediate Reconstruction Works must:
 - a. be completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible natural disaster; and
 - b. fully or permanently restore damaged essential public assets.
3. Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works are activities to fully restore essential public assets.

A specific damaged essential public asset may be rehabilitated via:

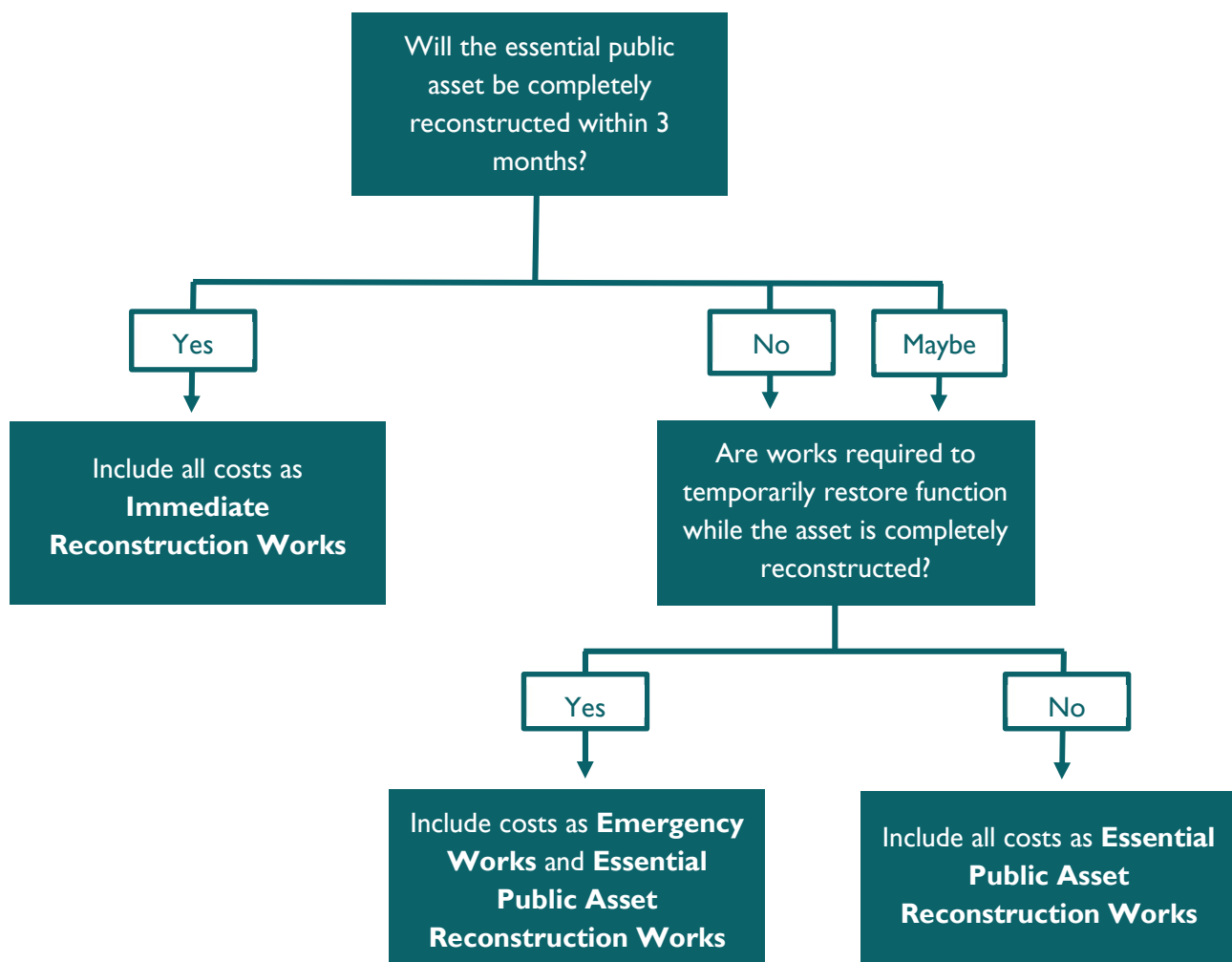
- a combination of Emergency Works and Immediate Reconstruction Works;
- a combination of Emergency Works and Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works;
- Immediate Reconstruction Works alone; or
- Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works alone.

Local governments should not submit claims for:

- Emergency Works alone; or
- a combination of Immediate Reconstruction Works and Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works

for any single essential public asset rehabilitation project.

Figure 1 summarises the conditions under which different types of work should be claimed, with additional details below.



Emergency Works

Emergency works do not restore damaged essential public assets to their pre-disaster condition, but do restore temporary function to an acceptable level to support immediate recovery. Emergency works must be completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible natural disaster.

For Category B emergency works for essential public assets, local governments must be able to provide evidence including:

- asset details, including name, location and description;
- a description of the damage;
- evidence of damage, supported by one or more of:
 - post event photos
 - road closure reports
 - police/local government traffic management taskings
 - local news/media articles
 - SES/local government taskings for road debris removal or make-safe activities
 - evidence from local government waste removal activities noting activities/trips to waste disposal facilities;
- a description of the emergency clean up activity required;
- activity start and end dates; and
- total cost of works, exclusive of GST.

Local governments do not need to provide cost estimates or formal damage assessments to support claims for emergency works (although evidence of damage should be available).

Emergency works may include work that local government asset management staff complete shortly after an eligible disaster, possibly during inspection or damage assessment activities. For example, asset management teams may remove debris and complete minor repairs while conducting inspections. This activity may be eligible for claiming as emergency works, so local governments should ensure that appropriate evidence is collected and costs are recorded for these activities.

Immediate Reconstruction Works

Immediate reconstruction works restore damaged essential public assets to their pre-disaster condition. Emergency works must be completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible following an eligible natural disaster.

For Category B immediate reconstruction works for essential public assets, local governments must be able to provide evidence including:

- asset details, including name, location and description;
- a description of the damage;
- evidence of the pre-disaster function (category, type, capacity, layout and materials)
- evidence of the pre-disaster condition, supported by one or more of:
 - photographs
 - maintenance records or inspection reports;
- evidence of damage, supported by one or more of:

- photographs
- damage assessment or inspection reports;
- a description of the emergency clean up activity required;
- evidence of the post-reconstruction condition, supported by one or more of:
 - photographs
 - maintenance records or inspection reports;
- activity start and end dates; and
- total cost of works, exclusive of GST.

Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works

Essential public asset reconstruction works restore damaged essential public assets to their pre-disaster condition.

For Category B essential public asset reconstruction works, local governments must be able to provide evidence including:

- asset details, including name, location and description;
- a description of the damage;
- completed and certified Schedule 3 Damage Assessment Form, including:
 - evidence of the pre-disaster function (category, type, capacity, layout and materials)
 - evidence of the pre-disaster condition, supported by one or more of:
 - photographs
 - maintenance records or inspection reports;
 - evidence of damage, supported by one or more of:
 - photographs
 - damage assessment or inspection reports;
- completed and certified Schedule 4 Cost Estimation and Procurement Form, including:
 - a description of the emergency clean up activity required;
 - a cost estimate prepared in accordance with Clause 5.2.3 of the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy, with supporting detail
 - a certified procurement declaration (if market response has been used);
- evidence of the post-reconstruction condition, supported by one or more of:
 - photographs
 - maintenance records or inspection reports;
- activity start and end dates; and
- total cost of works, exclusive of GST.

Local governments must also report actual reconstruction costs incurred when essential public asset reconstruction work is complete.

Pre-disaster condition

The TRRA only covers costs associated with restoring essential public assets to their pre-disaster condition. It is important that local governments can provide evidence:

- of the pre-disaster condition of a damaged essential public asset; and
- that the costs included in any claim under the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy are only those costs of restoring a damaged essential public asset to its pre-disaster condition.

Appropriate evidence is particularly important in the following situations:

1. If a local government restores a damaged essential public asset to a better standard than its pre-disaster standard ('betterment'), then it must:
 - only include costs for restoring the essential public asset to its pre-disaster standard in any claim under the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy, and
 - provide appropriate evidence.
2. If a local government restores a damaged essential public asset that was not of an appropriate pre-disaster standard (e.g. due to insufficient maintenance), then it must:
 - restore the essential public asset to an appropriate standard;
 - only include costs for restoring the essential public asset to its pre-disaster standard in any claim under the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy, and
 - provide appropriate evidence.

Refer to Guideline 2: Essential Public Asset Reconstruction for further information.

Asset Reconstruction – FAQs

When should supporting evidence for asset reconstruction works be provided?

As with other costs, local governments are responsible for collecting and maintaining appropriate evidence to support claims under the TRRA Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy. Local governments do not need to submit this evidence to the TAO or to OSEM at the time of claim submission, but must provide the evidence to the TAO or to OSEM if requested at any time.

What happens if Immediate Reconstruction Works are not completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible?

Works to reconstruct an essential public asset that is not completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible must be claimed as essential public asset reconstruction works with all supporting evidence including damage assessments and cost estimates.

Local governments are strongly advised to comply with the evidentiary requirements for essential public asset reconstruction works for all projects that may not be complete within the three month timeframe. Delays caused by resourcing limitations, procurement processes or weather do not change the reporting requirements for projects that are not completed within three months from the time the essential public asset becomes accessible.

How should a local government reconstruct an essential public asset if reconstruction to pre-disaster condition would involve obsolete or outdated construction methodologies or building materials?

If reconstruction of an essential public asset would involve obsolete or outdated construction methodologies or building materials, a local government can substitute contemporary alternatives. The local government must be able to provide evidence to support the chosen reconstruction solution. This should include specific references to relevant engineering and building standards. See Guideline 2: Essential Public Asset Restoration or Replacement for further advice.

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