



**TASMANIAN RELIEF AND RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS: NATURAL  
DISASTER RELIEF TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY**

# Guideline 1

## ELIGIBLE NATURAL DISASTER

### Naturally occurring rapid-onset event

This guideline applies to the definition of an eligible natural disaster outlined in Section 2.1 Eligible Natural Disaster of the *Tasmanian Relief and Recovery Arrangements: Natural Disaster Relief to Local Government Policy* (the Policy).

An eligible natural disaster must be a naturally occurring rapid-onset event. The following list specifies naturally occurring rapid-onset events:

- Bushfire;
- Earthquake;
- Flood;
- Storm;
- Cyclone;
- Storm surge;
- Landslide;
- Tsunami;
- Meteorite strike; and
- Tomado.

Natural hazards not listed above are not eligible natural disasters under the Policy.

The following list provides examples of natural hazards not considered eligible natural disasters under the Policy:

- Sinkholes;
- Coastal erosion; and
- Drought.

Councils can only claim eligible costs (outlined in Section 7 Eligible Expenditure of the Policy) in relation to eligible natural disasters.



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**Significant and coordinated multi-agency response**

In order to be an eligible natural disaster, the naturally occurring rapid onset event must require a significant and co-ordinated multi-agency response.

A significant and co-ordinated multi-agency response may include multiple Tasmanian Government agencies responding to an event.

**Example: Tasmanian Government multi-agency response**  
**The Tasmanian Fire Service, Parks, and Wildlife Service and Sustainable Timbers**  
**Tasmania responding to a bushfire event.**

A significant and coordinated response may also be a Tasmanian Government agency responding to an event in conjunction with a council.

**Example: Tasmanian Government / Council Response (1)**  
**The Tasmanian Fire Service issuing a Watch and Act alert and arranging community**  
**information sessions in conjunction with councils.**

Where it is evident that that a naturally occurring rapid-onset event is requiring a multi-agency response, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) will contact councils to determine if they are incurring, or expect to incur, eligible costs. If councils are likely to incur eligible costs, DPAC will encourage councils to complete and submit Schedule 1 – Notification Form.

There will be naturally occurring rapid onset events where a coordinated multi-agency response is not evident.

**Example: Tasmanian Government / Council Response (2)**  
**State Emergency Service volunteers and council officers responding to a storm event**  
**affecting residential properties and public infrastructure. If there are no formal**  
**emergency alerts or media coverage, the full extent of the multi-agency response may**  
**not be evident.**

If councils are likely to incur eligible costs, they should complete and submit Schedule 1 - Notification Form.



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### Serious disruption to a community

In order to activate the Policy, there must be a serious disruption to a community. Councils must be able to demonstrate and provide supporting evidence of a serious disruption to a community.

**Example: Serious Disruption to a Community (1)**

If a naturally occurring rapid onset event requires a significant and coordinated response also involves the evacuation of communities and / or road closures, it is a serious disruption to a community.

**Example: Serious Disruption to a Community (2)**

A naturally occurring rapid onset event that requires a significant and coordinated response threatened or caused death, injury or damage to property it is a serious disruption to a community.

### Thresholds.

Before activating the Policy, the Tasmanian Government will consider the capacity of affected councils to fund the response to, and recovery from the eligible natural disaster. Generally, the Tasmanian Government will use thresholds (calculated under Section 9.5 Determining the Amount of Financial Assistance of the Policy) to determine if a council has capacity to fund response and recovery activities.

If eligible costs, relating to an eligible natural disaster that causes serious disruption to a community, exceed or are likely to exceed a council's first threshold, the Tasmanian Government will generally activate the Policy.