

Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience & Emergency Management

WACOSS welcomes critical investment into rebuilding and recovering from the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Seroja and ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie. However, given the likelihood of increasing disaster events of this scale in future, we are concerned that there is no direct investment in disaster risk reduction, community preparedness and resilience.

Initiative	Future drought resilience funding for Western Australian Farms and Regions (BP2, V1, P209)
Investment	\$20.2 million in forward estimates over the next 3-years.
Description	The State Government has invested \$10.1 million to match the Federal Government contribution of \$10.1 million towards the Future Drought Fund. The funding will build on the state government's previous investment in Farm Business Resilience and Regional Drought Resilience Planning programs.
Implications	The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program supports partnerships between regional organisations, local government, communities, and industry to create community-driven drought plans that identify actions to prepare for future droughts.

Initiative	Community Benefit Fund – Cyclone Seroja (BP2, V2, P445) (BP2, V2, P451)
Investment	\$9.2 million in 2023-24
Description	This initiative is to support the Community Benefit Fund and Resilience Grant programs for local governments affected by Tropical Cyclone Seroja. This is intended to empower local community recovery efforts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8 million towards grants for 16 local governments impact by Tropical Cyclone Seroja each worth \$500,000. • \$1.2 million will be shared between the 5 worst impacted local governments for recovery. • \$400,000 will be made available to the local government of Northampton. • \$200,000 will be made available to the local governments of Chapman Valley, Morrowa, Perenjori & Mingenew.
Implications	While WACOSS welcomes additional recovery funding for impacted local governments, we are concerned that there hasn't been a more significant investment made to ensure local governments have ongoing capacity and capability to reduce local disaster risk, prepare for future disaster events and drive early recovery planning.

Initiative	Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie State Disaster Recovery Capability (BP2, V2, P445) (BP3, P129)
Investment	\$38 million from 2022-23 to 2024-25
Description	<p>This funding package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$24.9 million provided to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for 29 FTE. • \$13.4 million to be dedicated to Kimberly Recovery Taskforce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$6.3 million investment in State Disaster Recovery Capability: including 20 FTE for 2 years and 12 FTE for 1 year to manage and support Kimberly communities to recover from the catastrophic flooding caused by ex-tropical cyclone Ellie. ○ \$6.9 million in Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie Recovery Taskforce.
Implications	WACOSS is pleased to see a significant investment in the Kimberley recovery and the funding of dedicated Western Australian recovery capability. We will be watching to see that the Recovery Taskforce is driven by impacted communities and aligned with the National Recovery Principles.

Initiative	Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie Recovery Assistance Package (BP1, P17)
Investment	<p>Measures funded by the State Government include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$80 million for emergency road recovery works and to repair flood-affected internal community and access roads (BP2, V2, P591) • \$42 million for a Freight Assistance Package (BP2, V2, P209) • \$33 million for temporary accommodation (BP3, P132)
Description	This funding will be used to repair damaged roads, subsidise some of the additional costs with transportation and implement emergency accommodation for flood-impacted residents.
Implications	WACOSS welcomes investment to repair critical infrastructure and provide temporary shelter for impacted community members, however, notes there is no detail regarding the rebuilding of housing in line with climate resilience and risk reduction.