

Joint Media Release – The Hon Shelley Payne MLC

23 projects for Western Australia announced under new Disaster Ready Fund

Monday, 19 June 2023

- Round 1 Recipients of Albanese Government's Disaster Ready Fund announced.
- 23 projects in Western Australia to be funded.
- Towns across Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Goldfields to benefit from funding to better protect against natural disasters.

Western Australia will be better protected and prepared for future natural disasters following the recent announcement of 23 local projects funded under Round One of the Albanese Government's new Disaster Ready Fund.

Western Australia will be better protected and prepared for future natural disasters following today's announcement of 23 local projects funded under Round One of the Albanese Government's new Disaster Ready Fund.

Through the first round, WA will benefit from over \$18 million in combined investment into disaster prevention, through Federal, State and delivery partner co-contributions.

The Fund was an election commitment by the Albanese Government and will deliver national long-term mitigation funding to help protect communities from natural disasters. State and Territory Governments submitted applications for a range of projects to improve mitigation and resilience, in collaboration with local councils and community groups.

Successful projects in WA include:

- Upgrades to Fire History Datasets in Using Fire Severity Dynamics in the Shires of Lake Grace, Kojonup, Katanning, Wagin, West Arthur, Narrogin, Dumbleyung, Woodanilling, Williams, Ravensthorpe, Jerramungup, Kent, Gnowangerup, Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, and Esperance, among many others.
- Power back up upgrades to the emergency evacuation centre at Dumbleyung to better protect surrounding communities during bushfires, floods, and other emergencies.
- Stormwater Drainage Design for the Township of Cranbrook.

A full list of WA projects is available here: [Disaster Ready Fund - Round One | National Emergency Management Agency \(nema.gov.au\)](#)

The Disaster Ready Fund builds upon the Albanese Government's commitment to building Australia's resilience to natural disasters. Over the past year, the Commonwealth Government has invested heavily in disaster resilience and mitigation projects across Australia, including nearly \$20 million for Western Australia to support mitigation projects reducing the impact of coastal hazards, such as inundation, storm surges and erosion.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will work with each jurisdiction to negotiate funding agreements with funds to be provided as soon as possible from July 2023. Projects must be completed within three years.

There were more than 300 applications submitted across all States and Territories. Successful projects were selected following a rigorous merit-based assessment process undertaken by NEMA.

More information on the Disaster Ready Fund, including updates about Round Two of the Disaster Ready Fund, can be found on [NEMA's website](#).

Comments attributed to Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Murray Watt

"WA experiences a range of bushfires, floods, cyclones and storms, and this year alone we've experienced the destructive nature of those events," Minister Watt said.

"As we continue to fund disaster recovery in areas like the Kimberley, it's critical we do more to build defences right across the state.

"As a country we invest far more in recovering from disasters than we do defending against them, and that mentality has got to change.

"This is about more than just bricks and mortar. We are changing the way Australia deals with natural disasters by planning better for the future to ensure that communities all around the country are better prepared, less exposed and in the best possible position to recover when disasters strike.

Comments attributed to WA Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson

"Funding will help boost existing projects such as improved fire danger rating signage and bushfire mitigation works, through to significant evacuation centre upgrades and community education projects to teach the next generation of Western Australians about disaster resilience," he said.

"I'd like to thank all community groups and local and State Government agencies who put forward projects that will help make Western Australia a safer and more resilient State.

"I look forward to seeing these initiatives get off the ground and make a difference to community safety."

Comments attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC

"While we cannot prevent natural disasters from happening, this important Federal Government funding will help to better prepare Western Australia for future natural disasters", she said.

"Regional towns experience the tyranny of distance so in times of emergency, having localised infrastructure will help to ensure they can be managed swiftly and appropriately".

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