

Responding to natural disasters, including the provision of relief and recovery assistance to disaster affected communities, is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments ('the states'). However, in recognition of the significant cost of natural disasters, the Australian Government established the joint Australian Government-State cost sharing arrangements to alleviate the financial burden on the states and to facilitate the early provision of assistance to disaster affected communities. Through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA), the Australian Government provides financial assistance directly to the states to assist them with costs associated with certain disaster relief and recovery assistance measures.

Coordinating the financial relief and recovery measures from a whole-of-government perspective and direct support for activations is provided by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).

The intent of this program is to assist with the relief and recover of communities whose social, financial and economic well-being has been severely affected by a disaster event.

Counter Disaster Operations (CDO)

Counter Disaster Operations (CDO) are activities undertaken by Local and State government agencies to provide direct assistance to, and in the protection of, the general public immediately before, during and in the immediate aftermath of a disaster event. This may include personal and financial counselling aimed at alleviating personal hardship and distress arising as a direct result of the eligible disaster. CDO is intended to reduce the exposure to Category A assistance being required and are extraordinary costs for eligible activities which exceed those that could be reasonably expected to incur.

AIM	Protecting and assisting people with the intention to allow residents to return to their homes and reduce personal hardship and distress.
ACTIVITIES	Activities undertaken to provide direct assistance to individuals, and for the protection of the general public, immediately before, during and in the immediate aftermath of an event.
WHEN	Immediately before, during and immediately after the event only.
EXAMPLES	Sandbagging or tarping residences, operating evacuation centers, removing debris from residential properties around main entry only to enable safe access, extraordinary evacuation costs, emergency evacuations.

Emergent Works

Emergent works are activities that are necessary during the course of a disaster to protect eligible public assets or to restore essential public services and maintain public safety. They also include immediate post-disaster repairs to an eligible asset to enable it to operate/be operated at a reasonable level of efficiency. This would include clean-up costs, removal of silt/debris and temporary repairs.

AIM	Temporary protection of, or immediate temporary repairs of, essential public assets.
ACTIVITIES	Protection of assets from damage; minor, temporary works to essential public assets that were damaged during an event, in order to make them safe and serviceable.
WHEN	Works must be completed within 60 days after event.
EXAMPLES	Sandbagging essential assets, temporary pothole repairs, cleaning debris from roads, road closures.

REPA (Restoration of Essential Public Assets)

This relief measure financially assists eligible state and local governments in restoration and emergent works to essential public assets damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster event.

WHAT IS EPA?	An essential public asset is an integral and necessary part of Council's Infrastructure that if lost or damaged, would severely disrupt the normal functioning of the community.
AIM	Permanently restoring essential public assets to pre-disaster standard.
ACTIVITIES	Permanent repairs to essential public assets damaged directly by an event to restore them to pre-disaster standard.
WHEN	Works to be completed and acquitted within two years after the financial year of the event.
EXAMPLES	Permanently restoring damaged essential roads and road infrastructure, bridges, culverts, footpaths, drainage infrastructure or levees to pre-disaster standard.

