

Community Cyclone Information Update - TC Seroja, 28 April 2021, 0900 hrs



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



INCIDENT STATUS

Ex Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed the coast as a category 3 cyclone on Sunday 11 April 2021. The system moved along its forecast track and degraded as it moved inland. Ex-TC Seroja moved offshore southeast of Esperance. The impact has been significant and recovery will be ongoing.

The following local governments have been impacted: Northampton; Chapman Valley; Greater Geraldton; Morawa; Mingenew; Perenjori; Three Springs; Carnamah; Coorow; Dalwallinu; Mount Marshall; Koorda; Mukinbudin; Merredin. Major impacts were in the localities of Kalbarri; Northampton; Chapman Valley; Morawa; Perenjori; and Mingenew.

RECOVERY CENTRES AND SUPPORT

Department of Communities has opened Recovery Centres at:

- **Kalbarri Golf Club**, Haselby Street, Kalbarri (9:30am to 4pm)
- **Northampton RSL**, Corner of Essex Street and NW Coastal Highway, Northampton (9:30am to 4pm)

Please note, the Recovery Centre at Catholic Diocese at 7 Maitland Street in Geraldton is now closed.

- Emergency assistance may be available for individuals or families to alleviate the personal hardship or distress arising as a direct result of Tropical Cyclone Seroja.
- Representatives from relevant support agencies will attend to help people access the support they need. Affected residents can also apply for disaster relief online at communities.wa.gov.au/disasterrelief
- Due to a high number of applications there will be delays in processing times. For further information please call the Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965 or email emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au
- The Australian Government is also providing financial support to those directly affected. Visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/tropical-cyclone-seroja-april-2021 for more information
- **For further recovery information and resources please refer to the Emergency WA Recovery webpage at dfes.wa.gov.au/emergencywa/recovery.**

- For information on the **Lord Mayor's Distress Fund** go to <https://appealswa.org.au/apply-for-assistance>
- If you need to chat or you're struggling, Lifeline provide crisis support calls on 13 11 14. You can reach them 24/7 or visit the Lifeline website for resources.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Wednesday 28 April 2021

- Perenjori Hall, Perenjori - 10am
- Northampton Community Centre, 52 Harvey Road, Northampton - 5pm

Thursday 29 April 2021

- Kalbarri Golf and Lawn Bowls Club, Kalbarri - 11am
- Mingenew Autumn Centre, cnr Shenton and Phillip Street, Mingenew – 2pm

Friday 30 April 2021

- Morawa Greater Sports Ground, Evans St Morawa - 11am

All attendees must continue to follow COVID-19 precautions and maintain appropriate physical distancing. Meeting locations, dates and times are updated regularly at emergency.wa.gov.au

ROAD CLOSURES

The following roads are **closed**:

- Ajana-Kalbarri Road from North West Coastal Highway to Kalbarri
 - George Grey Drive/Red Bluff Road from Port Gregory to Kalbarri
- Road information may also be available from Main Roads WA. travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au call 138 138 or contact your Local Government Authority.

RESTRICTED ACCESS PERMITS

Restricted Access Permits are available for issue to local residents for entry into Kalbarri via Ajana-Kalbarri Road and George Grey Drive/Red

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Bluff Road. Restricted Access Permits will be issued by DFES personnel at the following locations:

Kalbarri Police Station, 48 Grey Street, Kalbarri (Please attend the DFES Incident Control Vehicle in the car park)

- 7am-4pm daily

Northampton RSL, Corner of Essex Street and North West Coastal Highway, Northampton

- 8am-4pm daily

Residents need to bring the following items:

- Valid identification (e.g. Drivers licence)
- Evidence of being a local resident.

Each person travelling in a vehicle must show an identification at the checkpoints as proof of being a local resident. For more information visit the [Restricted Access Permits](#) section of the DFES website.

WHAT EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE DOING

- DFES personnel from throughout the state will continue to maintain a presence in the affected area.
- State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteers from across the state are actively responding to requests for assistance in affected communities.
- The Incident Management Team are actively working with DFES personnel locally and across the State to ensure the safety of the community.
- Emergency services have received over 1452 calls for help to date.
- DFES personnel including staff and volunteers from SES, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Career Fire and Rescue Service, Marine Rescue, Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services and local government Bushfire Brigades continue to have a presence in the affected communities and are assisting with recovery efforts.
- Storm damage teams from New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland along with Australian Defence Force personnel have completed their tasks and are returning to their respective home States.
- Those community members with urgent requests for SES assistance, as well as those who no longer require assistance, can call 132500.

HEALTH

- After a cyclone it is important to be aware of a range of hazards that may be present in and around your home and the local community. The

immediate risks include damaged or downed power lines and unstable structures. Other risks can include asbestos damage, displaced chemicals, unsafe food due to power outages, damaged wastewater systems and increased mosquito activity.

- Information from Department of Health (DoH) is that the risk of airborne asbestos fibres in affected areas remains low. Testing has been carried out in high-impact areas and shows there is no airborne fibres above normal levels.
- P2/N95 respirators/masks are not required unless handling asbestos or in close proximity to personnel undertaking asbestos clean-up. However please note emergency services personnel will be wearing masks as part of COVID-19 precautions.
- For advice on health hazards including potential asbestos contamination visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Hazards-after-cyclones-and-floods

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

- The Premier has announced an end to the three-day lockdown for the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions from 12.01am Tuesday April 27 with some interim restrictions until 12.01am Saturday May 1.
- Masks have been made mandatory for all people in the Perth metropolitan area and for people who have visited or been in Perth since April 17.
- All emergency services personnel working in the Midwest and Wheatbelt on the Cyclone Seroja response effort will be following this health advice and wearing masks as many of them have been in Perth since April 17.
- The safety of community and emergency services personnel is our top priority, and all necessary precautions will be taken.

ASBESTOS

Information from the Department of Health (DoH) is that the risk of airborne asbestos fibres in affected areas remains 'low' and that P2 respirators are not required unless handling asbestos or in close proximity to personnel undertaking asbestos clean-up.

- Contact your Local Government and/or insurer for advice on managing asbestos on your property.
- DFES is undertaking work to stabilise material containing asbestos in the highest impacted towns of Kalbarri and Northampton, this work will

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continue into other affected areas.

- Bonding agent is being sprayed to stabilise material containing asbestos. This bonding agent is tinted with paint or dye for visibility and it is non-toxic.
- There will likely be some restrictions of movement with road closures, this is unavoidable, and we ask for the community's understanding.

As a precautionary approach do not use blower vacs when cleaning yards as it may disturb products that may contain asbestos. Check garden refuse for asbestos or other material before mulching.

POWER

Please visit Western Power Cyclone Seroja power supply updates for details:

<https://www.westernpower.com.au/community/news-opinion/cyclone-seroja-power-supply-updates/>

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IMPACTED

Residential and business damage numbers across the Midwest Gascoyne (28/4/21)

- 81 totally damaged or destroyed
- 294 severely damaged
- 326 moderately damaged
- 702 slightly damaged

ANIMAL WELFARE AND PARK CLOSURES

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is assisting DFES to confirm the safety and wellbeing of residents and livestock on agricultural properties along the track of Tropical Cyclone Seroja in the Mid West and Wheatbelt.

DPIRD has activated the Animal Welfare in Emergencies State Support Plan and established an Animal Welfare Working Group to coordinate animal welfare efforts and to provide affected Local Governments with additional resources to attend to issues arising from the impact of the cyclone. Please report any animal welfare issues to Local Government Authorities. For more information visit agric.wa.gov.au/tcseroja

KEEP UP TO DATE

Visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au, call 13 DFES (13 3337), follow DFES on Twitter: twitter.com/dfes_wa, Facebook: facebook.com/dfeswa/

DFES has created a cyclone Seroja recovery group on Facebook. Search "Cyclone Seroja Recovery Group" to join.

Listen to [ABC Local Radio](#), or news bulletins on the following frequencies:

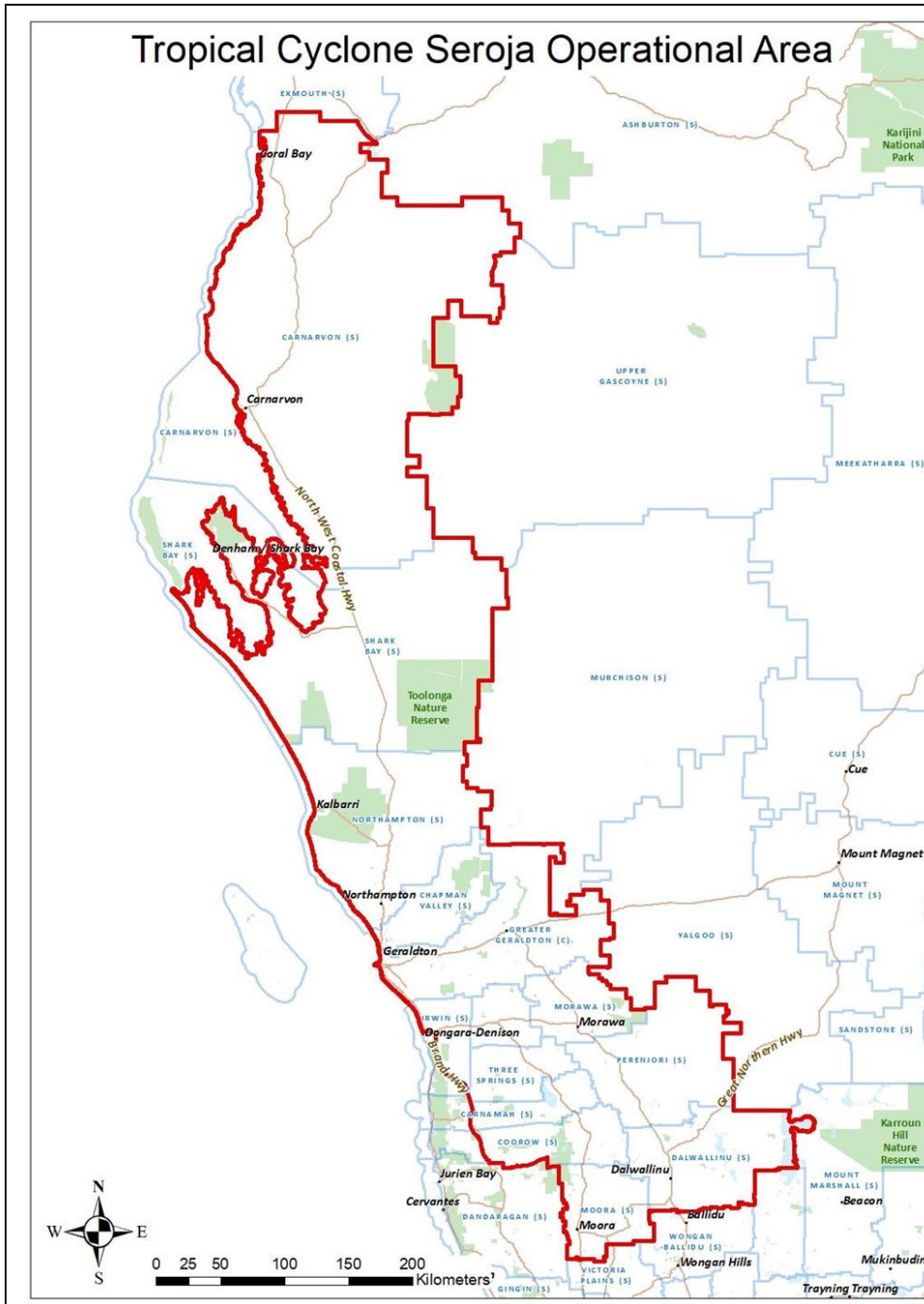
Dalwallinu 531AM
Geraldton 828 AM

Kalbarri 106.1 FM
Mt Magnet 105.7 AM

During a power outage, your home phone, computer or other electronic devices connected to the NBN will not work. Include a battery powered radio and some spare batteries in your emergency kit.

KEY SAFETY MESSAGES

- Do not approach fallen power poles or power lines.
- Avoid physically touching or handling asbestos or any material that may be asbestos.
- Do not remove material from underneath or put new material on top of asbestos piles that have been sprayed. Place new material in a separate pile.
- Avoid driving or entering flood or stagnant water.
- Run household taps to clear before using.
- Seek support for any emotional and psychological stress and trauma.
- If perishable food has not been refrigerated it can cause food poisoning.
- Ensure your pets are safe and supported.
- Seek medical attention if you or a family member are unwell.
- In a life-threatening situation call 000.
- Support vulnerable people in your local community.
- Stay connected with your friends, family and community members.



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