

Community Cyclone Information Update - TC Seroja, 29 April 2021, 0900 hrs



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



INCIDENT STATUS

Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed the coast as a category 3 cyclone on Sunday 11 April 2021. It has caused significant damage across many local governments. The response and recovery is underway and 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.

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES IMPACTED

Residential and business damage numbers across the Midwest Gascoyne (29/4/21)

- 90 totally damaged or destroyed
- 312 severely damaged
- 348 moderately damaged
- 726 slightly damaged

RECOVERY CENTRES AND SUPPORT

A recovery page has been created at dfes.wa.gov.au/emergencywa/recovery.

Here you will find information and services to help you and your family recover.

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)
- **Morawa Community Resource Centre**, 46 Winfield St, Morawa
- Various agencies will be available to provide practical support and information.
- Emergency assistance may be available from the Department of Communities for individuals or families to alleviate the personal hardship or distress arising as a direct result of Tropical Cyclone Seroja.

- Affected residents can 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
- Financial assistance is available through the **Lord Mayor's Distress Fund**. Applications for support are likely to open soon. Please visit <https://appealswa.org.au/apply-for-assistance> for further information.
- Department of Communities in collaboration with their partners are providing Emergency accommodation and personal support services including practical assistance and emotional support.
- 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 INFORMATION SESSIONS

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

Saturday 1st May 2021

- Kalbarri Golf and Lawn Bowls Club, Kalbarri - 11am

All attendees must continue to follow COVID-19 precautions and maintain

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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 Dr from Ogilvie Rd West to Kalbarri

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 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 (Please note RAP will only be issued in person. Do not call RSL members)

- 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 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

- Emergency services have received over 1452 calls for help to date.
- 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.

- DFES personnel including staff and volunteers from SES, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Career Fire and Rescue Service, Marine Services and local government Bushfire Brigades and Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services 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 returned to their respective home states.
- Those community members who require SES assistance, as well as those who have requested assistance but no longer require it, can call 132500.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 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.
- 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 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 are mandatory for all 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 wearing masks as many of them have been in Perth since April 17.
- The safety of emergency services personnel and the community is our top priority, and all necessary precautions will be taken.

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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 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.
- 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.

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 see Western Power's Cyclone Seroja Power Supply Updates for details at the below link:

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

ANIMAL WELFARE

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 531 AM
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. Please stay 8 metres away from any downed poles or wires on your property.
- 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 entering or driving flood or stagnant water.
- Seek support for any emotional and psychological stress and trauma.
- If perishable food has not been refrigerated it can cause food poisoning.
- 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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