

Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Bulletin – 21 February 2024

NDFA Bulletin 5

The Bulletin will be sent out on a regular basis and will include updates and reminders around the Victorian Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the CMS (Claims Management System) and will be emailed to all Council users who have access to the CMS portal.

New events: February 2024

The Bushfire and Storm event commencing 13 February 2024 has been combined and is under a newly create Australian Government Reference Number **(AGRN) 1108**.

If your Council has been impacted by either the Bushfire or Storms events, please complete a '*notification of event*' via the CMS by COB **22 February 2024** please.

Victorian Floods and Storms commencing on 24 December 2023 (AGRN 1096)

A media release dated 6 February 2024 made reference to a funding package for \$105 million. Please note that the Emergency Roadworks component related to funding provided directly to the Department of Transport and Planning to undertake emergency roadworks on the state-owned road network (not covered under its insurance policy).

An event end date has now been agreed, being the 22 January 2024. Emergency and Immediate Reconstruction Works will be required to have been completed within 3 months of this end date.

Upcoming key dates

29 February 2024: The estimates for each of the sub-clauses in the CMS portal need to be updated for all the active events. The CMS Portal does allow for zero amounts to be entered against a sub-clause, in the cases where Council do not expect to incur expenditure for those works/sub-clause.

31 March 2024: Certified Estimates for the Restoration of Essential Public Assets (REPA) works need to be lodged via the CMS portal. Councils requiring further time to complete their estimate packages will need to discuss this with their DRFA Assessor prior to this deadline.

Training on DRFA Guidelines and Eligibility

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Training is available in groups for all Council staff who are involved with the DRFA process and is extended beyond the registered CMS User/s. The group should include a cross section of staff involved with the DRFA activities such as emergency management, asset management, engineering/infrastructure, parks, depot and finance.
- Training sessions are approximately 2 hours.
- To arrange group training, please contact Lyndee Peters at: Lyndee.Peters@transport.vic.gov.au

Updates to DRFA documentation

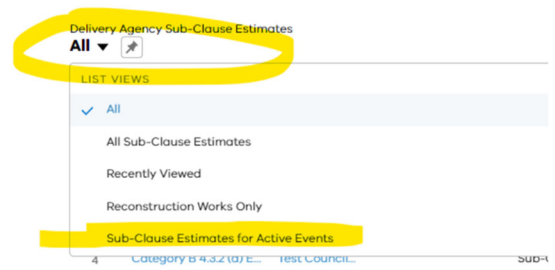
- A minor update to all of the 'DRFA Supporting Documentation Upload Information' has been made, with the inclusion of the file format i.e. xlsx. These documents are located under the '[DRFA TOOLBOX](#)' on our website, and also appear on the CMS when lodging a claim. Tip Sheets for each of the sub-clauses are also being prepared. Advice will be sent out when they have been finalised and available on the website.

CMS:

Update to CMS: View of sub-clause estimates for active events

The view for the sub-clause estimates module in the CMS has been updated so the view can be amended to '*sub-clause estimates for **active** events*' in the drop down box. This view should make it a bit easier for those Council's who have numerous active events on the go.

It is also timely for the next round of reporting of the sub-clause estimates to the Commonwealth which are due 29 February 2024.



Draft claims

Currently there are 58 claims at \$13 million in draft status on the CMS portal. These figures are used to plan for resourcing requirements.

If there are any claims in 'Draft' status for your Council which are no longer required, could you please change the status of the claim to '**withdraw**'. This action can only be performed by Council's. Withdrawing the claim takes the claim out of the cycle, providing a clearer picture of what is still expected to be lodged.

User Guides and Videos

User guides and videos are available in the CMS which cover how to complete an event notification, lodging a claim, requesting an advance etc. There are 23 videos available, each approximately 2 minutes in duration. This should be the first point of reference to any questions around the CMS.

The user guide and/or videos, are accessible by logging into the CMS and click on the User Guide tile from the Home screen.

New Users to the CMS

- Council's wishing to add a New User to the CMS portal – please email NDFA@justice.vic.gov.au and the form will be emailed. Please note the form needs to be signed by the Council CEO before access can be arranged.