

Community Cyclone Information Update

TC SEROJA, 22 APRIL 2021, Time 0900HRS

INCIDENT STATUS

Severe 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 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 - Recovery Centres are at: Kalbarri Golf and Bowling Club (Haselby Street, **Kalbarri**), QEII Seniors & Community Centre (88 Durlacher Street, **Geraldton**) & Northampton RSL, Corner of Essex Street and NW Coastal Highway, **Northampton**.
- Please be advised the Geraldton Recovery Centre will be located at the Catholic Diocese, 7 Maitland Street, Geraldton from **Friday 23 April**.
- Relevant support agencies will be in attendance to help people access the support they need. All enquiries are to be directed to the **Department of Communities** by calling **1800 176 888**.
- The Australian Government is providing financial support to those directly affected. Visit the Services Australia website for more information: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/help-emergency>
- For information on **Lord Mayor's Distress Fund** go to <https://appealswa.org.au/apply-for-assistance>
- For those who need welfare support please call: **Lifeline 131 114; Crisis Care 1800 199 008; Department of Communities 1800 176 888; Disaster Response Hotline 1800 032 965**.

For those who need immediate **financial assistance or crisis accommodation support** please call the **Disaster Response Hotline on 1800 032 965**.

ROAD CLOSURES

The following roads are **CLOSED** as at 9:00am 22 April:

- 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** by visiting travelmap.mainroads.wa.gov.au, calling **138 138** or by contacting your Local Government Authority.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the following locations **today 22nd April 2021**:

- **Northampton**: Northampton Community Centre, 52 Harvey Road, Northampton at 5:00pm.

SCHOOLS

- 44 schools have been cleared of cyclone damage following Cyclone Seroja. **All of these** are ready to welcome back students for the start of Term 2.
- For more details please visit the Department of Education's Cyclone Seroja schools update page: www.education.wa.edu.au/cyclone-seroja regularly to ensure the information you have is up to date, contact your school directly, or call the **Parent Helpline on 1800 882 345** (open daily including weekends 8:00am – 8:00pm).

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RESTRICTED ACCESS PERMITS

Restricted Access Permits are available for local residents of Kalbarri ONLY for entry into Kalbarri via Ajana-Kalbarri Road and George Grey Drive/Red Bluff Road.

Restricted Access Permits will be issued at the following locations:

- Kalbarri Police Station, 48 Grey Street, Kalbarri (Please attend the DFES Incident Control Vehicle in the car park)
 - Thursday 9am – 12pm
 - Friday 9am – 12pm
 - Saturday 9am – 12pm
- 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

WHAT EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE DOING

- Emergency services personnel are assessing damage to more than 1074 buildings caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seroja.
- State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteers from across the state are assisting with operations and responding as requested.
- Rapid Damage Assessment Teams have completed over **2300 assessments so far**.
- DFES has 500 volunteers and staff in the Midwest Gascoyne Region assisting with recovery efforts.
- Storm damage teams have arrived from New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria to help, along with Australian Defence Force personnel.
- DFES will continue to hold community meetings.

ASBESTOS

Information from 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.

As a cautious approach, don't use blower vacs when cleaning yards as it may disturb products that may contain asbestos and check garden refuse for asbestos or other material before mulching. Ensure you do move material from underneath or put new material on piles that have already been sprayed.

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/, listen to **ABC Local Radio**, or news bulletins.

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

Access local ABC radio on the following frequencies:

- Dalwallinu 531
- Geraldton 828
- Kalbarri 106.1 FM
- Mt Magnet 105.7

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