

Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management

As a result of climate change, natural disasters are becoming more frequent and more severe. Western Australia must be well equipped to respond to and recover from emergencies and data consistently shows that investment in community resilience has the greatest impacts. There remains an opportunity for governments to invest in community disaster resilience and risk reduction.

The State and Federal Governments have delivered multiple recovery initiatives for the communities impacted by Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle, with provisioned funding in this budget to provide support for potential future costs.

Initiative	State Emergency Management Training Centre <i>(BP2, V2, P430)</i>
Investment	\$1.5 million in 2026-27.
Description	Finalising the planning and design for the new State Emergency Management Training Centre.
Implications	<i>Once established, the centre will support WA's emergency management workforce and response and management capability.</i>

Initiative	Enhanced Support for Emergency Services Volunteers <i>(BP2, V2, P430)</i>
Investment	\$18.8 million over four years.
Description	To bolster support for emergency services volunteers, the WA Government will invest \$18.8 million over the forward estimates to boost the Department of Fire and Emergency Service's non-frontline capability. This will include enhanced governance arrangements and support systems, such as health and safety compliance frameworks and volunteer training capability.
Implications	<i>WA's emergency management system is supported by career firefighters and over 26,000 volunteers, who contribute their time, skills and expertise across WA. Volunteers play a critical role in emergency management, particularly in rural and remote areas. The support of them, when volunteerism across the board is decreasing, is essential.</i>

Initiative	Bushfire Suppression and Natural Hazards Incident Response <i>(BP3, P142)</i>
Investment	\$20 million in 2026-27.
Description	Supporting timely and effective responses in the face of more frequent and severe climate-related disaster events.
Implications	<i>Effective response decreases the negative impacts on communities and reduces the length of recovery.</i>