

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Will provide you with the latest updates on the repairs, services and support available to residents. These meetings are also an opportunity to hear the questions and comments from fellow community members and to ask questions of service providers and support agencies.

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

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

Meetings will be held at the following locations tomorrow the **23rd April 2021:**

- **Kalbarri:** Kalbarri Golf and Lawn Bowls Club, Haselby Street, Kalbarri at 11am

INCIDENT STATUS

Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed the coast between Kalbarri and Geraldton Sunday evening. Damage near the track extended well inland.

Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed the coast as a category 3 cyclone Sunday evening. 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.

CLEANUP, SUPPORT AND FUNDING

- Department of Communities - Recovery Centres are at the Kalbarri Golf and Bowling Club (Haselby Street, **Kalbarri**), QEII Seniors & Community Centre (88 Durlacher Street, **Geraldton**) and Northampton RSL (Corner of Essex Street and NW Coastal Highway, **Northampton**).
- 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.
- The Australian Government is providing financial support to those directly affected. Go to the Services Australia website for more information.
- 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 131114; 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 **1800 032 965**.

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 IS DFES DOING?

- Emergency services personnel are assessing damage to more than 875 buildings caused by Ex Tropical Cyclone Seroja.
- State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteers from across the state are assisting with operations and responding as requested.
- The Incident Management Team are actively working with local DFES personnel to ensure the safety of the community.
- 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.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Number of Properties Impacted

Residential and business damage numbers across the Midwest Gascoyne:

- **64 totally damaged or destroyed**
- **249 severely damaged**
- **276 moderately damaged**
- **591 slightly damaged**

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.

COMMUNITY UTILITIES AFFECTED

Power

3,880 customers remain without power (21/4/21)

27,6200 customers received restored power (21/4/21)

*Some properties have been disconnected by Western Power due to unsafe buildings

Internet

Affected by incident – service was impacted throughout incident area
Latest update – most services are restored

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 and spare batteries.

Latest update – supplies have been provided to most service areas.

Access local ABC radio on the following frequencies:

Dalwallinu 531	Kalbarri 106.1 FM
Geraldton 828	Mt Magnet 105.7

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**
- **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**

Tropical Cyclone Seroja Operational Area

Operational Area - 133,430 km ²	
Number of times the operational area fit into:	
MCG (0.22 km ²)	6.6 million
Tasmania (68,401 km ²)	1.95
Victoria (227,416 km ²)	0.59
Great Barrier Reef (348,000 km ²)	0.38
Lake Eyre (9,690 km ²)	13.77

