

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 recovery 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 has opened Recovery Centres at:

- Kalbarri Golf Club, Haselby Street, Kalbarri (9:30am to 4pm). Open as normal 9:30am to 4pm Monday 26th April (Public Holiday)
- Northampton RSL, Corner of Essex Street and NW Coastal Highway, Northampton (9:30am to 4pm). Open as normal 9:30-4pm Monday 26th April (Public Holiday)

The Recovery Centre and the Catholic Diocese, 7 Maitland Street Geraldton will close at 1600 on Monday 26th April. For further support please call the **Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline** on **1800 032 965** or access online at communities.wa.gov.au/disasterrelief

Emergency assistance may be available for individuals or families to alleviate the personal hardship or distress arising as a direct result of Tropical Cyclone Seroja. Representatives from relevant support agencies will attend to help people access the support they need.

- For those who need immediate **financial assistance or crisis accommodation support** please call the **Department of Communities Disaster Response Hotline** on **1800 032 965** or access online at communities.wa.gov.au/disasterrelief

- For information on the **Lord Mayor's Distress Fund** go to <https://appealswa.org.au/apply-for-assistance>
- 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**.
- 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.
- Please call the SES to notify unreported damage or lodge a request for assistance on **13 25 00**.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at the following locations:

Monday 26 April 2021

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

Tuesday 27 April 2021

- **Chapman Valley:** Nabawa Community Centre, 3310 Chapman Valley Road, Nabawa at **1pm**

Wednesday 28 April 2021

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

Friday 30 April 2021

- **Morawa:** Greater Morawa Sports Ground, Evans Street, Morawa at **11am**.

Meeting locations, dates and times are updated regularly.

For the latest updates, see emergency.wa.gov.au

For further information on recovery support please visit emergency.wa.gov.au and click on the 'Recovery' tab for Ex Tropical Cyclone Seroja.

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
- Geraldton 828
- Kalbarri 106.1 FM
- Mt Magnet 105.7

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.

ROAD CLOSURES

The following roads are **closed**:

- 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. Visit Main Roads Travel Map 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

- 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 an 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

- 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.
- Emergency services have received over 1387 calls for help to date.
- DFES has 500 personnel in the Midwest Gascoyne Region assisting with recovery efforts.
- Crews have completed all outstanding urgent requests for assistance in the Northampton area are being re-deployed throughout the region to assist those communities still in need of assistance.
- Storm damage teams from New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria continue to help. Australian Defence Force have been working really hard with local emergency services. All tasks allocated to them have been completed and they have been stood down.
- DFES personnel continue to provide support in communities affected and urgent requests for SES assistance can be obtain by calling 13 25 00.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The Premier has announced a three-day lockdown for the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions, from 12:01am Saturday 24th April 2021 to 11:59pm on Monday 26th April 2021. Since 6pm on Friday 23 April, masks have been mandatory for all people in the metropolitan area and for 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 following this health advice and wearing masks because many of them have been in or through Perth since April 17.

The safety of emergency services personnel and the community is our top priority, and all necessary precautions will be taken.

The lockdown will also delay the deployment of Eastern States personnel over the weekend, but DFES will continue to provide support to affected residents and business across the impacted area.

Power

Approximately 2,900 customers remain without power (25/4/21)

*Some properties have been disconnected by Western Power due to safety concerns.

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

Number of Properties Impacted

Residential and business damage numbers across the Midwest Gascoyne (24/4/21)

- 80 totally damaged or destroyed
- 287 severely damaged
- 311 moderately damaged
- 664 slightly damaged

Asbestos

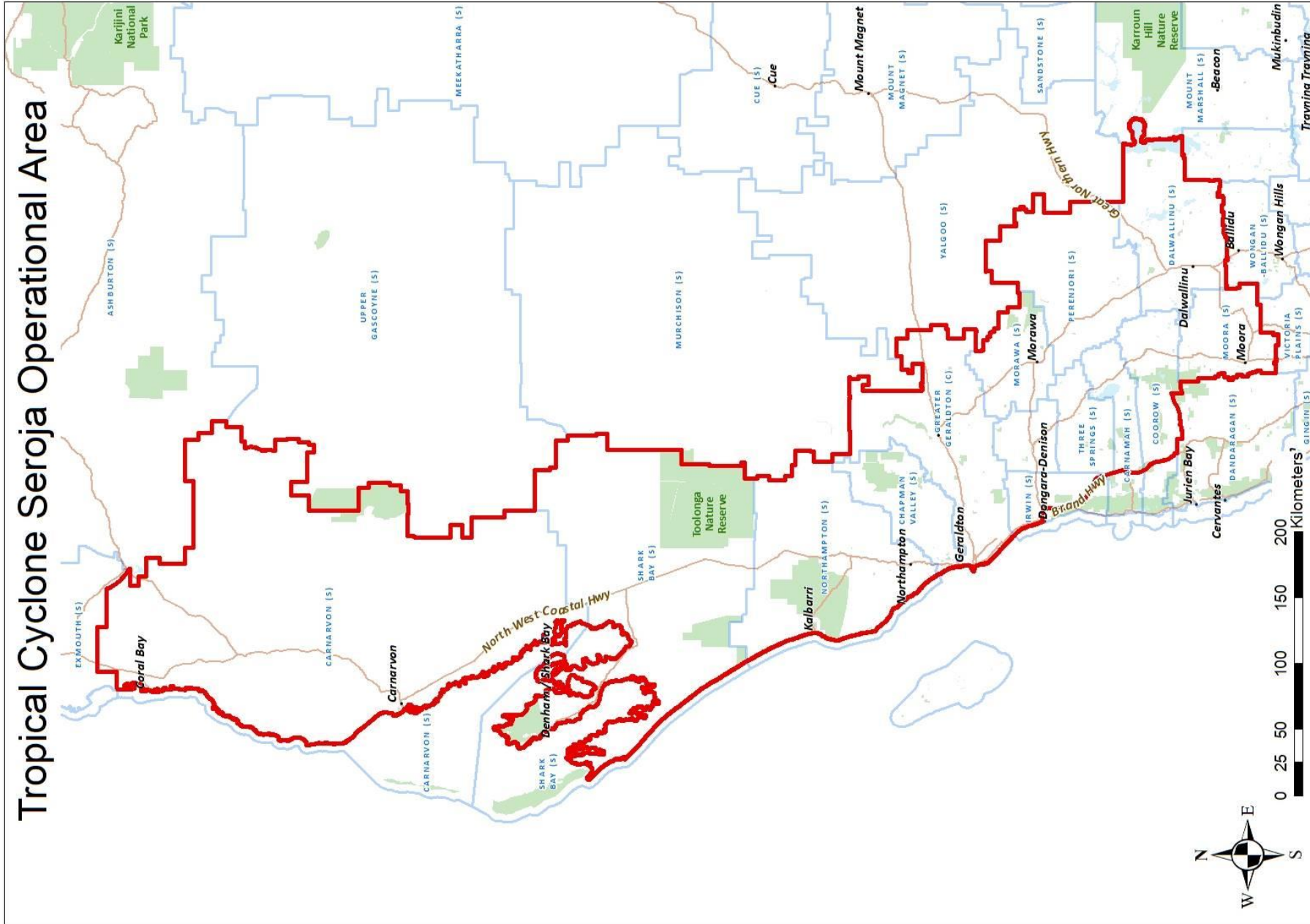
Information from the Department of Health (DoH) is that the risk of airborne asbestos fibres in affected areas remains 'low' and that P2 respirators are not required unless handling asbestos or in close proximity to personnel undertaking asbestos clean-up.

- 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.

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.

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. Place new material in a separate pile.
- 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