



25 March 2010

Community Advice After Storm Damage

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the Premier's declaration of a natural disaster following the severe storm that hit the Perth had paved the way for a range of assistance to help with the much-needed clean up.

"Most local families have experienced hardship through the extended loss of power to their homes and businesses," said Dr Nahan.

"Under Clause 19 of the Electricity Industry (Network Quality and Reliability of Supply) Code 2005, anyone who was without power for more than 12 hours straight is entitled to an Extended Outage Payment of \$80 from Western Power."

"The payment applies to people who use less than \$8,000 worth of electricity a year, which includes almost all homes and most small businesses."

Dr Nahan said in addition, emergency assistance is now available from the Department for Child Protection to meet individual and family immediate and basic living needs.

"The emergency assistance covers items such as accommodation, food, essential clothing and other personal items, including medical and pharmaceutical requirements," said Dr Nahan.

"In particular, for people needing financial assistance for food, there is a maximum amount of up to \$100 per individual and \$200 per family available. These amounts are not income or assets tested."

"This assistance is being administered through the Department for Child Protection. It will be very helpful to many families and individuals who need to buy food that has been lost due to flooding or electrical shortages. It will help ease the burden for people who are trying to pick up the pieces after the terrible storm."

Dr Nahan also said that all local governments within the metropolitan area affected by the storms are eligible for funding under the Western Australia Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA).

"These funds can assist with personal hardship and distress grants for individuals, interest rate subsidies on loans for small businesses, and local government assistance to meet the cost of repairing, restoring and rebuilding many of the community assets that have been damaged by the severe thunderstorms," said Dr Nahan.

"I encourage the community and the City of Canning to tap into these much-needed resources to help rebuild and recover from the storm damage.

For information on how to access emergency assistance:

\$80 Extended Outage Payment:

http://www.westernpower.com.au/mainContent/yourPowerSupply/extendedOutage/EOPS_Claim_Form.html

\$100 for individuals and \$200 for families for food replacement:

Telephone the Department for Child Protection Cannington Office on 9351 0888.

Or contact my office for assistance.

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