



MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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LORD MAYOR RELEASES FUNDS

Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi visited Esperance today to issue relief funds from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) to Category 1 applicants, and to encourage all eligible members of the community to apply for financial assistance available through the appeal funds.

The LMDRF was set up to provide an avenue for people across the state to make donations that would then go directly towards helping those most affected by the Esperance Fires. The distribution of some funds commenced today with Amanda and Geoff Thomas, who lost their farm home and other infrastructure, being presented a cheque from the Lord Mayor.

Funds for the families of the victims who have applied are also being distributed. In a statement issued from the City of Perth, Chair of the Board, Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi stated "The Shire of Esperance has made contact with next-of-kin of the four fire victims, and the objective is to have those funds distributed by Christmas."

Financial assistance from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund does not replace insurance and people are advised to claim from their insurance company first to establish how much will be covered. The assistance will supplement the insurance coverage of lost or damaged property.

Seven categories of assistance have been developed which aim to get those affected by the fires back to as normal as possible.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "Now is not the time to be stoic. Recovery will take time and we have this assistance available now for those who need it. I urge community members who have suffered personal hardship and distress arising from the fires to make an application to the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund."

Application forms and information about the categories are available in the Emergency Services section of the Shire website www.esperance.wa.gov.au. Application forms are also available from the front counter of the Shire Administration building. If you have any questions or require assistance you can contact Shane Burge at the Shire on 9071 0693 or Cr Beverley Stewart on 0427 720 737.



An emotional Lord Mayor presents Amanda Thomas who lost her home in the Esperance bushfires with a cheque from the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund.

Ends

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