



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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Senator Calls for Tax Reductions for Contributions made to the Tropical Cyclone George Relief Fund

WA Liberal Senator, Alan Eggleston, has said he will write a letter to Prime Minister John Howard supporting the Port Hedland Shire Council's request that contributions to the Tropical Cyclone George Disaster Relief Fund be made tax deductible.

Senator Eggleston yesterday surveyed the damage left by Cyclone George in Port Hedland and South Hedland. The Senator met with the Deputy Mayor and CEO, visited Port Hedland Regional Hospital, and talked to town's people about their experiences in dealing with Cyclone George.

"I would like to strongly praise the people of Port Hedland, the Port Hedland Town Council and the Emergency Services for how well they coped with the aftermath of Cyclone George," Senator Eggleston said.

"I met with the Port Hedland Shire Council yesterday and we all agreed that contributions to the Cyclone George Disaster Relief Fund should be made tax deductible in order to encourage more support for the fund which will help re-build the community.

"I will be writing to the Prime Minister directly in support of the Port Hedland Shire Council's request that all contributions to the fund be made tax deductible."

Senator Eggleston said the Tropical Cyclone George Relief Fund, which was set up on Wednesday, has already raised about \$520,000. However, both he and the Port Hedland Town Council would love to see that amount doubled.

"The Tropical Cyclone George Relief Fund has already had many generous contributions from mining companies, businesses and residents. However, I feel that tax deductions on donations will encourage even more people to dig even deeper and give to the fund."

While in Port Hedland Senator Eggleston, who lived and worked as a Doctor in Port Hedland for 22 years, visited the Port Hedland Regional Hospital and said he was greatly impressed by how well hospital staff managed the crisis.

"Port Hedland Regional Hospital received 21 emergencies from Cyclone George and the hospital staff were brilliant in the care they provided for each patient until they could be safely evacuated to Perth."

Senator Eggleston said he was, overall, impressed by the cooperative community spirit the entire town of Port Hedland has shown during the disaster. The Senator hopes his request on behalf of the Port Hedland Shire Council will be promptly accepted so more support could be generated for the relief fund and enable the money already generated to be promptly distributed for the immediate rebuilding of the town.