

Australian Catastrophe Information

The 7 most costly insured events in the last 40yrs* -

- 1st 4.3bn Newcastle Earthquake 28/12/1989
- 2nd 3.6bn Cyclone Tracey 24/12/1974
- 3rd 3.3bn Sydney Hailstorm 14/4/1999
- 4th 2.1bn Brisbane Floods 25/1/1974
- 5th 1.7bn Brisbane Hailstorm 18/1/1985
- 6th 1.4bn Newcastle Storms 9/6/2007
- 7th 1.3bn Victorian Bushfires 16/2/1983

* In 2007 Adjusted Dollars

Bushfire – Most property losses occur in NSW, VIC and the ACT between September & March. With increasing urban development and a climate that is both getting drier and warmer, bushfires are an increasing risk for today's property owners.

Cyclones – Most property damage occurs in Northern QLD and WA between December and April. Under climate change predictions, severe cyclones are expected to occur further south than at present.

Hail – Hail is a very significant factor in insured losses. The worst affected states are NSW & QLD. The worst months for damaging hail are from October to April, though hail can occur at anytime.

Flood – Inland Flood is a significant issue in Australia, historically accounting for nearly 1/3rd of insured losses. From an insurance perspective the worst affected states are NSW & VIC, followed by QLD & WA typically occurring from April to October.

Earthquake – Australia has a low incidence of highly damaging earthquakes. The most affected states are NSW & WA, with 4 significant earthquakes causing an insured loss occurring in the last 40 years.

Severe Storms – The worst affected states are NSW & QLD, followed by WA, VIC, SA & TAS. The majority of severe storms have occurred between September & February

What can consumers do to protect themselves –

- **Resilient Design and Planning** – A property should be designed so that it is resilient to the hazards present in the environment, both today and into the future to the end of the expected life-span of the building. Property owners and developers should ensure that appropriate materials and design are employed to ensure that the property will survive the predicted intensity of natural hazards in their region into the future. It is important to note that minimum building standards in Australia do not cater for property protection, only safety, allowing occupants time to egress before a building constructed to a minimum standard becomes untenable. Considering a property purchase? – Ask the owner or designer about the standards used for construction and the local hazards.

- **Disaster Planning and Preparation** – Consumers should have a relevant emergency plan for their location, designed not only to protect their safety in the event of a disaster, but to save your property where it is possible and safe to do so. Visit your state's State Emergency Services website to gain more information about the hazards relevant to your area and what plans you can make now to lessen the impacts.
- **Financial Protection** – Ensure that you insure - Appropriate insurance protection over your most important assets is critical to making sure that following an unexpected event you can return to a normal lifestyle as quickly as possible. Australia has a highly competitive general insurance market and cover is available for the majority of conceivable risks to property. Consumers should undertake annual risk planning, taking into account the replacement value of assets and the nature of the risks in their location and then make sure that appropriate insurance is held to cover the risks and the costs. Most importantly – Consumers should read and understand the policy they are considering using as protection against the unforeseen. Many policies have exclusions that may affect your ability to claim following particular events. These exclusions are notified to consumers during the purchase process and it is critical that they are understood.
- **More Information**
A breakdown of catastrophe data is available to member companies upon request.

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