

21 June 2007

NSW Storms – Recovery Update

As of this afternoon, the general insurance industry has received approximately 33,000 claims from the recent storm activity which hit coastal NSW and surrounding districts.

Insurance Council of Australia's Executive Director and CEO, Kerrie Kelly, said today that the estimated claims cost is now around \$350 million.

The general insurance industry has been working very hard to get people back on their feet. Insurers have been on the ground for nearly two weeks assessing the damage and getting the claims process moving as fast as possible.

"Insurance customers are the number one focus of the general insurance industry. Repair work is underway and in many cases claims have already been completed and have been paid out." Ms Kelly said.

The type of damage ranges from damage to houses, home contents, commercial properties and motor vehicles.

If policyholders have not contacted their insurer, they should do so as soon as possible to get the claims process underway.

"As people continue to clean-up, the Insurance Council is urging everybody whose home or business was damaged by water to take particular care with the use of electrical power outlets and appliances that may have been submerged – to avoid possible personal harm caused by electrical shocks."

"Cooperation between the general insurance industry, emergency services and the NSW government will continue as the recovery process goes on." Ms Kelly said.

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