

Monday July 30, 2018

Cyclone-belt homeowners benefit from \$20m Household Resilience Program

The Insurance Council of Australia has welcomed the Palaszczuk Government's \$20 million Household Resilience Program as a positive initiative for the owners of older homes in North Queensland's cyclone belt.

The Household Resilience Program will assist owners of homes built before 1984 to improve the safety and resilience of their properties by undertaking roof upgrades, better roof tie-downs and strengthening of windows and doors where a builder deems these upgrades are required.

ICA CEO Rob Whelan said: "The insurance industry supports this initiative. Homes strengthened through the program could potentially place homeowners in a position to negotiate a reduction in their future building insurance premiums."

Retro-fitting pre-1984 homes to improve their resilience against cyclones results in a lower-risk property, which may result in cheaper premiums.

The ICA encourages the owners of pre-1984 homes, located up to 50km from the coast between Bundaberg and Cooktown, to check their eligibility for the Household Resilience Program by visiting www.qld.gov.au/strongerhomes

"If this initiative can reduce the stress of homeowners in cyclone-prone areas just a little and also reduce the pressure on premiums, then it's a program that should be supported and promoted," Mr Whelan said.

"The program is an example of how governments can work to improve the resilience of homes and communities in disaster-prone regions. The ICA encourages governments at all levels to appreciate the importance of mitigation investment."

-ENDS-