

Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland homes

Building industry fact sheet

Cyclones and floods are a part of life for many Queenslanders. Investing in resilient measures for your home can significantly reduce the effort, cost and time to recover from cyclones and other natural disasters. It not only reduces the physical and financial cost, but also the social and emotional impacts.

New building guides have been developed to strengthen the resilience of Queensland homes to flood, cyclones and storm tide. The non-mandatory guides are designed for use by building industry professionals to help Queensland homeowners when building a new home or retrofitting an existing home.

About the guides

The **Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes** is applicable to all Queensland homes located in flood prone areas. It covers the following:

- resilient design and construction options for new and existing homes
- flood resilient building materials and systems
- economic benefits of flood resilient design solutions.

The **Cyclone Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes** relates to Queensland homes located within 50 kilometres of the coastline north of Bundaberg, which need to be strong enough to withstand cyclonic winds.

Storm Tide Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes builds on the cyclone guide to incorporate storm tide considerations for northern Queensland homes located within 100 to 200 metres of an open shoreline.

The cyclone and storm tide resilient guides provide information about:

- impacts of cyclones and storm tide on homes
- wind classifications for cyclone prone areas
- resilient design and construction tips for new and existing homes in cyclone prone areas
- cyclone and storm tide resilient building products and systems
- tips for repairing or rebuilding cyclone damaged homes.

Did you know?

On average, it takes one to twelve years to recover the initial investment of flood resilient measures, depending on the building type, treatment adopted and likely frequency of flooding.



Case study

Flood resilient home renovation generates insurance savings

In 2011, a home in the Brisbane suburb of Graceville was flooded five metres above ground level. Following the flood, the owners renovated their home to increase their flood resilience. The home was raised approximately three metres above its original height to position the finished floor level above that of a 1% (1 in 100) Annual Exceedance Probability Event.

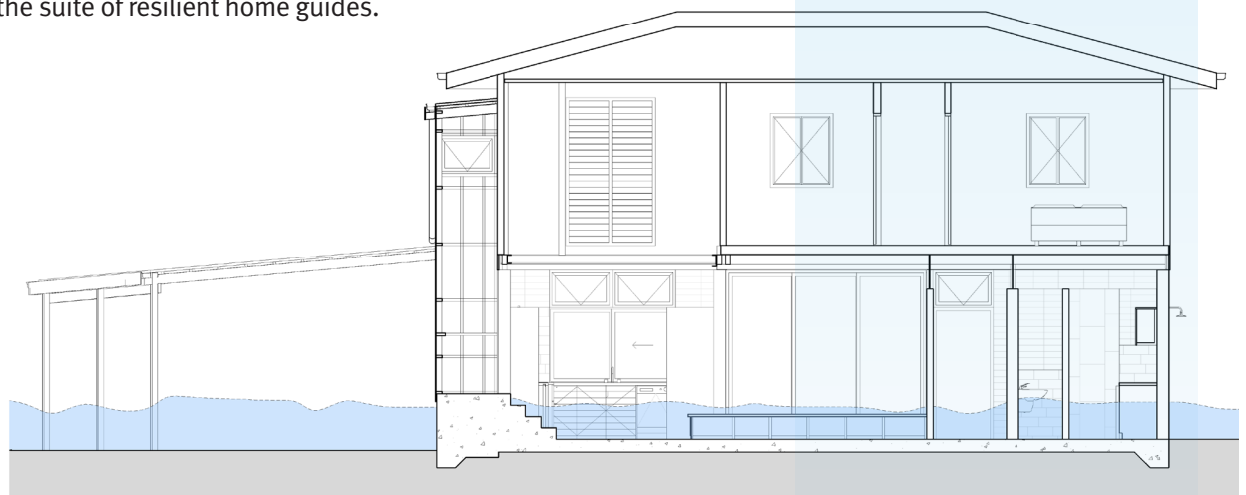
The owners recognised that the lower level of the home remained at risk of smaller, more frequent floods. Flood resilient design principles were incorporated into the lower level of the home including rendered concrete block walls, a polished concrete floor, removable cabinetry and an internal layout that enabled easy cleaning post-flood.

The value of this approach was recognised by their insurer, with a significant reduction in their insurance premium. In the years 2012 to 2017, insurance premiums for the property were \$5,253.33 per annum. Following the renovations that incorporated flood resilient design strategies, the premium was reduced to \$3,133.60 per annum – a saving of 40 per cent.

More information



Visit www.qra.qld.gov.au/Resilient-Homes to view the suite of resilient home guides.



Queenslanders are disaster resilient when...



Building resilient homes is another way Queenslanders are working together to be the most disaster resilient state in Australia.