

Protecting Queensland homes from cyclone and storm tide

Cyclones are part of life for people living in North Queensland and it's important to be informed, ready and resilient to protect our homes and loved ones.

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.

Building resilience to natural disaster starts with understanding your level of risk so you can identify steps to reduce potential impacts.

Step one – understand your risk

Queensland homes within 50 kilometres of the coastline north of Bundaberg need to be strong enough to withstand cyclonic winds. In addition, homes located within 100 to 200 metres of an open shoreline are at risk of impacts from breaking waves caused by storm tide.

To understand your risk, check with your local government to see if your property is in a storm tide area. If so, consider talking to a coastal engineer who can confirm whether your property is likely to be impacted by waves during a storm tide.

Step two – reduce your risk

Invest in home improvements

Consider potential upgrades or modifications to your home that will reduce the impact of cyclones, storm tides and floods. For practical advice:

- refer to the cyclone and storm tide resilience guides at www.qra.qld.gov.au/Resilient-Homes
- talk to your builder or architect about the guidelines to see what measures can be incorporated into your home.

Maintain your home

Regular home inspections and maintenance are required following a cyclone, or every seven to ten years to ensure your home can withstand strong winds, rain and flood. This includes a thorough inspection for structural issues such as broken verandah posts and non-structural elements such as sealant around window sills.

Did you know?

Homes built pre-1984 have a higher risk of cyclone damage than new homes built under current building codes and standards.

Did you know?

Taping plastic to the outside of your windows during a cyclone will reduce the chance of water entering inside your home by 70 per cent.

Check your insurance adequately covers your level of risk

Contact your insurer to find out:

- if your current level of insurance adequately covers your home and possessions
- if undertaking any of the building upgrades identified in the guides will qualify you for a reduced insurance premium.

Make an evacuation plan

During a cyclone, you must evacuate your home

- if:
- you do not have confidence your home can withstand the expected wind levels
 - you live in a storm tide prone area.

If your home is strong enough for you to take shelter at home, move to a small room with few windows, such as a bathroom, until the cyclone passes.

About the resilient guides for Queensland homes

If you are considering building or upgrading your home, it is recommended you talk to your builder about how you can increase your resilience by referring to the cyclone and storm tide resilient guides. The guides provide information about:

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



Find a licensed tradesperson

Ensure only licensed professionals are involved in the repair or rebuild of your home by checking their credentials. Visit the following websites to find a licensed professional in your area:

Builders, tradespersons, designers, and building certifiers

Queensland Building and Construction Commission
www.qbcc.qld.gov.au

Coastal and structural engineers

Board of Professional Engineers Queensland
www.bpeq.qld.gov.au

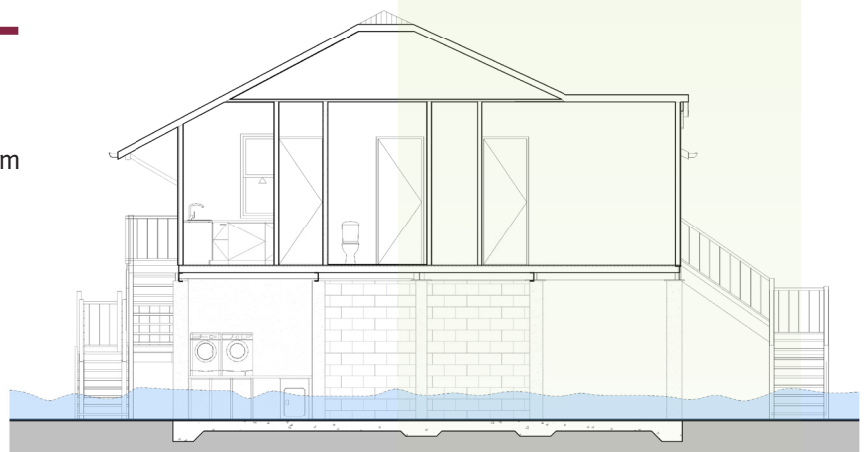
Architects

Queensland Board of Architects
www.boaq.qld.gov.au

More information



View the resilient guides for cyclone and storm tide at www.qra.qld.gov.au/Resilient-homes



Queenslanders are disaster resilient when...



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