

Tuesday April 9, 2019

Insurers welcome SE Queensland floodplain plan

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) today commended the Queensland Government and the four local councils involved in the development and implantation of the Brisbane River Strategic Floodplain Management Plan and the comprehensive Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes.

The floodplain management plan, launched today in Brisbane, harnesses the planning strengths and resources of the Palaszczuk Government, the Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley and Somerset councils, and Seqwater.

ICA General Manager of Risk and Disaster Planning Karl Sullivan said: “The floodplain management plan is a noteworthy achievement in Australia’s most flood-prone state. It enables governments to develop flood resilience and mitigation programs and should also inform town planning decisions.

“It should be used as the national benchmark for cooperation between state and local governments to deliver whole-of-catchment floodplain management.”

Mr Sullivan said many of the measures could be replicated across other Queensland communities with flood exposure and could provide a template for other jurisdictions seeking to tackle the challenges of natural disasters.

He said the Flood Resilient Building Guidance for Queensland Homes empowered home and small business owners to make informed decisions regarding their individual flood risk and how to reduce their exposure.

“This is a practical resource that will lead to an increase in flood-resilient properties in communities with a known flood risk. The guide offers many retrofit measures that will strengthen homes against floodwater and make clean-up and recovery post flood faster and easier, assisting communities to rebuild after a flood,” he said.

“It is compelling reading for not just the residents of the Brisbane River floodplain but anyone who lives in flood-prone communities.

“This launch is the opportune time for residents and small business owners to review their flood risk and then review their insurance policies.

“Homeowners who implement a range of flood resilience measures may have the opportunity to decrease their insurance premiums, with some insurers already recognising the decreased risk of homes retrofitted with a range of flood impact reduction building option.”

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