



News release

Insurance Council
of Australia

Monday, 29 May 2023

Insurance Council declares Newcastle hailstorm a Significant Event

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has declared a Significant Event for the Hunter and Central Coast regions of New South Wales impacted by hailstorm on the afternoon of Friday 26 May.

The ICA's preliminary catastrophe processes have been activated, assisting the ICA and insurers to assess the insurance impact of the hailstorm.

Under a significant event declaration:

- The ICA commences its claims data collection, analysis, and reporting processes in consultation with members.
- ICA representatives will continue to work with government and agencies to understand impacts on the community and ensure affected residents receive assistance.

As of 10am today, insurers had received 7,552 claims relating to the hailstorm, with 6,021 of those for damage to motor vehicles.

If property or vehicle has been impacted, customers are advised to contact their insurer as soon as possible to commence the claims process, even if they do not know the full extent of damage.

Comment attributable to Andrew Hall, CEO Insurance Council of Australia:

The insurance industry has made this Significant Event declaration to activate services and support for affected motorists, homeowners and businesses and reassure them that their insurer is there to help.

It's too early to understand the full extent of the damage in affected areas and to estimate the insurance damage bill, however we know that most of the damage has been to motor vehicles.

The ICA would like to urge those affected to talk to directly to their insurer, to be aware of any unauthorised people taking advantage of the widespread damage, and to report any suspicious activity or interaction to government authorities or police.