News release

Insurance Council of Australia

Tuesday, 17 November 2026

Significant Event declaration extended to Monday's storms

The Insurance Council of Australia has extended its Significant Event declaration to include the widespread storms that impacted Queensland and New South Wales yesterday, with the event now tracking claims from 11 to 17 November inclusive.

Insurers have received more than 7,500 claims from the severe weather that has hit both states over the seven days.

Yesterday's storms brought strong winds, heavy rain and large hail with damage ranging from torn-off roofs and destroyed fences to water ingress and food spoilage from power outages.

Food spoilage claims now account for around 27 per cent of all home claims.

Regions particularly impacted include Gatton, the Lockyer Valley, Logan and Woodford in Queensland, and Wauchope, Lawrence, Mudgee, Singleton and South West Rocks in New South Wales.

Insurers' priority is community safety, and we strongly encourage all those impacted to put their safety first.

For those beginning clean-up, the Insurance Council has some general tips:

1. Before you start your clean-up take photos or video of damage to your property and contents / possessions to support your claim.
2. Remove any water damaged items from the property that may pose a health risk such as soft furnishings and carpet. Take photos or keep small samples of water damaged items to support your insurance claim.
3. Don't throw away items that could be repaired, unless they pose a health risk.
4. Make a list of each damaged item and if possible include a detailed description where possible, such as brand, model, and serial number.

Insurers have teams on the ground in both states to help policyholders start their recovery.

The Insurance Council is working with government and agencies to understand the impact on communities and make sure affected residents get the help they need.

Quotes attributable to ICA CEO Andrew Hall:

> Communities across Queensland and New South Wales have now dealt with severe weather for a week, and yesterday's storms added to the damage. Extending the declaration means insurers can track the full impact of this event and keep resources where they're needed most.
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> Insurers have teams on the ground in both states and are ready to help. If your home, car or business has been damaged, contact your insurer as soon as it's safe to do so, even if you're unsure what your policy covers.
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> Many of these communities have faced extreme weather year after year. Supporting their recovery now matters, but so does investing in resilience so homes and businesses are better protected against the next storm.