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More than 615,000 Queensland households unprepared for severe weather this summer as storm season hits the state

NRMA Insurance data reveals most storm affected regions, suburbs and towns as severe weather hits south-east Queensland

New community research¹ from NRMA Insurance reveals more than half of Queenslanders (57%) are worried severe weather such as storms are becoming more frequent and intense. But this community anxiety isn't being translated into action. Almost a third (31%) don't feel their home and family are prepared for severe weather this summer, and just 42% have recently taken steps to prepare. This means more than **615,000 Queensland households² may be unprepared for severe weather this summer.**

NRMA Insurance Executive General Manager Claims, Luke Gallagher said: "With Australia currently experiencing a La Nina weather system, we could see more severe storms and more intense rain hitting Queensland throughout storm season this year.

"The fact that over 615,000 households in Queensland may not be prepared for severe weather and dangerous storms this summer is a major concern."

The research also found:

- 86% of Queenslanders say they experience 'storm stress', with the top three areas of concern being potential damage to homes (54%), driving safely and worrying potential vehicle (both 41% each) and flash flooding around home or work (30%);
- 40% are worried that climate change is making storms more frequent and intense; and
- The same proportion (40%) also say they are nervous about the potential for severe weather this summer.

These insights from Queensland residents are particularly concerning given the latest NRMA Insurance data³ reveals that Queensland has experienced its most intense 'Storm Seasons' (October to March each year) in over five years, with nearly half (46%) of all home claims in the 2019-20 financial year caused by storm damage. The five-year average for Queensland is 41%.

The Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast regions were severely impacted with nine of the top ten most affected suburbs or towns in Queensland coming from those regions – Caloundra West was the most storm affected suburb in the state.

The months of February 2020 (68%), November 2019 (67%) and March 2020 (49%) – all 'Storm Season' months – were particularly bad months for storm damage in Queensland.

¹ Survey of 503 QLD residents conducted in October 2020

² Based on survey findings (69% feel prepared – 31% don't) and QLD dwellings numbers - latest [ABS census data \(2016\)](#)

³ Based on NRMA Insurance home claims data sourced for Financial Year 2019 to 2020

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“We know that over half of all Queensland residents are yet to take steps to prepare their home for severe weather,” Mr Gallagher said.

“We’re urging Queenslanders to put aside some time over the weekend to get ‘storm ready’ by clearing their gutters and downpipes at home. Gutters are one of the first parts of your home to flood in a storm so taking some time now to prepare could make a big difference when a storm hits. Please be careful though, and if in doubt, hire a professional.”

NRMA Insurance has released a list of the top 10 most storm affected towns and suburbs in Queensland over the past year

10 most storm-affected QLD towns and suburbs:
1. Caloundra West (Sunshine Coast)
2. Glass House Mountains (Sunshine Coast)
3. Palmview (Sunshine Coast)
4. Helensvale (Gold Coast)
5. Little Mountain (Sunshine Coast)
6. Bells Creek (Sunshine Coast)
7. Ashmore (Gold Coast)
8. Oxenford (Gold Coast)
9. Southport (Gold Coast)
10. Alexandra Hills (Greater Brisbane)

The official storm season runs from October through to March. This year, NRMA Insurance has launched ‘First Saturday’, a call-to-action for every Australian to dedicate the first Saturday of every month to carry out one small task to make their homes safer. For more information, visit nrma.com.au/firstsaturday.

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About NRMA Insurance

NRMA Insurance is one of Australia’s most trusted general insurance providers – helping people protect the things they care about since 1920. It has a long proud history of working with communities to build their resilience against severe weather and keep people safer on the road. Almost three million customers across NSW, Queensland, ACT and Tasmania choose NRMA Insurance to protect their homes, vehicles, businesses, motorcycles, boats, pets and travel. In 2019, more than 350,000 claims were paid. NRMA Insurance is backed by IAG, the largest general insurer in Australia and New Zealand and operator of some of Australia’s biggest insurance brands including CGU, SGIO, SGIC and WFI.