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Friday 30 October 2020

67,000 ACT households unprepared for severe weather this summer as storm season hits the state

NRMA Insurance data reveals most storm affected areas of ACT as severe weather hits Canberra

New community research¹ from NRMA Insurance reveals that three quarter of ACT residents (73%) are worried severe weather such as storms are becoming more frequent and intense. But this community anxiety isn't being translated into action. Almost half (41%) don't feel their home and family are prepared for severe weather this summer, and a similar amount (48%) haven't recently taken steps to prepare. This means more than **67,000 households² in ACT 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 the ACT throughout storm season this year.

"The fact that close to 70,000 households in the ACT may not be prepared for severe weather and dangerous storms this summer is a major concern."

The research also found:

- 96% of ACT residents say they experience 'storm stress', with the top three areas of concern being potential damage to homes (65%) and vehicles (59%), and driving safely in difficult conditions (50%);
- 57% are worried that climate change is making storms more frequent and intense (compared to 43% of NSW residents and 40% of Queenslanders); and
- 59% also say they are nervous about the potential for severe weather this summer.

These insights from ACT residents are particularly concerning given the latest NRMA Insurance data³ reveals that the ACT has experienced its most intense 'Storm Seasons' (October to March each year) on record. The data shows that 75% of all home claims in the ACT during the 2019-20 financial year were caused by storm damage. The five-year average for the ACT is 58%.

The storms that hit the region in January 2020 had a devastating impact with 96% of all home claims in that month the result of storms, while February 2020 (68%) and March 2020 (49%) – all 'Storm Season' months – were also bad months for storm damage in the ACT. NRMA Insurance data also reveals that Jerrabomberra (on the border of NSW and ACT) was the most storm affected town or suburb in NSW for the 2019-2020 Financial Year.

¹ Survey of ACT residents conducted in October 2020

² Based on survey findings (59% feel prepared – 41% don't) and ACT dwellings numbers - [latest ABS census data \(2016\)](#)

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

Media Release



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

“We’re urging ACT residents 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 ACT suburbs over the past year

Top 10 most storm-affected ACT suburbs:
1. Aranda
2. Florey
3. Latham
4. MacGregor
5. Dunlop
6. Griffith
7. Narrabundah
8. Weetangera
9. Holt
10. Scullin

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/firstsatursday

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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.