

24 March 2022

More than half of South Australians are underprepared for extreme weather events

NRMA Insurance launches Wild Weather Tracker to help South Australians prepare for extreme weather

New research from NRMA Insurance has revealed South Australians are the most underprepared for extreme weather events in the country, with just 45% having an emergency kit or plan in place. The insight follows a devastating summer of natural disasters across Australia.

NRMA Insurance today launched the Wild Weather Tracker (the Tracker) in South Australia (SA), a seasonal analysis of insurance claims data showing the impact of severe weather and new research on community attitudes to disaster preparedness.

The research found more than two in three South Australians (69%) are worried natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, with three in four believing climate change is making weather worse.

However, less than half of South Australians (48%) had taken steps to prepare their homes for severe weather and 40% say they are not ready to respond if severe weather hits their suburb.

The Tracker also revealed South Australians are most concerned about heavy rain and storms (30%) causing damage to their property, followed by bushfires (28%), and hail (24%).

The Tracker, in its fourth edition for NSW, QLD and the ACT – encourages people to take regular steps to prepare and protect their homes, properties and vehicles from severe weather – and for the first time, has expanded to include SA and WA in the latest report.

NRMA Insurance Executive Manager Natural Perils Mark Leplastrier said: “The Tracker helps communities understand that wild weather in Australia is increasing and while South Australians are aware of this, they are still leaving themselves underprepared for these kinds of events.

“As the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report warns, severe weather events like floods and bushfires will occur more frequently and with a higher intensity. The weather events we’ve experienced across Australia over the past few months have shown us how wild weather can strike quickly and at any time. That’s why it’s important to do whatever you can to prepare throughout the year.

“With South Australians most concerned about heavy rain and storms, getting ready now can help reduce the impact on your property and belongings when the unexpected happens. One of the best things you can do is check and maintain your roof by clearing gutters, repairing any damage and trimming back low hanging branches. It’s also important to have an emergency plan and kit ready and know how to stay safe when wild weather hits.”

At a time when extreme weather events are on the rise, shifting the focus from response to preparation is critical.

Media Release



NRMA Insurance is the founding partner of the Australian Resilience Corp (ARC), developed with the Minderoo Foundation, which aims to encourage Australians to rally together and join what will become the largest network of volunteers to prepare and protect communities from fire and floods.

Minderoo Foundation Fire and Flood Resilience Initiative Lead Adrian Turner said: “We know that Aussies always want to pitch in and help and the Australian Resilience Corp is a meaningful way to make an impact by volunteering in the off-season to help communities prepare for fires and floods. This will ultimately help to reduce the devastation caused.”

Visit resiliencecorps.org.au to sign-up.

About the NRMA Insurance Wild Weather Tracker

The NRMA Insurance Wild Weather Tracker is released after every season outlining the volume of severe weather and natural disaster claims NRMA Insurance receives in NSW, QLD, the ACT, SA and WA. It tracks community research into the attitudes and behaviours regarding preparing for natural disasters and severe weather and includes expert advice from NRMA Insurance’s emergency response partners highlighting the critical steps people can take to protect their homes.

Research was conducted by Pure Profile on behalf of NRMA Insurance amongst 3,500 Australians (1,005 QLD residents, 1,005 NSW residents, 502 ACT residents, 505 SA residents and 505 WA residents) in February 2022.

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.

More than three million customers across NSW, Queensland, ACT, WA, SA and Tasmania choose NRMA Insurance to protect their homes, vehicles, businesses, motorcycles, boats, pets and travel.

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.

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