

Household Resilience Program

External structures

The Household Resilience Program aims to assist eligible home owners in parts of central and northern Queensland to improve the resilience of their homes against cyclones.

Houses built before the early-1980s in Queensland may not be built to cyclone building standards and therefore may be more susceptible to damage during a weather event.

Activities like upgrading (retrofitting) the roof structure, protecting the windows and strengthening the doors, and ensuring the house is well maintained are all ways to improve the strength of your home.

Upgrading external structures such as sheds, carports and water tanks can also assist to improve their cyclone resilience.

The design for tie-down of these structures can vary and it is recommended to consult a builder or engineer for advice.

Work eligibility

To be eligible, the works must meet the following requirements:

- The design must comply with Australian Standard (AS) 4055 Wind loads for housing. Design Form 15 is required using evidence of one of the following:
 - Design must be engineered by a Registered Professional Engineer Queensland (RPEQ) accredited engineer; or
 - Form 15 will be provided by the supplier if the design used is a proprietary system.
- The installer must provide Form 16 self-certification, that the tie-down has been installed to the engineer's requirements.

House restumping is not included in this program.

Contractor quotes

When sourcing a quote from a contractor, it must contain:

- the contractor's Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) licence number
- a reference that:
 - the design will comply with Australian Standards
 - certification for the works is included
- a full breakdown of the quote, including multiple improvement options such as:
 - scope of works
 - engineering
 - certification
 - any other additional information to assist the quote assessment.

If these requirements are not provided, the quote review process will be delayed and will require clarification from the contractor.

Approvals

On approval of your application, you will be notified by email. You will then need to enter into a contract for the works in line with the approved quote. Contractors cannot be changed once the grant has been approved.

While works are underway, you and the contractor are responsible for the coordination of all works including site safety, protection of property and temporary accommodation as required.

Grant funds cannot be paid as progress payments and will only be paid as a lump sum on acceptable completion of the works.

Completion of the improvement works

On completion of the tie-down of external structures, you will need to provide the following documentation to the Household Resilience Program grants team:

- a Form 15 for design, that the system complies with AS 4055 Wind loads for housing
- a Form 16 self-certification from the installer that the install complies with the engineer's requirements
- a copy of the invoice, addressed to the home owner, referencing the Household Resilience Program application number.

Payment of grant

Once the evidence of completion is provided, a government assessor will inspect the works and advise if the grant funds can be released. This is expected to take 5-10 business days of the program team receiving the evidence.

On successful inspection, the grant funds will be approved and processed directly into the contractor's account.

Additional benefits

Undertaking tie-down of external structures, program participants have indicated they have found the following additional benefits:

- improvement in cyclone resilience
- protection of surrounding structures from wind driven debris
- reduction in insurance premiums.

After the improvement works have been completed, you may qualify, at your insurer's discretion, for a reduction on your home insurance premium.

For more information relating to insurance premiums, speak to your preferred home insurer.

More information

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Website: www.qld.gov.au/strongerhomes