Household Resilience Program

Information for contractors

The Household Resilience Program aims to assist eligible homeowners in coastal parts of Central and Northern Queensland to improve the resilience of their homes against cyclones. In June 2023, the program received an additional $20 million in funding from the Australian Government for Phase 4.

Owner-occupiers that live in a house built before 1984, located within 50km of the coast north of Bundaberg up to Cape York and west to the Northern Territory border, may be eligible for a Queensland Government grant of 80% of the cost of improvements, up to a maximum of $15,000 including GST.

Building improvements undertaken as part of the program may also help to reduce home insurance premiums.

In previous years, this program supported jobs in regional Queensland with more than 400 businesses engaged to undertake works. This resulted in 95% of contractors being sourced directly from the local community and 99.8% of these being Queensland businesses. Previous phases of the program saw over $80 million of works approved and over 250 fulltime jobs supported.

About the program

The Household Resilience Program provides eligible homeowners with the opportunity to apply for a grant to engage a QBCC licensed contractor to help make improvements to their homes to make them more cyclone resilient.

Homeowners are required to satisfy a two-stage eligibility process. If approved, they will nominate the types of improvement works they wish to undertake on their homes from those identified as part of the program.

On the approval of an application by the Household Resilience Program grants team, a qualified assessor will attend the home to assess that the work will improve the cyclone resilience of the structure.

Our assessors will also review the estimated price for the works. This will form the basis of the grant allocation, which will be 80% of the estimated costs, up to a maximum of $15,000 including GST. Funds will be paid directly to the contractor upon satisfactory completion of the works. Homeowners are required to pay a minimum co-contribution of 20%.

The remaining outstanding costs for any works not covered by the grant allocation are required to be paid to the contractor by the homeowner.

Improvement options for homeowners

The range of specific improvement options available to homeowners under the program include:

- full roof replacement and roof structure tie-down upgrades (e.g., strapping of battens to rafters and rafters to top plates) to AS1684.3:2021 (refer Note #1 below)
- roof structure tie-down upgrades using an external over-batten system installed to: HB132.2:1999 Structural upgrading of older houses, Part 2: Cyclone Areas
- replacement of existing garage doors and frames, to withstand wind pressure tests from AS/NZS4505:2012 Wind rated garage doors

- window protection, which must be mounted externally covering the full window, and either be a screen that complies with wind driven debris tests to the debris load in AS/NZS1170.2:2021 (refer note #2 below) or be a shutter that has a wind rating to the window pressures given in AS/NZS4055 for house-type buildings
- tie downs of external structures (e.g., sheds) to withstand wind loads from AS4055:2021 Wind loads for housing
- replacement of existing external hollow core doors with solid external grade doors as defined in AS2688:2017, including upgrade of lockset and reinforcement of door frame to withstand wind loads from AS4055:2021 Wind loads for housing.

Note #1: Cyclone Testing Station - Educational Videos - JCU Australia
Note #2: Tech-Note-4-Windborne-Debris-Impact-Testing.pdf (jcu.edu.au)

Contracts

Standard QBCC contracts are required for all works and include:

- Level 1 - Renovation, Extension and Repair Contract for renovations, extension, and repair on existing homes for contracts $3,301 to $19,999.
- Level 2 - Renovation, Extension and Repair Contract for renovations, extension, and repairs on existing homes for contracts $20,000 and over.

Prior to works commencing, the contractor must provide the homeowner with evidence of their QBCC Home Warranty Insurance policy covering the full value of the quote or more (where applicable).

Completion of the home improvements

On completion of the works and before any payments are made by the program, the following documentation must be provided by the contractor to the homeowner for the relevant aspect of the resilience work being undertaken:

- **Accepted development** (where no building certifier requirement)
    - **Form 73** – Product Technical Statement – May be used to demonstrate that a material, product, or form of construction fulfils the specific requirements of the Building Code of Australia.
    - **Form 30** – QBCC licensee aspect certificate for accepted development (self-assessable) – may be used to state that aspect work, that is prescribed accepted development (self-assessable) complies with the relevant provisions including any standards or codes applicable to the work.

or

- **Building development approval** (building certifier requirement)
    - **Form 15** for design compliance or statement of compliance provided by engineer or supplier of proprietary products (e.g., cyclone shutters)
    - **Form 12** – Aspect inspection certificate (appointed competent person) – for aspect work to an attached class 1 or class 2-9 buildings.
    - **Form 43** – Aspect certificate (QBCC licensee) - for aspect work to a single detached class 1a building and class 10 buildings and structures.

- **Form 11** – Certificate/interim Certificate of Occupancy – for an attached class 1 or class 2-9 building
- **Form 21** – final inspection certificate - for single detached class 1a and class 10 buildings or structures certifying the work is compliant with the building development approval.

- **Copy of the Contractor's invoice:**
  - Addressed to the homeowner (full name).
  - Referencing the Household Resilience Program application number
  - Itemising and quantifying the works completed.
- **QBCC Home Warranty Insurance** details taken out by the contractor covering the full value of the quote or more (where applicable), before the work starting.

We recommend you contact your QBCC Licensee, local government or private certifier to confirm any requirements and the relevant building approval process that considers your specific circumstances, building criteria and location.

You are then required to submit these documents to the Household Resilience Program team, via the grants portal. Once these items have been provided, an assessor will carry out an inspection of the works and the Household Resilience Program team will arrange for the grant funding to be paid directly to the contractor following confirmation the works have been completed in line with the approved grant.

The homeowner will be required to pay the balance of their co-contribution, plus any additional costs for works that are not covered by the grant, to the contractor, once they are satisfied that the works have been completed in full.

Payment of grant funds

Contractors must notify the Household Resilience Program team in writing at strongerhomes@epw.qld.gov.au of any changes to their ABN, banking details or company names to ensure currency of their vendor details with the program.

More information

For more information relating to the Household Resilience Program including specific improvement options for homeowners:

Phone: 07 3007 4485 (Option 1)
Email: strongerhomes@epw.qld.gov.au
Website: www.qld.gov.au/strongerhomes