

# The Queensland State of Preparedness Report 2024



## Disaster preparedness in Queensland

Extreme weather is part of living in Queensland. With increasingly unpredictable and intense weather, it's never been more important to be prepared. The Queensland State of Preparedness research offers a snapshot of how Queenslanders' lives are being impacted by extreme weather, what they are doing to get ready, and what might be stopping them from getting started.

## The cost of extreme weather

Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia. In the past five years alone, the program of disaster recovery works administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is estimated at approximately

**\$11 billion\***

\*Recovery funding administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority 2019-2020 – 2023-2024.

## How prepared are Queenslanders?



**80%**

Believe they have a good understanding of local risk impacts



**59%**

Have an emergency plan

HOWEVER ONLY



**19%**

Have written their plan down



**44%**

Have an emergency kit

## Impacts experienced

**76%** of Queenslanders experienced disruptions in the past two years due to a severe weather event.



**65%**

Road damage, closures or delays



**41%**

Disruption to local services (e.g. schools, hospitals, supermarkets)



**30%**

Not being able to attend work or school



**23%**

Damage to home/property but could still live there

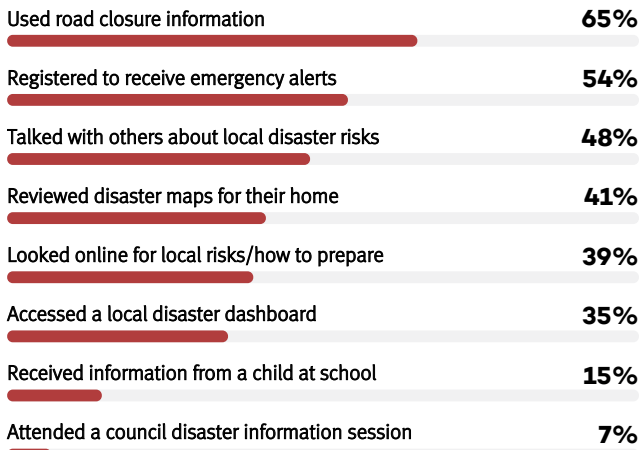


**10%**

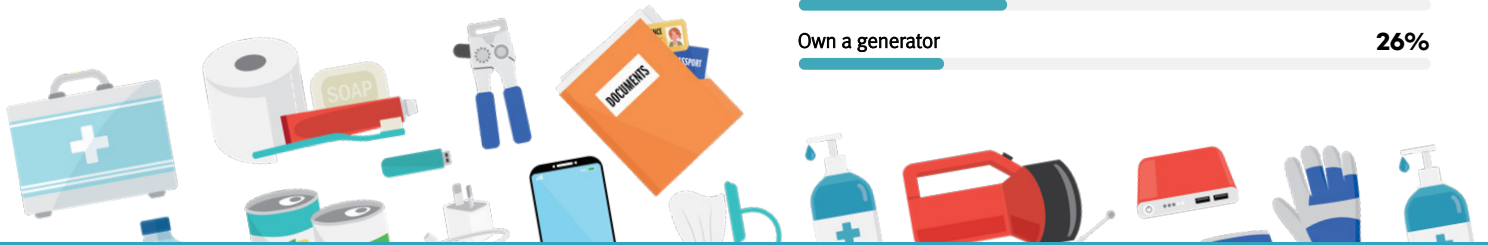
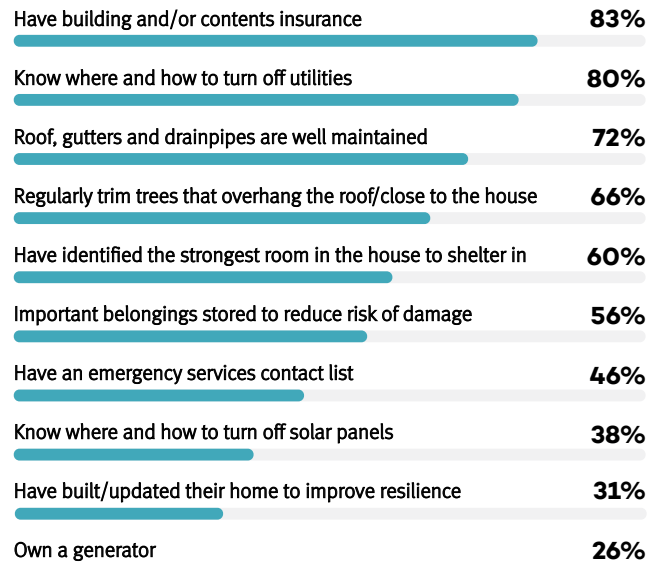
Accessed disaster relief grants or funding

## How are Queenslanders getting ready?

### Seeking information and advice



### Protecting their home



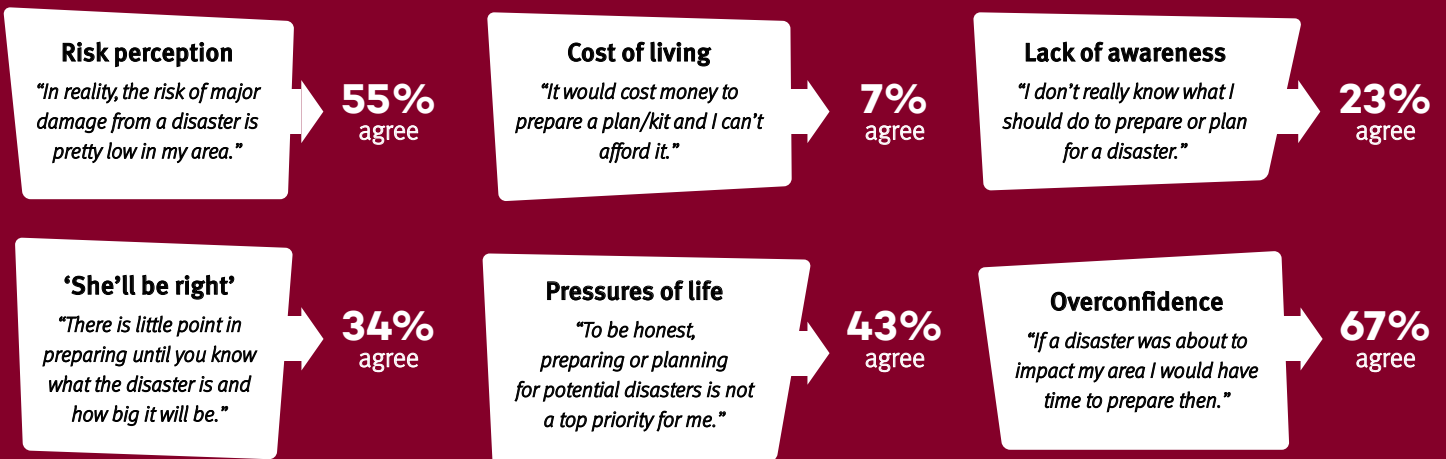
## Why people prepare

Past experience is a key reason people prepare for future events. Areas that experience extreme weather regularly are most likely to be prepared.



## What's getting in the way?

Beliefs, experiences and circumstances all play a part in a person's decision to prepare for extreme weather.



## Most prepared ↑



- Live outside South-East Queensland
- Impacted by severe weather 2+ times in past 2 years
- Ages 45+
- Homeowners
- Have building and/or contents insurance
- Household income over \$150,000
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Empty nesters

## Least prepared ↓



- South-East Queensland residents
- People who speak English as a second language
- Ages 18-29
- Renters
- Do not have building and/or contents insurance
- Household income \$50,000 or less
- Have lived in Queensland for 2.5 years or less
- People with a disability

## Building resilience

Extreme weather impacts the everyday parts of our life we take for granted: disruptions to local services, road closures, not being able to attend work or school, or even the safety of our family and home.

Results show experiencing just two impacts over two years correlates with a significant increase in disaster preparedness behaviours.

In contrast, those experiencing two or more impacts were also less likely to be insured.

People who experienced **two or more disruptions over the past two years** were more likely to:



## The importance of community

Community lies at the heart of preparedness and resilience. When severe weather strikes, neighbours are usually the closest help at hand. Programs that build community also play a critical role in growing disaster resilience.



Strong foundation  
Work in progress  
More attention needed

Enjoy good community spirit, people get involved/help out others	71%
Could rely on their neighbours or friends to help if affected	70%
Can rely on local council to be properly prepared and organised	54%
Know the names and contacts of people in their area or community	51%
Talked with others about disaster risks in their area	48%
Would need to rely heavily on the SES/other emergency services	34%
Regularly take part in local community events or groups	24%

## Building culture

Results highlight that preparing for severe weather has continued to become part of everyday life for Queenslanders. Unfortunately, there's been a notable increase in broader factors impacting people's capacity to get ready, such as cost of living.

Since 2022:

### Social norms



36% ↓

decrease in the number of people who would wait until the last minute to prepare an evacuation plan or kit.

### Habit



52% ↑

increase in the number of people who say getting ready is a 'habit'.

### Awareness



87.5% ↑

increase in the number of people who say seeing advertising or local information prompted them to prepare.

### Education



33% ↑

increase in the number of people who say seeing other people impacted by disasters prompted them to prepare.



160% ↑

increase in the number of people who agreed they were too busy/overwhelmed to prepare.

### Pressures



600% ↑

increase in the number of people who indicated they could not afford to prepare a plan/kit a kit.

For more information, advice and practical tools to help you prepare for severe weather, visit [getready.qld.gov.au](https://getready.qld.gov.au)

Get Ready Queensland

The 2024 Get Ready Queensland Statewide Preparedness Research had a sample size of 1535. This research has been undertaken every two years since 2020. In 2020 and 2022, surveying was undertaken via Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). In 2024, the method was adjusted to incorporate a multi-modal method of both online and telephone surveying.



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