Planning Message in Storms and Flooding

This week’s destructive storms and flooding rains are a tragic reminder of the importance of being prepared for nature’s surprises.

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is urging Queenslanders to check their properties are ready to withstand potentially devastating weather and highlighting the need for communities to be properly planned against natural disasters.

PIA Queensland President Dyan Currie said preparation can begin at home with a number of things homeowners can do to help prepare their property for this year’s storm season.

“Simple things can come first. The easiest thing to do is to make sure all the storm water drainage systems around the house are clear and working properly. Blocked pipes and drains can cause damaging back up that can easily be avoided,” Ms Currie said.

“Ensuring your home’s structural integrity is up to scratch is a good idea. Most people only get to hear about their home’s structural shortcomings when a building and pest inspection reveals flaws at the time the house is being sold. Why not get a building inspection now for peace of mind.

“The changing climate will bring a lot more surprises and we have to be prepared for storm surge and events like parts of Brisbane experienced on the weekend. If there are tall and dangerous gums tree close to your home the matter should be addressed.

“Checking on the home insurance product you have should also be on the check list so you are not shocked to find you are not covered for something in the event of a serious incident,” she said.

After a long period of drought in Queensland PIA says it can often be too easy for authorities to forget the distant past when deciding what to put where for the future. Good planning is about taking the long term view.

Well planned communities take all possibilities into consideration ensuring flooding and drainage are assessed and a precautionary approach ensuring building codes are up to scratch and proper coastal buffer zones are in place.

“Most people are generally far too busy to give town planning a fleeting thought but the current Queensland flooding events should help highlight the importance of planning to everybody,” Ms Currie said.

“Weather like Brisbane has had in the past four days can be a timely reminder to everybody about the importance of being prepared and that’s what good planning is all about.

“A lack of good planning can have far reaching effects when disaster strikes and it would seem climate change is causing it to strike more often.”

For further information contact PIA Queensland Vice President Greg Tupicoff on 0439 438 207
Geoff Mullins at Pan Communications on 0402 070 225