

Resilience works: Home raise

Typology: Lowset elevated, lightweight framing

When ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought water back to their property, the homeowners didn't panic. They stayed safe and dry, watching the flood unfold from the comfort of their deck.

"I was a lot less anxious, but still wary. The water did come up quite quickly," one of the homeowners recalls. "There was just that anxiety from past events and second guessing yourself, but we were relieved that it stopped where it did."

Their home had been lifted 1.5 metres through the Resilient Homes Fund — a decision that turned out to be life-changing. Without it, they estimate 250 to 350mm of water would've flooded through again.



getready.qld.gov.au/strengthen-your-home



“We watched people around us go out and get sandbags — we didn’t even bother. We didn’t have to evacuate and didn’t even lose power. It was quite comfortable for us this time. We have peace of mind now, and that’s the silver lining.”

In 2022, they weren’t so lucky. That flood brought 150mm of water through their home, causing extensive damage. They were displaced for over a year while insurance works and house-raising took place. Rain delays stretched the build time even further.

“The house was gutted — the floor ripped out to the joists, walls stripped halfway up,” one explains. “Then came the fans, sealing, testing.”

Such disruptions take a toll. “We were displaced from our home for so long that you become really disjointed in your life.”

But the latest flood proved their investment paid off. The home stayed dry, their nerves intact, and even a prized 1988 Ducati was safe in a custom flood-resilient shed. The steel-framed structure now includes PVC flooring, raised power points and toolboxes, and a hoist to lift the bike clear of any potential water.

“The house was up in the air, we had no anxiety about water coming into the yard. We could stand on the deck and look down at water views for a few days.”

– Homeowner