

**Resilience works:**

Home retrofitted

**Typology:** Traditional  
Character Queenslander

This 1940s Queenslander was one of the first homes built on the street in what was then a predominantly farming community. With its traditional VJ timber walls and hardwood floors, the home has stood through many storms — and, in more recent years, floods.

The homeowner says the resilient retrofit works completed last year now provide peace of mind, knowing that the impact of future flood events will be significantly reduced.

[getready.qld.gov.au/strengthen-your-home](https://getready.qld.gov.au/strengthen-your-home)

The high-set home was purchased in 2010. Just months later, the 2011 flood brought water above the floorboards. The clean-up was supported by the Mud Army. In 2022, floodwaters reached just below the floorboards. Everything underneath the house was lost — including the laundry, washing machine, electric hot water system, and garden shed. Another large shed in the backyard was inundated, resulting in the loss of power tools and other belongings.

While the initial clean-up took about a week, the deeper clean and assessment of what could be salvaged continued over the following six months.

The homeowner undertook a range of resilient retrofit measures. Kitchen cabinetry was replaced with a water-resistant alternative, and renewable surface splashbacks and benchtops were installed

using water-resistant epoxy grout. Both bathrooms were upgraded with water-resistant cabinetry. Air conditioning units were raised to 2.6 metres above ground, the hot water system was elevated, and electrical power points were relocated to higher positions.

Belongings stored underneath the house, such as replacement power tools, are now kept on high shelving.

The main concern moving forward is receiving enough warning to relocate vehicles to higher ground, which is within walking distance. The homeowner notes that they are now more vigilant when it comes to monitoring potential flooding, as they have a stronger understanding of their flood risk.

---

*“The resilient retrofit works completed last year now provide peace of mind, knowing that the impact of future flood events will be significantly reduced.”*

– Homeowner