

Question on Notice
No. 391
Asked on 24 March 2011

Mrs Attwood asked the Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology (MR FINN)-

QUESTION: Will the Minister advise the House of the community engagement activities of the BSA to help disaster affected Queenslanders to rebuild and recover?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Building Services Authority (BSA) has been actively assisting Queenslanders in the wake of the recent Queensland floods and Cyclone Yasi.

Since 8 February 2011, the BSA has conducted a number of evening information sessions for contractors and affected homeowners in the Brisbane and Ipswich areas and the Brisbane Valley. The sessions have attracted approximately 700 licensees and nearly 400 affected householders.

Topics covered during the information sessions were:

- when repair work should commence
- the importance of signing a contract and taking out BSA Home Warranty Insurance
- footings, subsidence and site drainage issues
- likely electrical, gas and sewage issues
- the importance of proper drying and hygiene
- timber framing, wall and floor finishes.

In the week commencing 28 March 2011, Mr Ian Jennings, General Manager of the BSA, and senior staff conducted information forums for contractors in Townsville, Tully, Ingham and Cairns.

In the week beginning 4 April 2011, nine community information sessions were held in cyclone affected communities. They provided an opportunity for local contractors and consumers to get answers to their rebuilding questions following Cyclone Yasi.

On 14 February 2011, the BSA opened a Cassowary Coast office at Tully to directly assist residents of north Queensland repair homes damaged by the cyclone.

The BSA has also produced a number of special publications for contractors and homeowners affected by the recent flood and cyclone events. These publications are available from BSA offices or from the website: www.bsa.qld.gov.au. Available free from the same source is a specially developed Natural Disaster Repairs Contract.

A topic in the next round of the BSA's statewide Supershow series, starting in May 2011, is 'Building to Resist Natural Disasters' which will highlight construction problems and solutions in disaster-prone areas.

In keeping with its role as the building industry regulator, the BSA is currently undertaking a compliance audit in flood affected areas across Queensland, to ensure rebuilding work is being undertaken by qualified and licensed contractors so that homeowners are protected against shonky operators.