



Building Services Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

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BSA offers new natural disaster building contract

The Building Services Authority has produced a new building contract for use in response to natural disasters.

The Natural Disaster Repairs Contract is the BSA's third contract for domestic building work, joining its Minor Works Contract (for renovations, extensions and more routine repairs) and the Major Works Contract (for home building).

General Manager of the BSA, Ian Jennings, said the Natural Disaster Repairs Contract was strictly intended for repairs to a home, duplex or home unit needed as a result of a natural disaster, such as a flood or cyclone.

"The new contract concisely and clearly outlines each party's obligations and responsibilities, fairly representing the competing differences between owner and contractor."

Mr Jennings said the new contract should be seen as an additional BSA product and not as a replacement for the two existing contracts.

"It is designed for projects such as the repair of damaged floorboards, partially damaged walls and minor repairs to kitchens, and while it is designed for use after natural disasters, it may be that consumers require the Minor Works Contract or Major Works Contract instead."

The new contract is free, and available to download from the BSA website or obtainable from BSA offices and at BSA seminars and BSA shopping centre booths.

"The new contract recognises the specific challenges existing today, where floods and cyclones have struck our State, significantly affecting the building industry and people's ability to quickly repair and rebuild their homes and businesses," Mr Jennings said.

"It has been developed in the context of consumers wanting to get things done quickly but it retains consumers' rights amid the pressure to quickly sign contracts.

"It is a good, fair contract for all parties, designed to work quickly and effectively in unique situations."

Mr Jennings again warned home owners that they should only use licensed contractors and that any work worth more than \$3,300 must be accompanied by a contract so that home owners were covered by the BSA's statutory home warranty scheme.

He said home owners should not waive their right to a cooling-off period, they should not sign cost-plus contracts and they should not pay money in advance or for work that had not been completed.

ENDS

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