

NICK DAMETTO
Member for Hinchinbrook



MEDIA RELEASE

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Household program should be in budget: Dametto

A successful program that benefitted almost 2000 North Queensland households should return as part of next year's budget, says Hinchinbrook MP Nick Dametto.

Mr Dametto said the State Government's Household Resilience Program had been a success in not just improving the structural integrity of people's homes but in generating work for local tradesmen.

"In October, I wrote to Mr De Brenni urging him to re-open the program given its overwhelming success in the Hinchinbrook electorate, where dozens of households were awarded a government grant of 75 per cent of the cost of home improvements up to a maximum of \$11,250," he said.

"While the Minister didn't confirm whether the program would be reopened in his response, he did provide updated figures which showed that as at November 5, 1748 North Queensland households had completed resilience works as part of the program, with 138 of those from the Hinchinbrook electorate.

"The success of the program is the very reason why we need another round in next year's budget as my office continues to take requests from locals who missed out."

The program applied to owners and mortgagors of homes built before 1984 located within 50km of the coastline of a recognised cyclone risk area, and also contained income eligibility requirements.

Mr Dametto said the program dovetailed well with Katter's Australian Party's proposal to expand the government's current First Home Owners' Grant to existing homes in regional areas which would help turbo-charge local economies.

"We know there is already a substantial oversupply of established homes which could become more affordable to first home owners with the help of the grant," he said.

"Those I've spoken to in the real estate industry are very much behind this policy, as is Townsville Enterprise. The dream of home ownership should be attainable for all Queenslanders, no matter where you live, which is why the KAP will continue to advocate for policies and programs that help realise this."

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