

Australia's Largest Disasters

A question often posed to ICA, what are the largest disasters that have occurred in Australia's history? There are many ways in which this could be managed. From a property insurance perspective, the easiest measure is the dollar value of lost assets.

Using dollars normalised to 2017 the most expensive disasters are captured in the table below.

<https://disasters.org.au/news/2020/2/26/australias-largest-disasters>

The graph shows:

1. 1999 Sydney Hail
2. 1974 TC Tracey
3. 1989 Newcastle Earthquake
4. 1974 Brisbane Floods
5. 2011 Queensland Floods
6. 1985 Brisbane Hail
7. 2019 Bushfires
8. 2007 East Coast Low
9. 1967 Black Tuesday
10. 2017 TC Debbie
11. 1983 Ash Wednesday
12. 2009 Black Saturday
13. 1990 Sydney Hail
14. 2010 Melbourne Hail
15. 1967 SEQ Hail

TC Yasi didn't even make the list.

Over 50+ years from 1967 the ICA say:

only 2 of the top 15 most expensive disasters are from cyclones (2 and 10).

Over 50+ years from 1967 the ICA say:

only 1 Queensland cyclone makes the list.

So why are our premiums in North Qld so high due to cyclone activity?