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Suncorp bolsters local businesses in Debbie's wake

Suncorp is supporting the work of more than 200 local businesses in devastated areas of north Queensland in the wake of Cyclone Debbie.

Suncorp's Executive General Manager Property and Specialty Claims, Matt Pearson, said Suncorp was using the full range of local trades to get people back into their homes as quickly as possible.

"These trades include plumbers, carpenters, cabinet makers, electricians, plasterers, floor specialists, tilers, tree loppers, scaffolders, tilers and crane hire specialists," Mr Pearson said.

"We already have more than 600 people from the region working with our builders which will provide a vital economic boost in communities that have suffered because of this event.

"Our goals with the recovery effort are to get our customers' lives back to normal as soon as possible, achieve quality of repair and ensure that most of our funds are spent in local communities."

Mr Pearson said Suncorp was advising customers that they could choose their own local builder or leverage Suncorp's well-experienced panel builders.

"We typically find that more than 40 percent of customers choose to work with their preferred local builder," he said.

"The one thing we hear loud and clear from customers who are displaced from their homes when disaster strikes, is their strong desire to return as quickly as possible," he said.

"We are giving customers choice and through our extensive experience we know that providing a mix of panel and local builders gets the best result."

Mr Pearson said in the aftermath of a major event, such as the Bundaberg floods in 2013, Suncorp's panel arrangement was complemented by a Local Purchasing Policy that encouraged the use of other local repairers and suppliers where practical.

In 2011, following Queensland's summer of disasters, a [Deloitte Access Economics](#) report found that Suncorp helped create nearly 3,700 new jobs in the immediate post-disaster period and more than \$1.2 billion in longer term economic activity.

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