

# Fears for canal wall insurance

By LAURA NELSON

THREE of Queensland's biggest home insurance companies have warned waterfront homeowners they cannot guarantee they will be covered if their canal walls collapse in heavy rains.

The warning follows a call from Division 3 councillor Grant Pforr for homeowners to have revetment walls checked to avoid a 'catastrophic domino effect'.

A spokesman for Sun-corp said damage caused to canal or sea walls from storms or flooding would definitely not be covered.

An RACQ spokesman said each canal wall insurance claim would be assessed individually.

Mike Sopinski, an AAMI spokesman, said the company would cover retaining walls on canals but there were limits to this coverage.

"Damage to a revetment wall must have been caused by one of AAMI's defined insurance events," he said.

"If a wall is in poor condition and it has not been correctly maintained, there may be a

question mark or doubts about the cover."

Mr Sopinski also warned homeowners their canal walls had to be compliant with all statutory and local government regulations.

He said it was homeowners' responsibility to make sure walls were maintained properly.

"It's also extremely important for waterfront homeowners to know exactly what their policies cover and what they don't cover," he said.

Councillor Pforr warned of the risk of 'catastrophic failure' if over-loaded canal walls collapsed in heavy rain.

"There are potentially a large number of dilapidated and unsafe revetment walls, jetties and pontoons which require attention," he said.

"Over time, many could pose an unacceptable public safety risk."

He said a confidential report had been made public to ensure residents understood the impacts of ageing canal walls.

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