

# Check wall safety at waterfront homes

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**WATERFRONT** homeowners have been warned to carefully check their canal walls or face major safety and insurance risk in the event of severe storms.

Cr Grant Pforr, whose division has hundreds of canalfront homes, said his concerns on revetment walls were heightened after warnings of cyclones hitting the Coast.

He said many residents had built retaining walls, pools and decks on to canals without seeking advice from engineers and within the regulated 6m setback area.

"Compounding the problem is the fact that with any increased water pressure due to over-topping during a flood or heavy rains, a revetment wall can be subjected to even greater loads," said Cr Pforr.

"This extra load heightens the risk of a cata-



Grant Pforr said many residents had built retaining walls without seeking advice from engineers

strophic failure of canal walls which can have a domino-like effect on other revetment walls in an estate."

He said many waterfront homes across the city were 30 years old or more. "Houses on corners tend to cop it more

because they are exposed to a natural dredging effect called scouring and, unfortunately, residents are not preparing for what is happening on their corner lots," he said.

"They need to be careful not to pre-load their walls and watch their properties don't settle."

He said canal walls were not built to last forever and this month's flooding should be a reminder of the importance that walls, pontoons and jetties were structurally sound and able to withstand the rigours of extreme weather.

## Flood help has salad bowl in mind

GOLD Coast councillors are determined to do more to help flood-devastated communities ... and to ensure locals aren't forced to pay up to \$50 a kilo for fruit or vegetables.

The council has donated \$450,000 to the Premier's Flood Appeal, Lockyer Valley residents, Ipswich residents and Theodore residents.

Division 8 councillor Bob La Castra said more support had to be offered

to protect Gold Coast consumers.

"The Lockyer Valley will need continued help, for its sake and the nation's," he said. "The crops in the area have been decimated."

"This will impact on the consumer price index for everything. We need to band together as a nation and help these communities rebuild."

Councillor Ted Shepherd said the council could afford to give more.

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