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Hail damage claims reach \$1.2 billion

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A year on from the freak hailstorm that hit Perth, claims from WA's biggest ever insurance disaster have topped \$1.2 billion.

The storm on March 22 last year pummelled thousands of cars and buildings with hailstones, breaking windows and damaging roofs.

In 24 hours, 40mm of rain fell on the city.

Figures from the Insurance Council of Australia show 135,000 claims were lodged, with about 85 per cent for property damage.

It was WA's most costly insurance incident, with the disruption in 2008 to the State's gas supply next highest — at about \$230 million.

RAC spokesman Glen Walker said fresh claims were coming in every week from last year's storm.

"In many cases, we are now chasing people to supply us with information so we can finalise the claim," Mr Walker said.

"We would encourage all members who still haven't lodged their storm claim to do so. We're hoping that we'll have all claims finalised by the end of this year."

The RAC received more than 40,000 claims from the storm, with half of the hail-damaged vehicles it insured being written off.

HBF general manager of general insurance Steve Hollow said more than 11,000 home claims and 6393 motor vehicle claims were received totalling \$76 million.

He said 93 per cent of the claims had been finalised.

"This was the biggest event WA has ever experienced in terms of

the claims it generated," Mr Hollow said. "Dealing with this volume of claims really tested us as well as the hundreds of repairers who found themselves swamped with calls.

"To have completed almost 95 per cent of the claims one year on has been a real achievement but we're not celebrating yet."

Adelphi Apartments resident Brian Holloway, 71, whose unit was filled with mud after the ground floor of the complex was flooded, said life had returned to normal.

After sleeping at a friend's place for months while repair work was carried out at the rental apartment, Mr Holloway went overseas for three months and moved into a different apartment in the same complex upon his return.