

# STORM & CYCLONE GUIDE



get  
ready  
QUEENSLAND

Cassowary  
Coast  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



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National park  
The park is open to the public during  
the day. It is not open at night.  
The park is open to the public during  
the day. It is not open at night.  
The park is open to the public during  
the day. It is not open at night.



**EVERYTHING**  
you need to know in an  
**EMERGENCY**

[disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au)

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As someone born and raised on the Cassowary Coast—the wettest place in Australia—I have witnessed firsthand both the trauma and the remarkable resilience of our community in the face of severe weather events like cyclones and floods. The recent 2023 State Disaster Risk Report underscores the importance of managing flood risks as Queensland's top priority for the coming decade. Flooding, particularly from events like ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, has shown how severe and disruptive these natural disasters can be, causing significant damage to property, the environment, and local businesses and to the mental health and wellbeing of impacted community members

Our climate is changing, and this brings an increase in the severity and frequency of high-impact weather events. As a result, everyone on the Cassowary Coast must be aware and equipped with the latest information to stay informed and prepared for extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, or fires.

In light of these risks, residents are encouraged to support one another in preparing for storm season. If you have elderly neighbours, or know a person who may be vulnerable with special needs, please offer them your support and assistance, and don't hesitate to seek help from your community when needed.

To receive the most up to date information during a high impact weather event or natural disaster, visit the Cassowary Coast Disaster Dashboard. This essential resource provided by Council includes the Local Disaster Management Group's real-time updates, advice and warnings. It also includes current road conditions, flood zone mapping and checklists to help you prepare before, during, and after an event. Access the Disaster Dashboard at [disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au).



When planning for an extreme weather event, remember that public cyclone shelters should be considered a last resort. Our region has only two designated shelters with limited space and facilities, so they will fill up quickly. It's important to have a well-thought-out plan for where you will go and what you will do during and, more importantly, before such events.

Communities that are well-prepared and work together are more resilient and recover more swiftly. Let's all commit to staying informed, prepared, and supportive of each other as we navigate the challenges of extreme weather.

# UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

To get prepared for a natural disaster you must first understand your risk.

It's only when you understand your risk that you can take the necessary steps to reduce the impact of a natural disaster on your wellbeing, home, family, finances and business.

On the Cassowary Coast we are prone several severe weather events and natural disasters, including storms, cyclones, and floods.

Residents need to start planning and preparing for storms, cyclones and floods well in advance to be prepared for the Storm season from November through to April.

Cyclones are a significant risk for the Cassowary Coast to due the regions position in the Coral Sea. Cyclones can cause severe wind damage, heavy rainfall, and storm surges.

We are the wettest place in Australia and flooding is also a risk to understand when planning and preparing due to heavy rainfall from cyclones or monsoonal weather patterns.

Floods in the Cassowary Coast region often result in riverine and flash flooding, affecting low-lying homes and community infrastructure.

Although less of a risk on the Cassowary Coast parts of the region are still are prone to bushfires in extended dry periods from July to October.

For more information and to understand your risk visit [getready.qld.gov.au/getting-ready/understand-your-risk](https://getready.qld.gov.au/getting-ready/understand-your-risk)



# THE BEST ADDRESS IN A DISASTER

The latest emergency and disaster advice, information and updates are now just a click away for Cassowary Coast residents with the Cassowary Coast Disaster Dashboard.

The Dashboard is a one-stop emergency information hub, which will provide critical information before, during and after emergency and disaster situations.

The Cassowary Coast region is no stranger to disaster events. In times of disaster it's important to have a single point of reference to access up to the minute information including road conditions, weather advices and warnings, power outages and local information and contacts.

Information isn't just critical during and after an event. The Dashboard will also host information to help residents prepare for disaster events. Information will include interactive flood mapping, storm tide mapping and also checklists, hints and tips to prepare your home, family, business and community for any event.

Instead of visiting a variety of websites to get up-to-date, all of the information is available in a single easy to use website which is mobile device friendly for access on phones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers.

The up to the minute information will include important updates directly from the Local Disaster Coordination Centre regarding key decisions and actions that are being undertaken in the local community. There will also be information for residents directing them to where help is available in their local communities and what services are available to help them recover.

Learn more by visiting the Cassowary Coast Region Disaster Dashboard at [disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au) or follow the links from Council's website.



The best address in a  
**natural disaster**  
[disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au)

# THE AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM (AWS)

## What is the Australian Warning System (AWS)?

The Australian Warning System is a National Approach to information and warnings for hazards like floods, storms, cyclones, bushfires, extreme heat and severe weather.

You'll find these warnings on websites, apps, through media and other channels. The Australian Warning System brings a consistent approach to warnings for every community for bushfire, floods, storms, cyclones, and extreme heat.

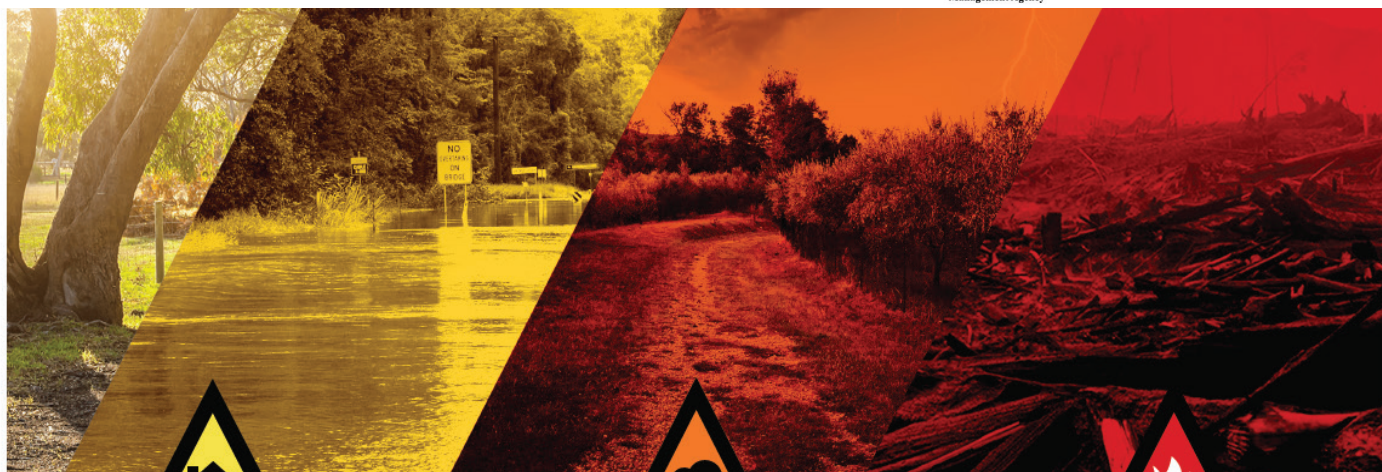
The AWS focuses on the community under threat, and what they need to be safe. AWS warnings have consistent:

That means, no matter where you are, you can trust the warning, understand it and act quickly.

Warning Levels	Colour Palette	Icons
Advice	Yellow	
Watch and Act	Orange	
Emergency Warning	Red	

- [qfes.qld.gov.au/AWS](http://qfes.qld.gov.au/AWS)
- [disaster.qld.gov.au/warnings](http://disaster.qld.gov.au/warnings)
- [australianwarningsystem.com.au](http://australianwarningsystem.com.au)

## Know the signs before the disaster strikes.



**ADVICE**



**WATCH AND ACT**



**EMERGENCY WARNING**

Advice means an incident has started and there is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and Act means there is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start acting now to protect you and your loved ones.

Emergency Warning means you may be in danger and need to act immediately.



[australianwarningsystem.com.au](http://australianwarningsystem.com.au)

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is one more way to stay informed during an emergency, with regional councils and all major emergency service providers maintaining official social media accounts.

**But, do not use these accounts to request emergency assistance; in an emergency call TRIPLE-0 (000).**

## Queensland Police

Facebook.com/QueenslandPolice

Twitter: @QldPolice

## Queensland Fire & Rescue

Facebook.com/QldFireandEmergencyService

Twitter: @QldFES

## State Emergency Service Far Northern Region

Facebook.com/SESFNR

Twitter: @QldSES

## Queensland Ambulance Service

Facebook.com/qldambulanceservice

Twitter: @QldAmbulance

## Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland

Facebook.com/bureauofmeteorology

Twitter: @BOM\_Qld

(Always see bom.gov.au for the latest warnings.)

## Ergon Energy

Facebook.com/ErgonEnergy

Twitter: @ErgonEnergy

For emergencies, call 000, and for power outages, call 13 22 96.

## EMERGENCY ALERT

Emergency Alert is the national telephone warning system and one of many ways responders warn of a likely or actual emergency.

Emergency Alert is not used in all circumstances and whether emergency services decide to issue telephone warnings will depend on the incident.

The system sends voice messages to landline telephones and text messages to mobile telephones within a specific area.

### What will the message say?

The warning message will provide information on the emergency, what action to take and where to find further information. The Emergency Alert Location Based Solution relies on the capability of each carrier to detect and locate every mobile with a last known location within the warning area set by the emergency services.

The networks automatically update the location of all mobiles when they connect with the network to make a call or a text. Smartphones

are connecting with the networks all the time in the background, so the network can detect your location almost instantly.

### Is the message genuine?

If the caller ID number or message header on your phone displays the number 0444 444 444 it is genuine. The message tells you where to go for more information. You can also check with other sources, for example radio, websites or neighbours, to confirm the message's authenticity.

### Where can I find out more?

It is important you listen to the voice message or read the text message carefully and understand what action the emergency services want you to take. The warning message should direct you to sources of further information such as emergency services websites or telephone information lines.

# AS A CYCLONE APPROACHES

If you hear a cyclone watch or warning you should:

- Tune in- to your local radio station and TV station
- Log on- to the Bureau of Meteorology website for weather and warnings.
- Listen out- for the Standard Emergency Warning Signal, emergency alert messages sent to your telephone and community safety announcements and ACT!- Warnings are urgent. Act immediately on the advice provided.
- Monitor the movement and severity of the cyclone. Track the movement on this map.
- Check your emergency kit is complete and easily accessible.
- Clear your property of all loose items including outdoor furniture, children's toys, etc.
- Secure any boats and move all vehicles and bicycles under cover.
- Fill buckets and bath with water and ensure you have sufficient water purification tablets to make the water drinkable if needed.
- Prepare your evacuation kit.
- Secure windows by closing shutters or securely affixing strong storm covers.
- Bring children and pets indoors and remain inside until further advice is given.

## How to use this map:

Plot the position of the cyclone using the Bureau of Meteorology's updated advice using the latitude and longitude co-ordinates provided. One of the most important points to remember is that cyclones rarely move in a straight line.

Although plotting successive positions is a good way to appreciate the movement of the cyclone's centre, it must be realised that the dangerous winds surrounding the cyclone can extend up to 100km from its centre.

**Remember the reported position of a cyclone is approximate.**





# CYCLONE TRACKING MAP



# NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE COMPLACENT

Weather is becoming more unpredictable across the state with unseasonal conditions and higher frequency of severe weather events.

While the Cassowary Coast community have proven time and time again that they are resilient in the event of severe weather, subsequent uneventful storm seasons can build complacency it is important to always be prepared.

Remember, Australia has had at least one cyclone cross the coast each year since accurate records commenced.

In December 2023, the Cassowary Coast bore the brunt of a significant weather system as a result of Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

This event saw heavy rainfall for an extended period which caused major flooding in numerous parts of the region including Innisfail, Mourilyan,

Silkwood, South Johnstone, Tully whilst isolating some communities for hours or days at a time.

In the lead up to and after the 2023 flooding there were more than 250 calls to the State Emergency Service. Over 400 residents claimed various levels of Government assistance to help recover from this event and more than 300 outreach visits were made by the Red Cross to check on affected community members.

Now is the time to prepare your home, family and business for whatever may eventuate this storm season.

Don't be complacent. Prepare now and avoid the panic and confusion that could occur in a disaster event.



The best address in a  
**network outage**  
[disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au)

# WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN?

In a disaster, high winds, fire, rising floodwaters or storm surges can prevent emergency services from reaching you before, during and after an event. Road access may be cut and essential services such as power, water supplies, and phone communications are usually disrupted.

Where a large number of people are affected, emergency services will be focused on assisting the most vulnerable in the community. Your family and community could become isolated for five or more days and will need to rely on the supplies and equipment you have at home to survive.

Simply ask yourself, if you were isolated by a disaster right now, are you ready?

Having a comprehensive Emergency Plan will ensure that you have all the necessary supplies and knowledge to survive and cope after an event.

Understanding the hazards you may face and discussing them as a family is a critical part of the planning process. Ensuring important information is written down and safely stored and making sure the whole family are prepared and understand what you will do is critical.

Don't leave it until it's too late.

Prepare an Emergency Plan now.

Four points to consider with your emergency plan.

1. Research the hazards and disaster management plans of your community.
2. Discuss various scenarios and responses with your family and household.
3. Record important information- make it a written plan.
4. Ensure everyone is prepared.

For more information on how you should plan for an emergency, visit [disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au)



# WHAT'S YOUR PLAN IF YOU NEED TO GO?

If you live in a location that is at risk of flooding, or being impacted by cyclones or bushfires, preparing for evacuation now could save you time and stress in the event of a major disaster.

To prepare for evacuation, ensure you know where you will evacuate to and how you will get there.

Don't forget about your pets. Ensure your destination is able to accommodate your pets too and you have a way of transporting them.

You should have an evacuation kit prepared and ready to leave with immediately. Your evacuation kit should be contained in a sturdy, easy to carry bag or waterproof storage box and be stored in a safe place that is easy to access. You should also ensure your vehicle is full of fuel well before you make the decision to evacuate.

Your evacuation kit should contain clothing, essential medications and prescriptions, first aid supplies and toiletry items. You should also include pillows and sleeping bags, valuables and spare batteries and chargers for phones and other devices.

Also include some cash (ATMs and banks may not be open and EFTPOS may not be working) and any mementos such as precious photos and important documents.

In times of disaster, we understand that finding a safe place to stay is crucial. While public cyclone shelters are available, they are designed as a last resort due to their limited space and facilities. The Cassowary Coast region only has two designated shelters, which can fill up quickly. To ensure your comfort and safety, consider staying with family or friends in a more secure location, or explore the option of relocating to alternative accommodation outside the region. We encourage you to plan ahead and take action early to secure a safe place before the situation becomes urgent. Your well-being is our priority, and we want to help you find the best possible shelter during this challenging time.

Checklist for evacuation:

- Has official advice been given to evacuate?
- Do you know where you will be evacuating to?
- Do you know the preferred route to this point?
- Is your vehicle fueled up?
- Have you packed essential medication- if needed?
- Have you checked on your neighbours who are elderly or disabled?

To make a plan for you and your family visit [plan.getready.qld.gov.au](https://www.getready.qld.gov.au).



The best address for  
**weather warnings**  
[disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au](https://disaster.CassowaryCoast.qld.gov.au)

# EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST



Here is a checklist of recommended items to have in your kit. Some should be stored in a safe place in a waterproof box or bag. Medicines with short shelf life or requiring chilling will need to be ready to add when warnings are issued for your area. Attach the list once completed to the top of the box and review contents at least twice a year.

- Water for three days** – 10 litres of drinking water per person at a minimum.
- Non-perishable food for three days**
- Gas powered stove** – with spare canister.
- Cooking and kitchen equipment** – pans, plates, cups, cutlery, cooking knife, zip bags, plastic containers and can opener.
- Baby supplies** – formulas (*check expiry date*) and a bottle. Have enough food, nappies and wipes for at least three days.
- Pet supplies** – dry food, water and feeding bowls.
- Thick work gloves and disposable rubber gloves**
- Rubbish bags**
- First aid kit and face masks**
- Essential medication** – include a week's supply of prescription and over the counter medication.
- Essential toiletries** – toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, personal hygiene products, sunscreen, insect repellent, tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Important documents** – paper copies or scans saved to a USB. Drivers licence, insurance policies (home, contents, vehicles, life), passports, legal documents (property deed, wills etc.), birth and marriage certificates.
- Mobile phone, chargers and power bank**
- Torch** – with spare batteries for at least three days use.
- Battery powered radio** – with spare batteries for at least three days use.
- Sunglasses and/or safety glasses**
- Emergency whistle**
- Wrench, pliers, screwdriver** – to help turn off power, water and gas supplies if needed.
- Tarpaulin and ropes**
- Spare glasses and hearing aid batteries** – if needed and possible.
- Spare clothes** – clean underwear, changes of clothes, waterproof jackets and sun hats for all the family.
- Safety knife** – a safety knife is a useful tool during and after a disaster.
- Bedding** – sleeping bags or warm blankets, camping mattress.
- Spare cash** – in case payment systems are down.
- Things to keep you and the kids entertained** – books, pack of cards, some glow sticks.

# HELP YOUR NEIGHBOUR

When making your preparations, it's a good opportunity to get to know your neighbours and help them get prepared too.

Think about people in your neighbourhood that are older or disabled or may have medical conditions that may need your help to be prepared.

Work together with your neighbours to get to know them and make your location as safe as possible and get everyone prepared.

You may develop a list of things that need to be done in your neighbourhood immediately prior to an event to ensure they are done.

Ask your neighbours if they need assistance in shopping - stocking up for the emergency.

Remember the hustle and bustle of the emergency shop may be too much for your more elderly neighbours and the opportunity to have someone

assist could be a welcome relief.

Share the tasks around, so the burden does not rest with only one person, this will build a strong and caring neighbour group.

Perhaps make a list of the various services your neighbours could provide like doctors, electricians, plumbers, builders and any other special skills that may be of use following an event.

Neighbours may even decide to provide vulnerable members of the community a place in their home to shelter through an event so they don't feel alone in their own home.



# PROTECT YOUR PET

Pets are important members of the family too and need to be covered in any emergency preparations.

Ensure that any plans you make regarding evacuation with your pet include a pet friendly destination/shelter location.

Remember, Public Cyclone Shelters and places of refuge will not permit animals to enter other than trained assistance animals.

Your emergency kit should contain supplies for your pet including food, water, medications, lead, harness, collar, bedding and a carry cage or similar.

Your pet should also be properly identified including contact phone numbers, name and home address.

Ensure your dogs are registered with Council as well as microchipped. This is important if you and your pet are separated during an emergency.

Cats do not need to be registered with Council, but should be microchipped similar to your dogs,

Even if your pets aren't cats and dogs, this suggested

information could be generally applied to most household pets.

Ensure you have the phone number for your veterinarian or animal welfare agency in your household emergency kit.

Never leave an animal tied up or chained without shelter and bedding, as well as food and fresh clean water.

For more information visit [getready.qld.gov.au/pets](http://getready.qld.gov.au/pets).



# EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Life Threatening Emergencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Fallen Powerlines)	000																								
State Emergency Service – flood or storm damage	132 500																								
Non Emergency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Link</li> <li>• Ambulance</li> <li>• Innisfail Fire Station</li> <li>• Ergon</li> </ul>	131 444 131 233 4061 0600 132 296																								
QLD Traffic and Road Conditions	131940 Website: <a href="http://www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au">www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au</a>																								
Cassowary Coast Council	1300 763 903																								
Disaster Coordination Centre (when activated)	1300 188 505																								
QLD Health 13 HEALTH Innisfail Hospital Tully Hospital	13 43 25 84 4016 1411 4068 4144																								
Bureau of Meteorology QLD General Warnings QLD Northern Districts Forecasts Australian Tsunami Threat Information (1300 TSUNAMI)	Website: <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a> 1300 659 210 1300 934 034 1300 878 626																								
Maritime Safety Queensland Cairns Regional Office	4052 7400 After hours incidents 1300 551 899 Website : <a href="http://www.msq.qld.gov.au">www.msq.qld.gov.au</a>																								
Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services	137 468																								
Lifeline	131 114																								
Red Cross	1300 554 419																								
Cassowary Coast Wildlife Rescue	0447 970 668																								
Radio Stations	<table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>ABC Far North Innisfail</td> <td>106.7FM</td> <td>801AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Babinda</td> <td>95.7FM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ABC North Cardwell</td> <td>100.1FM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4KZ / Kool FM Innisfail</td> <td>98.3FM</td> <td>531AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Babinda</td> <td>94.9FM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>102.5FM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tully</td> <td>88.5FM</td> <td>693AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardwell</td> <td>91.9FM</td> <td>94.7FM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ABC Far North Innisfail	106.7FM	801AM	Babinda	95.7FM		ABC North Cardwell	100.1FM		4KZ / Kool FM Innisfail	98.3FM	531AM	Babinda	94.9FM			102.5FM		Tully	88.5FM	693AM	Cardwell	91.9FM	94.7FM
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Cardwell	91.9FM	94.7FM																							

# CONTACT COUNCIL



Innisfail 70 Rankin Street  
Tully 38-40 Bryant Street  
Cardwell 4 Balliol St (Cardwell Library)



[cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](http://cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au)  
[enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au)



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