

## 6. Weather information

### 6.1 General

The prevailing winds tend to be easterly to south easterly. Although calmer conditions occur during the winter months, they may become very difficult during the summer months when the sea breeze augments the prevailing south easterlies.

Weather charts, satellite images, warnings and reports from the [Bureau of Meteorology](#).

[Coastwatch](#) is a website with useful nautical information links.

### 6.2 Extreme weather event contingency plan

Below is a link to the Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plans for Cape Flattery, Cooktown and Port Douglas:

[www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Preparing-for-severe-weather.aspx](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Preparing-for-severe-weather.aspx)

### 6.3 Tidal information

Cairns is the standard port in the Queensland Tide Tables for Cape Flattery, Cooktown and Port Douglas. High and low waters occur 10 minutes prior to the Cairns time.

Table 10 Tide Tables

MHWS	MHWN	MLWN	MLWS	MSL	Ratio	CONS	HAT
2.33	1.66	1.30	0.62	1.48	0.89	0.00	3.01

To calculate the height of the tide at high water:

Predicted HW height at Cairns x ratio.

The current stream is noticeable in a north-easterly direction ranging up to one knot and may be stronger during the wet season (December to March).

Cape Flattery has an automatic weather station that indicates wind and current direction, and speed may be accessed by phoning 07 4060 3025.

#### 6.3.1 Tidal information – tsunami effects

The north-west and east coasts of Australia are bordered by active tectonic plates which are capable of generating a tsunami that could reach the coastline within two to four hours. The resultant change in swell height could have an adverse effect on a vessel with a minimum under keel clearance navigating within or close to port areas.

The [Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre](#) (JATWC) has been established to monitor earthquake activity that may lead to a tsunami forming. Warnings are currently issued for the Pacific Ocean region by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii and for the Indian Ocean region by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). The Australian Tsunami Warning System

Mariners are advised to take heed of such warnings, plan their bar crossings and tend their mooring or anchorages accordingly.