

6. Weather Information

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. As a general rule when mean wind speeds are in excess of 40 knots measured either at the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) or any other reliable source, vessel movements in the Maryborough Pilotage Area will be suspended.

Wave height and tidal conditions are also factors when crossing from Hervey Bay into the pilotage area and this information should also be considered when deciding whether to cross into the strait.

A Tropical Cyclone Watch (Blue Alert) message is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), when a cyclone or potential cyclone is expected to affect conditions in the area within the next 48 hours and is reviewed every six hours.

A Tropical Cyclone Warning (Yellow Alert) message is issued when a cyclone or potential cyclone is expected to affect conditions in the area within the next 24 hours and is reviewed every three hours or sooner depending on circumstances.

Cyclone warnings and reports may be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website (www.bom.gov.au) (Section 13.3, Figure 5 – Cyclone Tracking chartlet).

The [Extreme Weather Contingency Plan Gladstone Region](#) contains the procedures to be followed for all vessels during extreme weather events, which includes cyclones.

6.1 Tidal Information

6.1.1 Tide Boards/Gauges

There is a tide gauge located at Urangan within the upper Sandy Strait region. Tide predictions are provided by MSQ as a free online document and can be found here: <https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Tides/Tide-tables>. Additional tidal information for areas within Sandy Strait, including Kingfisher Bay, can be calculated with the above tidal information in conjunction with information from <https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Tides/Tidal-planes>

6.2 Water Density

Sea water is usually 1025 kg/m³ but will vary during the summer months after periods of heavy rain.