

Appendix 6 – Port Douglas

Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan 2023 - 2024

Department of Transport and Main Roads — Maritime Safety Queensland, November 2023

Document history

Date	Version	Comments
September 2023	1	Original
November 2023	1.1	Minor amendment, inclusion of chartlet (Map S10c-3-10)

Port Douglas

This port-specific plan must be read in conjunction with the full Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan document, available on the MSQ webpage <https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/safety/preparing-for-severe-weather> .

Extreme Weather Event

The hazards covered under this plan include CYCLONE and FLOOD. One or more hazards may occur simultaneously.

Yellow – Advice

Destructive Winds, Swell, Rain or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 24-48 Hours

- Review all cargo or trading operations and obtain a situation report on state of operations including draft.
- Inform ships' masters of situation and place a short notice to sail.
- Obtain information on length of time to bring ships to a readiness to sail.
- Inform Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) via Cairns VTS of situation and ascertain suitable sailing times and draft requirements.
- If time permits, resume cargo, trading operations or ballast operations. Bring ship to satisfactory handling trim and safe transit draft.
- All smaller vessels such as the reef fleet and commercial fishing vessels should prepare to move to then move designated cyclone mooring areas.
- Owners of recreational vessels are to follow the directions given in the chartlet at the end of this Appendix.

Orange – Watch and Act

Destructive Winds, Swell, Rain or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 12-24 Hours

- Sail all ships (note: It may already have been necessary to have sailed some ships due to tidal conditions).
- In the event that a ship cannot sail, arrange linesmen, instruct master to take standard cyclone precautions.
- On water authorities prepare to depart.
- All smaller vessels such as the reef fleet and commercial fishing vessels should be moored in the designated area, whether it be at cyclone moorings or mangrove areas in the Appendix and final preparations and tying off completed.
- Owners of recreational vessels should be moored in the designated areas with final preparations and tying off complete.

Note: The anchoring of large vessels upstream is not recommended due to tidal surges that could inundate the area, which, with high winds, may well strand vessels inland of the river system, making any salvage extremely difficult.

Red – Emergency Warning

Destructive Winds, Swell or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 6 Hours

Port Closed

Vessels are not to leave their cyclone moorings or designated areas until the official all clear is given by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns). Only movements of an emergency nature will be permitted during a Red Emergency Warning.

Yellow – Advice

After The Event Has Passed, Recovery Underway

The Regional Harbour Master will assess residual risks and determine the actions needed to be addressed. Do not assume that as the extreme weather event has passed, it is now safe to move your vessel.

Vessels, commercial and recreational, are not to leave their cyclone moorings until the official all clear is given by the Regional Harbour Master.

Mariners should maintain a listening watch on VHF channels 16 and 12, and follow advice/directions from Cairns Vessel Traffic Service, (Callsign Cairns VTS).

Movements will be at the RHM's discretion and can be in stages including limited to internal port movements until the Channel or areas within the Port are deemed safe.

Mariners are to consult the latest Notices to Mariners for updated information on port depths and conditions.

White – All clear

Port open to all traffic, business as usual

A Pilotage area may be effectively re-opened by the Regional Harbour Master following direction to allow the entering or leaving of ships in and out of a pilotage area, or movement of vessels within a pilotage area. Such direction will be provided when satisfied that all danger has passed, and the Pilotage area is safe for vessels to re-enter or exit.

The Vessel Traffic Services Centre will coordinate the safe movement of vessels following the opening of the Pilotage area in accordance with normal practice. Berths will be re-opened and operations resumed when structural assessments have been completed and wind and sea conditions are within operational limits.

Communication

The successful implementation of this plan relies on high quality communication of information and directions.

From the commencement of Yellow advice, the Marina Manager's Office at the Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina will become the Port Douglas Emergency Control Centre (ECC). The ECC will monitor VHF channel 16 and telephone 4099 5775.

The ECC will relay messages from the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) and act as co-ordination and control centre. Once in position, all vessels are to contact the ECC and advise them of the area in which they are moored and how many people will be remaining on board.

If a vessel is to be left unattended, its owners are to advise the control centre of their contact telephone numbers. To ensure an orderly evacuation, the following schedule is to be observed when announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF channel 16.

VHF channels **16** and **12** will be continuously monitored by Cairns VTS before and during the extreme weather event, unless the centre is evacuated. Extreme weather watches, warnings and any directions will be issued frequently as directed by the Regional Harbour Master.

Key Contacts

Name	Contact Number
Regional Harbour Master	07 4052 7400
Cairns Vessel Traffic Service	1300 551 899
Water Police	07 40573577
Marina Manager (ECC)	074099 5775
Boating and Fisheries Patrol	07 4035 0700

Key Websites

Name	URL
Detailed weather updates: BOM	www.bom.gov.au
MSQ Website	www.msq.qld.gov.au
MSQ Dashboard – detailed information on Port closures, Notice to Mariners, Tide Charts and more.	https://www.qldmaritime.msq.qld.gov.au

MARITIME EXTREME WEATHER EVENT PLAN (CYCLONE) PORT DOUGLAS



OBJECTIVE:

To have the marina areas evacuated at least six hours before destructive winds commence, and to have small vessels safely moored in their designated areas of shelter by that time.

All vessels, other than those being used for emergency purposes, are to evacuate and clear the marinas. Owners should be aware that should they leave their vessel in this area, they may be liable to prosecution and, additionally, be held accountable for any damage that their vessel may cause or incur. The accompanying chart details the designated cyclone mooring areas.

VESSEL COMMUNICATIONS & CONTROL CENTRE:

From the commencement of Yellow Watch the Manager's office at the Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina will become the PORT DOUGLAS EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE. They will monitor VHF Ch 16 and telephone (07) 4099 5775. They will relay messages from the Regional Harbour Master and act as a co-ordination and control centre. Once in position all vessels are to contact the Port Douglas Emergency Control Centre and advise them of the area in which they are moored and how many people will be remaining onboard. Additionally, if a vessel is to be left unattended they are to advise the Control Centre of their contact telephone numbers as applicable. To ensure an orderly evacuation, the following schedule is to be observed when announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF ch 16.

Yellow - Advice

Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within 24 - 48 hours.

1. Vessels under 10m to areas D & F, Multi Hulls to area H and vessels between 10m - 15m choosing to use area A.
2. Vessels between 10m - 15m to area C, vessels over 15m to area B and Quicksilver to area G.
3. Late arrivals to area E.

NOTES:

The Emergency Control Centre will advise vessels when they should move during this phase. It is essential that vessels avoid blocking off access to upper reaches and remain tied off to one side until it is obvious that all vessels that may wish to pass have done so.

Orange - Watch and Act

Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within 12 - 24 hours.

All vessels should be moored in their designated area and final preparations and tying off completed. On water authorities prepare to depart.

Red - Emergency Warning

Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within 6 hours.

Marinas closed.

Vessels are NOT to leave their cyclone mooring until the official ALL CLEAR is given by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns).

Map S10c-3-10

