



Emergency Action Guide



Be **DISASTER** aware.
Take action and prepare.

About this guide

The Emergency Action Guide focuses on natural disasters. Don't wait for a disaster to happen before you think about how you and your family are going to survive.

During disasters, Emergency Services may not be able to reach you due to high winds, fire, floodwater, fallen powerlines or debris across the road. Emergency Services will be focused on assisting the most vulnerable in the community during an event.

That's why you need to be prepared to evacuate or 'camp indoors' for at least five days.



When to prepare

The best time to prepare is well before an event is even on its way. Planning well means nothing is left to chance and that everyone knows what they need to do and where things are.

This guide will help you:



Understand your risk and likelihood of disasters in the Burdekin



Prepare your emergency plan



Prepare your emergency kit and evacuation kit



Prepare your household - before, during and after a disaster



Find timely information during a disaster





Preparing in advance

Prior preparation is the best way to survive any natural disaster. While cyclones and flooding are most common in North Queensland, we could also experience fires, tsunamis, earthquakes and landslides.

It is important to know what you will do in each scenario:

- Understand your risk.
- Decide in advance if you will evacuate or shelter in place.
- Know your evacuation route.
- Have an emergency kit.
- Have an evacuation kit

Prepare your family by discussing and writing down:

- What might happen during a cyclone, flood, storm or bushfire?
- What will you do if an emergency happens, and you are in different locations (school, work, home)?
- If you are required to evacuate, where will you go?
- Your emergency meeting places.
- How and when to call 000 or 112 from your mobile.



October It's time to prepare

The LDMG recommends setting aside a weekend in October each year ahead of our main disaster season (November – April) to prepare your family and home.

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We are your information authority

During a disaster, the Burdekin Local Disaster Management Group is your number one source of information.

Because cyclones and floods are a part of life in the North, it's easy to become complacent. The effects of being unprepared can range from slight discomfort to devastation. Sadly, some people have perished in floods and cyclones because they weren't prepared or didn't follow warnings.



Here's where you can find information:



Disaster Dashboard
disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au



Council Website
burdekin.qld.gov.au



Facebook
BurdekinDisasterInformation



Telephone
4783 9800



To help prepare your Emergency Plan, Emergency Kit, Evacuation Plan and Evacuation Kit:
getready.qld.gov.au

The Disaster Management Act 2003 requires a Local Government to appoint a Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and prepare comprehensive disaster management plans. The Burdekin LDMG comprises of Councillors, Executive Officers, Emergency Services and key State and Federal agencies.

The Burdekin LDMG makes decisions based on advice from lead agencies including the Bureau of Meteorology and Sunwater. The Burdekin LDMG's area of responsibility covers all communities in the Burdekin Shire.

The Burdekin LDMG will establish a Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) manned by trained Council staff, Emergency Services and key agencies to coordinate resources and information in response to a major disaster event. The LDCC will be activated by the LDMG depending on the severity of the event.

To keep up to date you can access information on the Burdekin's Disaster Dashboard, Council website, trusted social media pages, public notices, and local radio stations 97.1 Sweet FM and 630AM ABC North Queensland.

If you are in an emergency, please dial 000. If you need assistance following an event you should contact the LDCC call centre and provide details as requested by the telephone operator.

DISCLAIMER: This brochure is for information only and is provided in good faith. The Queensland Government and the Burdekin Shire Council are under no liability to any person in respect of any loss or damage (including consequential loss) which may be suffered or incurred, or which may arise directly or indirectly, in respect of reliance by any person on the information contained in this brochure.

Preparing your home, car, boat and pets for all disasters

Take the time in October, ahead of our usual disaster season, to go through this checklist and make sure everything is ready. Preparing in advance saves time and reduces the number of things you have to do when a disaster is about to strike.



Home

- Clean up the yard.
- Trim trees and overhanging branches.
- Keep your roof in good condition and check it for damage and leaks regularly.
- Remove debris from gutters.
- Check and fix loose fittings, such as railings.
- Check windows and install shutters if possible.
- Get to know your neighbours.
- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet, and how to get out.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Store poisons up high in case of flooding.



Cars

- Ensure your car insurance is current and that it covers your asset adequately.
- When severe weather warnings are issued, park vehicles under cover, away from trees, power lines and waterways.
- Ensure your car is fully fuelled.



Boats

Maritime Safety Queensland recommends that mariners plan, prepare and follow advice when it comes to the disaster season. Information can be found at msq.qld.gov.au

- Get a copy of the Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan for your area and read it.
- Explore your suggested shelter area or inlet before the disaster season starts.
- Update your contact details with local maritime authorities.
- Organise options to move your boat to a safer location if you will be away during the disaster season.
- Keep a record of emergency telephone numbers handy (for example, Regional Harbour Master, Marine Rescue Queensland, Queensland Police Service).
- Know when and where your vessel needs to be during an evacuation.
- Use suitable lines to secure your boat. Double up on mooring lines. Check they are in good condition and are the right size and length.
- Secure loose articles below deck.
- Secure all hatches.
- Check your boat is watertight.
- Reduce wind loading and remove furled sails and covers, bimini tops and any clears.
- Check all bilge pumps work and all self draining holes are clear.



Pets

- Secure animals before an emergency event or use a secure pet carrier/cage/leash if you are transporting them. Boarding shelters may also be an option for your pet.
- Ensure all vaccinations are current.
- Make sure your pet can be identified – register and microchip them where possible.
- If evacuating with your pet, make sure you have their medications, food, water, bedding, leash, toys and consider their sanitation needs.
- Have a current photo of each of your pets in case of separation.



Emergency kit

This kit should contain the provisions for your essential needs in the event of an emergency, whether you are sheltering in place or evacuating.

It's also handy to have a basic tool kit, extra supplies and a portable cooker.



For more information go to: disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au



Evacuation kit

As well as essential items in your Emergency Kit, if you are evacuating you will need to take additional items with you so you are equipped to live away from home for several days.



Queensland Ambulance Service recommends that families include the following in their First Aid Kits:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x packet of plastic strips | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x sterile combine dressing (20 x 20cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x alcohol swabs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x roll non allergenic tape | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 x triangular bandages | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x square gauze swabs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x sterile eye pads | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x medium wound dressing (#14) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x bottles eye irrigation (15ml) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x heavy elastic bandages (10cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x haemostatic dressing | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x pair stainless steel scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x heavy elastic bandages (7.5cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x packet wound closure steri-strip | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x pair tweezers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x heavy elastic bandages (5cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x non-adhesive dressing (10 x 7.5cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x first aid hints booklet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x hospital crepe bandage (10cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x arterial tourniquet | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x packet single use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x sterile combine dressing (9 x 10cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x tick ether spray | <input type="checkbox"/> splinter probes (10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 x non-adhesive dressings (5 x 7.5cm) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x saline sachet (30mL) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x pack of 10 latex gloves |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x bottle antiseptic cream (50g) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x resuscitation mask |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 x packet of safety pins |

Pets

Your pets are important members of your family, so they need to be included in your family's emergency plan.

Prior to disaster season, identify a safe place where you can take your pets in the event of an emergency.

If sheltering your pets at home, ensure they have sufficient water and food for up to 36 hours.



Build a Kit for Your Pet

Here are some items you may want to include in an emergency kit for your pet:

- Food. Keep up to 5 days' supply of food in an airtight, waterproof container.
- Water. Store a water bowl and up to 5 days' supply of water.
- Medicine. Keep an extra supply of the medicine your pet regularly takes in a waterproof container.
- First aid kit. Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs.
- Collar with ID tag and a harness or leash. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag. Have copies of your pet's registration information and other relevant documents in a waterproof container and available electronically.
- Travelling bag, crate, or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet.
- Sanitation needs. Include pet litter and litter box (if appropriate), newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs.
- A picture of you and your pet together. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet.
- Familiar items. Put favourite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbours, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Have your pet microchipped and registration current. Make sure to keep your address and phone number up-to-date and include contact information for an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.



Rules for pets

The Burdekin Shire Council Place of Refuge has limited space for the shelter of pets. All pets presented must be in a cage and have adequate food and water supplies. Final discretion will rest with the facility manager.

Tips for larger (paddock) animals

- Ensure all animals have some form of identification.
- Evacuate animals earlier, whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Ensure vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal has experienced handlers and drivers.
- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to a secure area or turn them loose outside.



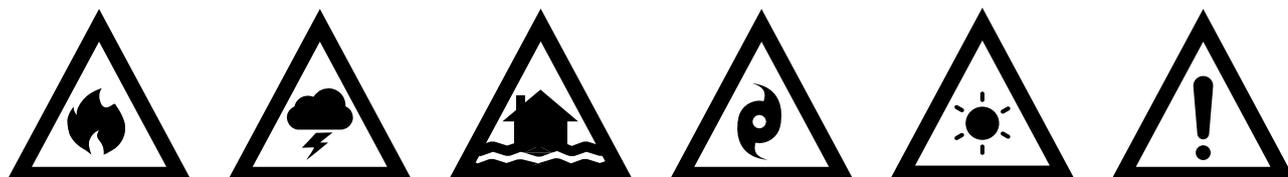
Warnings

The Bureau of Meteorology issues weather information and warnings. Burdekin Local Disaster Management Group uses this information to make decisions about what action people should take.



Warnings are urgent

You need to act immediately on the information provided.



Australian Warning System icons

The Australian Warning System has been designed based on feedback and research across the country and aims to deliver a more consistent approach to emergency warnings, no matter where you are in the country. It uses a nationally consistent set of icons to show incidents on websites and apps, supported by calls to action.

Calls to Action

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do. Calls to Action can be used flexibly across all three warning levels, and contextualised for each hazard within each state or territory.

There are three warning levels:

	Advice	An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare now • Stay informed • Monitor conditions • Avoid the area
	Watch and Act	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare to leave/evacuate • Leave/evacuate now (if you are not prepared) • Prepare to take shelter • Move/stay indoors • Stay near shelter • Monitor conditions as they are changing • Be aware of airborne embers (bushfires) • Move to higher ground (cyclones, storm surges, floods) • Limit time outside (all events except earthquakes) • Avoid the area • Stay away from damaged buildings and other hazards • Prepare for isolation • Do not enter flood water
	Emergency Warning	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.	<p>Depending on the disaster event, you may be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave/evacuate • Seek/take shelter • Stay in place - too late/dangerous to leave

(Information sourced - australianwarningsystem.com.au)

Stay updated

-  Go to the Disaster Dashboard for all up-to-date disaster information: disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  Visit Council's website for digital copies of local emergency management plans, action guides, mapping and evacuation information: burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  Like the Burdekin Shire Council Disaster & Emergency Information Facebook Page for up-to-date information provided directly from the Burdekin LDMG: [facebook.comBurdekinDisasterInformation](https://facebook.com/BurdekinDisasterInformation)
-  The Bureau of Meteorology website provides weather updates, warnings and information, which can also be found on the Disaster Dashboard: bom.gov.au
-  ABC TV and radio are the official emergency news channels. Watch and listen for emergency updates.
-  Tune your radio to your local radio station **630AM ABC North Queensland** or **97.1 Sweet FM**.
-  Further information on preparing, emergency alerts and information can be accessed at: disaster.qld.gov.au or qldalert.com
-  **Community Electronic Message Boards** are a great way to disseminate information during a disaster. Council has electronic message boards established in the Burdekin region. Go to Council's website for location details.

Standard Emergency Warning Signal

- The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is used at the beginning of serious warnings. SEWS is a wailing siren sound used throughout Australia for serious emergency events. To listen to the SEWS search for Standard Emergency Warning Signal on youtube.com
- Emergency alert voice messages will be sent to your landline and text messages sent to your mobile telephone.
- Local updates and community safety announcements will be broadcast on radio and television.
- Emergency Services personnel may door-knock your area to pass on warnings.

Once this advice is given, act immediately, ensure all people in your house are aware of the warning and advice provided, check on neighbours and friends who may need assistance and activate your household Emergency Plan.



Disaster Dashboard

During emergencies, the Burdekin Shire Council Disaster Dashboard is your official source of information.

The Dashboard is available 24/7 and contains important information all year round with links to important information on Council's website. It also has comprehensive mapping and map layers to help inform the community of its risks in cyclones, flooding and storm surges.

The Dashboard is a multi-agency information platform designed to give the viewer real time up-to-date information to help them make better decisions and keep them informed before, during and after a disaster event.

Real time information can be found on:

- Weather warnings
- River heights
- Road conditions
- Water and sewerage conditions
- Power outages
- Latest news

The Disaster Dashboard has the latest up to date social media posts for the following organisations:

- Burdekin Shire Council
- Burdekin Disaster & Emergency Information
- Emergency Services
- Ergon Energy
- Department of Education
- Department of Transport and Main Roads



disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au

Local Area Wardens

The Burdekin Shire Local Area Warden Program has been established to enable the LDMG to better understand the situations in communities that become isolated during times of natural disaster.

Local Area Wardens have been appointed in various rural communities throughout the Burdekin Shire, so that the LDMG has several points of contact in critical areas.

Local Area Wardens are crucial to the flow of information during a disaster and are a valuable point of contact in each community.

For more information about the Local Area Warden Program or to contact your Warden, phone Burdekin Shire Council on 4783 9800.

Communities with Appointed Wardens

Currently there are nine communities within the Burdekin Shire that have Local Area Wardens appointed:

- Alva
- Clare
- Dalbeg
- Giru
- Groper Creek
- Jerona
- Millaroo
- Mount Surround
- Rita Island
- Wunjunga





A cyclone is a violent tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain that can cause extensive property damage and injuries to people.

The eye or centre of the cyclone is an area made up of light winds and often clear skies. This is NOT the end of the cyclone as very destructive winds from the other direction will follow. Stay inside.

Cyclones are part of living in North Queensland. Most cyclones occur between November and April but cyclones have occurred outside these months.



Did you know?

On average, there are 13 cyclones annually in Australia. 4 of these cyclones per year affect the Queensland Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre Area of Responsibility, but obviously not all make landfall in our area. There have been over 210 known impacts from tropical cyclones along the east coast of Queensland since 1858.

Before a cyclone

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

-  disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  [BurdekinDisasterInformation](https://www.facebook.com/BurdekinDisasterInformation)
-  bom.gov.au

- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit.
- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material as it could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage.
- Trim trees and overhanging branches.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Keep your roof in good condition and check it regularly.
- Remove debris from gutters.
- Check and fix loose fittings, such as railings.
- Check windows and install shutters if possible.
- Tie down sheds or other small structures not permanently fixed. Secure caravans, boats and vehicles or tie them together or to strong structures.
- Check to see if your home has been built to cyclone standards (generally houses constructed after 1982).
- Know your Evacuation Zone (storm tide) and evacuation routes.
- Check neighbours, especially if elderly or recent arrivals.
- Monitor cyclone potential throughout the season: bom.gov.au

Cyclone Advice

Cyclone Advice is an early alert identifying the location of a cyclone, its movement and intensity, and areas that could be affected. Cyclone Advice provides early indication of a cyclone's presence and does not guarantee the community will be impacted. Cyclone Advice is published by the Bureau of Meteorology and shared with areas that could potentially be impacted.

When Cyclone Advice is given, you should:

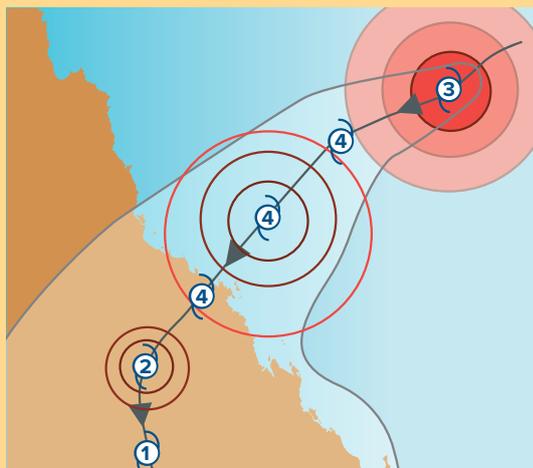
- Finalise packing your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit.
- Hold a family meeting to make sure everyone knows your cyclone plan and whether you are staying to shelter in place or evacuating.

Cyclone Watch

A Cyclone Watch is issued 48 hours before a cyclone is predicted to cross the coast and is updated every six hours providing information on location, movement, intensity, and areas that could be affected.

When a Cyclone Watch is issued you should:

- Decide if your family needs to evacuate, and where you will evacuate to. It's usually best to shelter in place or evacuate to family or friends out of the cyclone warning area.
- If sheltering in place, decide which room to shelter in. The best option is an internal room with few or small windows, such as the bathroom. Use mattresses and other bedding to protect yourself.
- Re-check your property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water as last resort) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins.
- Check your Emergency Kit and fill water containers and bath tub with clean drinking water.
- Ensure household members know which is the strongest part of the house and what to do in the event of a cyclone or an evacuation.
- Check the Disaster Dashboard and local radio and TV news.
- Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.
- Ensure your car and jerry cans are fully fuelled. Cyclones nearly always involve power failure which means petrol stations are unable to pump fuel unless they have an alternative power supply.



Cyclone Warning

A Cyclone Warning is issued if winds are expected to affect coastal or island areas within 24 hours. The Warning is updated every three hours and then every hour if the cyclone poses a major threat.

The Warning includes information on location, movement and intensity of the cyclone, areas that are threatened and anticipated rainfall, flooding and storm surges. If you haven't done so already, a Cyclone Warning should be the trigger to activate your household Emergency Plan.

Following the advice provided by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and as the event develops, the following actions may be warranted for a cyclone warning.

When a cyclone warning is given, you should:

- Have your Evacuation Kit and Emergency Kit ready to take with you.
- Collect children from school or childcare facilities and go home.
- Park vehicles under solid shelter (hand brake on and in gear).
- Put wooden or plastic outdoor furniture in your pool or inside with other loose items.
- Close shutters, board up or heavily tape all windows (tape does not strengthen windows, but minimises the glass shatter if broken), draw curtains and lock doors.
- Depending on your location, Emergency Services may advise or direct you to leave.

During a cyclone

- Have a battery operated radio, tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Remain indoors (with your pets).
- Keep Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit with you.
- Disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed so food will stay cool without power for several hours.
- Stay inside and shelter in the strongest part of the building such as internal hallways or bathrooms - keeping well clear of windows.
- If the building starts to break up, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets, under a strong table or bench or hold onto a solid fixture.
- Beware of the calm “eye”. If the wind stops don’t assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from another direction. Wait for advice from the LDMG that the event has passed.
- If driving, stop (handbrake on and in gear) – but well away from the sea and clear of trees and powerlines. Stay in the vehicle.

Category	Strongest gust (km/h)	Typical effects
1 TROPICAL CYCLONE	Less than 125km/h Gales	Minimal house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Boats may drag moorings.
2 TROPICAL CYCLONE	125-164km/h Destructive winds	Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Boats may break moorings.
3 SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE	165-224km/h Very destructive winds	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failure likely.
4 SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE	225-279km/h Very destructive winds	Significant roofing and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
5 SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE	More than 280km/h Extremely destructive winds	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.

Reference: bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/

After a cyclone

- Have a battery operated radio, tune in to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Don't go outside until officially advised by the LDMG it is safe.
- Check for gas leaks and fallen power lines. Don't use electrical appliances if wet.
- If evacuated, don't return until advised. Use a recommended route and don't panic.
- When safe to travel, be aware of damage to power lines, bridges, buildings and trees.
- Do not enter floodwaters – if it's flooded forget it.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Follow any instructions for treating water and discard any food exposed to floodwater.



Did you know?

Cyclone DEBBIE

Category 4, crossed between Bowen and Airlie Beach in March 2017, causing major damage to the Whitsunday region. As the cyclone made landfall, extensive flooding occurred South of the cyclone from Mackay in Queensland through to Northern New South Wales.

Cyclone DYLAN

Category 2, crossed between Bowen and Proserpine at the end of January 2014. Dylan quickly weakened to below cyclone status after moving over land. A beachside resort on Great Keppel Island sustained severe damage to many structures after the beach gave way and washed several buildings into the sea. Inundation which was a result of unusually high tides resulted in damage to homes in Townsville and Mackay.

Cyclone ANTHONY

Category 2, crossed near Bowen in January 2011.

Cyclone YASI

Category 5, crossed near Innisfail in February 2011 causing a 5m storm surge on a falling tide, and 2.3m inundation above king tide level at Cardwell. *Note: Gale force winds were recorded in the Burdekin.*

Cyclone ULUI

Category 3, crossed near Airlie Beach in March 2010, causing major damage to the Whitsunday region.

Cyclone AIVU

Category 4, crossed near Home Hill during April 1989. The region experienced severe damage to many structures and destruction to sugar cane crops. One person lost their life.

Cyclone CHARLIE

No category recorded, made landfall at Upstart Bay near the Burdekin in March 1988. Flooding and damage to structures was experienced in Ayr and Home Hill.



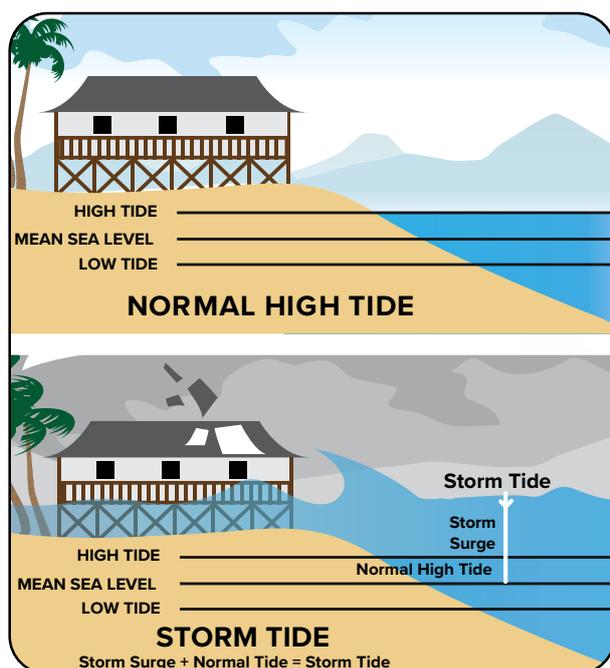
Storm surge

A storm surge is a rise above the normal water level along a shore resulting from strong onshore winds and / or reduced atmospheric pressure.

The combination of storm surge and normal (astronomical) tide is known as a 'storm tide'.

The worst impacts occur when the storm surge arrives on top of a high tide and when this happens, the storm tide can reach areas that might otherwise have been safe. Additionally, there are pounding waves generated by the powerful winds.

The combined effects of the storm tide and waves can destroy buildings, wash away roads and run ships aground.



The paths of cyclones are often unpredictable, which makes it hard to forecast exactly when and where a cyclone will cross the coast. This makes it difficult to predict how high the astronomical tide will be when the storm surge impacts, since the time difference between high and low tide is only a few hours. The Bureau of Meteorology issues warnings to the public that are based on the 'worst case' assumption that the cyclone will cross the coast at high tide.



Did you know?

Around the world, drowning by storm surge accounts for a high proportion of the deaths in tropical cyclones.



Storm surges near us:

In January 2014, Cyclone Dylan (Category 2) crossed the Whitsunday Coast near Hideaway Bay on a king tide. The day prior and the day that the cyclone crossed the coast, a widespread storm tide of up to 0.5 metres above the usual king tide level was experienced across the region, inundating streets and foreshores across Bowen, Cannonvale, Airlie Beach and Wilson Beach.

The difference between storm surges and tsunamis

Storm surges and tsunamis are generated by quite different phenomena. While both can cause inundation and significant damage in coastal regions, they have quite different characteristics.

A storm surge is generated by weather systems forcing water onshore over a generally limited stretch of coastline. It will normally build up over a few hours, as the cyclone or similar weather system approaches the coast. Normally wind-waves on top of the surge will contribute to its impact.

A Tsunami is generated by earthquakes, undersea landslides, volcanic eruptions, explosions or meteorites. These travel great distances, sometimes across entire oceans affecting vast lengths of coastal land.

Before

a storm surge

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

 disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au

 burdekin.qld.gov.au

 [BurdekinDisasterInformation](#)

 bom.gov.au

- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit.
- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material.
- Tie down sheds or other small structures not permanently fixed. Secure caravans, boats and vehicles or tie them together or to strong structures.
- Sandbag areas at risk from flooding, such as doors and windows where possible.
- Close all doors.
- Store potable water.
- Put important documents such as passports, photo albums in plastic bags up high in cupboards.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Disconnect electrical items.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed so food will stay cool without power for several hours.
- Move livestock, pets, machinery and animal feed to higher ground.
- Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a higher location.
- Know your Evacuation Zone (storm tide) and evacuation routes.

After

a storm surge

- Have a battery-operated radio, tune in to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe.
- If you have evacuated, don't return home until officially advised by the LDMG it is safe and don't panic. Wait until water has fallen below floor level to enter a house.
- Don't use electrical appliances if they are or could have been wet.
- Beware of damaged power lines, fallen trees and bridges.
- Do not enter flood waters - if it's flooded forget it.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Check whether electricity, gas or water supplies have been affected.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Watch for damaged flooring, walls and ceilings as well as unexpected visitors such as snakes.
- Treat all items exposed to floodwater as contaminated. Dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with floodwater.
- Follow any instructions for treating water and discard any food exposed to floodwater.



Flood

A flood is the temporary, partial or complete inundation of land that is normally dry. Flooding can be caused by water that has escaped its natural confine due to heavy rain. Some floods develop slowly, while flash floods can develop in just a few minutes and without visible signs of rain.

A Flood Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is occurring or expected to occur in a particular area. When flash flooding is expected, a Severe Weather Warning is issued.

Drains, creeks or rivers which have had little or no water flow in previous months may fill rapidly with fast-flowing water, which can spread to houses and streets. The height of the water may not have been seen in the same location previously.

There may not have been significant rainfall in our region, however there may have been heavy rain throughout our catchment area, causing river levels to rise quickly. Water levels may also be heightened by high tides happening around the same time.

Understand your risks and contact the Burdekin Shire Council for flood information and advice regarding your residence and surrounding area.



Important note

Most flood-related deaths result when people attempt to drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters.

Depth and current are easily misjudged and floodwater will sweep away and submerge even very large vehicles. Do not drive or walk into floodwater, especially where a current exists, even if the water appears to be shallow.

Before a flood

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

-  disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  [BurdekinDisasterInformation](#)
-  bom.gov.au

- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit.
- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material.
- Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a safe location.
- Move livestock, pets, machinery, and animal feed to higher ground.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Disconnect electrical items.
- Tie down sheds or other small structures not permanently fixed. Secure caravans, boats and vehicles or tie them together or to strong structures.
- Sandbag areas at risk from flooding, such as doors and windows where possible.
- Store potable water.
- Put important documents such as passport and photo albums up high in cupboards.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed so food will stay cool without power for several hours.
- Know your Evacuation Zone (storm tide) and evacuation routes.
- Check neighbours, especially if elderly or recent arrivals.

During

a flood

- Have a battery operated radio, tune in to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Boil tap water in case of contamination.
- Do not enter floodwaters - if it's flooded forget it.
- Never drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters. Hazards and wildlife could exist below the surface which you can't see, regardless of how well you know the area. Water could be contaminated.



**IF IT'S FLOODED,
FORGET IT.**

After

a flood

- Have a battery operated radio, tune in to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- If you have evacuated, don't return home until officially advised by the LDMG it is safe and don't panic. Wait until water has fallen below floor level to enter a house.
- Don't use electrical appliances if they are or could have been wet.
- Beware of damaged power lines, bridges and trees.
- Do not enter floodwaters - if it's flooded forget it.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Check whether electricity, gas or water supplies have been affected.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Watch for damaged flooring, walls and ceilings as well as unexpected visitors such as snakes.
- Treat all items exposed to floodwater as contaminated.
- Dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can and wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with floodwater.
- Follow any instructions for treating water and discard any food exposed to floodwater unless in airtight containers.

 **Useful link:** Download a flood information guide from: bom.gov.au/water/floods/document/What_todo_floods.pdf



Severe Thunderstorm

A thunderstorm, also known as an electrical storm, is characterised by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect on the Earth's atmosphere, known as thunder. They are usually accompanied by strong winds and heavy rain.

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when thunderstorms are expected to produce wind gusts of at least 90 kilometres per hour, tornadoes, lightning, large hail with a diameter of at least 2 centimeters or very heavy rain that leads to flash flooding.

The location of severe thunderstorms is difficult to accurately predict well in advance. As a result, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings will generally have a lead time of no more than an hour.



Important note

Seek shelter inside and stay well clear of windows and doors. And remember to secure pets and animals.

Before

a severe thunderstorm

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

-  disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  [BurdekinDisasterInformation](#)
-  bom.gov.au

- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material.
- Contact all members of your household & advise of the warning.
- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Disconnect electrical items.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed so food will stay cool without power for several hours.
- Shelter and secure pets.
- Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a higher location.
- Check neighbours, especially if elderly or recent arrivals.

If strong winds or hail are forecast, you should:

- Put vehicles under cover or cover with firmly tied tarps and blankets.
- Beware of fallen trees and power lines.

If very heavy rain and flash flooding are forecast, you should:

- Keep away from creeks and drains as you may be swept away.
- Do not enter floodwaters - if it's flooded forget it.

During

a severe thunderstorm

- Tune into your local radio station, heed warnings and advice.
- Move indoors away from windows.
- If driving, stop clear of trees, powerlines and streams.
- Avoid using the telephone.

After

a severe thunderstorm

- Tune into your local radio station, heed warnings and advice.
- Don't use electric appliances if they are or could have been wet.
- Beware of damaged power lines, fallen trees and bridges.
- Do not enter flood waters - if it's flooded forget it.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Check whether electricity, gas or water supplies have been affected.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Watch for damaged flooring, walls and ceilings as well as unexpected visitors such as snakes.
- Treat all items exposed to floodwater as contaminated. Dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with floodwater.
- Follow any instructions for treating water and discard any food exposed to floodwater.





Earthquake

Earthquakes are the vibrations caused by rocks breaking under stress. The underground surface along which the rock breaks and moves is called a fault plane.

Earthquakes in Australia are usually caused by movements along faults as a result of compression in the Earth's crust.

The impact of an earthquake depends on its depth, proximity to inhabited areas and rating or magnitude from 1-10 (1 may not be noticeable to 10 causing significant damage).

There may be little if any warning of an impending earthquake – it's possible you may feel it before Emergency Services know it's going to happen.

Earthquakes can occur at any time of day and any time of year.

Before an earthquake

- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.



Signs of an earthquake

- Sometimes preceded by stillness and/or unusual animal behaviour.
- Sometimes sounds such as rolling or rumbling may be heard.
- Movement of the earth - this could be a jolt or series of jolts of varying intensities and/or a rolling sensation.
- Inside buildings, items may fall from the ceiling, walls or out of cupboards, water in fish tanks, sinks and toilets may slosh around and walls may crack if the shock is severe.
- Leave pets at home or in a safe location where they are protected and with food and water.

During an earthquake

If you are indoors:

- Take cover - get under a sturdy table, bed or other piece of furniture or doorway. Hold on until the shaking stops.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops. There may be aftershocks.
- Don't use lifts.
- The electricity may go out and sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.

If you are outside:

- Do not go indoors.
- Move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires.
- Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls.

If you are in a moving vehicle:

- Stop as quickly as safety allows and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses and utility wires.
- Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges and ramps that might have been damaged.

If you are trapped:

- Do not light a match or use a lighter.
- Keep as still as possible.
- Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap a pipe or wall or call out so rescuers can locate you.
- Call 112 if your mobile phone is with you and working.

After an earthquake

- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Have a battery-operated radio, tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Try to stay calm and help others around you.
- Check for injuries and apply first aid. Do not move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger.
- Beware of damaged power lines, fallen trees and bridges.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Depending on the severity of the earthquake, turn off electricity, gas or water supplies and check whether they have been affected.
- Do not light matches until after you have checked for gas or fuel leaks.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Check for cracks and damage to your building's floors, walls and ceilings. Evacuate if the building is badly damaged.
- Follow any instructions for treating water. Conserve food and water as supplies may be interrupted.

 **Useful link:** ga.gov.au/earthquakes/recentQuakes.do?when=5&where=1&which=false&x=25&y=9



Bushfire

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfire - just close enough to be affected by burning material, embers or smoke.

Fires may be started through lightning strikes and arson (deliberately lit), carelessness (e.g. discarded cigarettes, sparks from machinery, unattended fires), as the result of an accident or - very rarely - as the result of a controlled burn. If you light a fire, on purpose or accidentally, you are responsible for controlling it.

If there is a long spell of hot, dry weather and it's windy, the fire risk increases. Generally the fire season in North Queensland is through the Winter and Spring months ('dry' season).

If fire danger levels are rising in your area, information will be broadcast on all usual media and websites such as the Bureau of Meteorology, Rural Fire Service Queensland and Burdekin Shire Council Disaster Dashboard.

Fires can move extremely fast – faster than you can run. They can also be unpredictable, for instance changing direction. You may find yourself suddenly in danger. Heat, wind, smoke and burning material blowing around may make it difficult to see, hear or breathe.

If lives or property are threatened, you'll receive Advice, Watch and Act or Emergency Warning messages.

- An **Advice** message tells you a fire has started and will provide general information to keep you updated.
- A **Watch and Act** message represents a higher level of threat such as conditions are declining, a fire is approaching or lives may be threatened.
- An **Emergency Warning** is the highest level message advising of impending danger and you may hear the State Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) first. With any Emergency Warning, follow the instructions immediately.



Types of fires

Grassfires are fast moving, passing in five to 10 seconds and smouldering for minutes. They have a low to medium intensity and primarily damage crops, livestock and farming infrastructure, such as fences.

Bushfires are generally slower moving, but have a higher heat output. This means they pass in two to five minutes, but they can smoulder for days. Fire in the crown of the tree canopy can move rapidly.

Cane fires are large controlled paddock fires that farmers use to burn off the outer leaves (trash) before harvesting sugar cane during the months June through to December. These are common in the Burdekin, lasting five to 20 minutes, and very rarely become uncontrolled.



Before

a bushfire

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

-  disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  [BurdekinDisasterInformation](#)
-  bom.gov.au
-  Keep an eye on the Rural Fire Service website: ruralfire.qld.gov.au

- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit.
- Keep grass cut and vegetation clear of the property.
- Don't dump garden rubbish in neighbouring reserves or bush areas.
- Move flammable items away from the house, e.g. woodpiles, boxes, hanging baskets, garden furniture.
- Keep access ways to the property clear for fire trucks.

When warnings are given, act immediately on the instructions provided. Don't wait. Leave when advised, even if it feels safe where you are at the time. Take your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit with you. Go in the direction advised for your location.

- If sheltering in place, check fire extinguishers.
- If evacuating, take the following items with you:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeved shirt <input type="checkbox"/> Jeans <input type="checkbox"/> Boots <input type="checkbox"/> Hat <input type="checkbox"/> Safety goggles <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled water (enough for all) <input type="checkbox"/> Battery-operated radio <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile phone & charger <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets (natural fibres) <input type="checkbox"/> Passports & birth certificates <input type="checkbox"/> Wallets/purses <input type="checkbox"/> Medications <input type="checkbox"/> Family photos, valuables & documents <input type="checkbox"/> Children's toys
--	--

Your property should be well-prepared for the fire, even if you intend to leave early. A well-prepared property stands a greater chance of surviving.

- Tune in to warnings and updates on local radio, websites and social media.
- Move cars to a safe location.
- Remove garden furniture, door mats and other items from your yard.
- Close windows, doors and blinds.
- Take down curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- Seal gaps under doors and windows with wet towels.
- Bring pets inside, restrain them (leash, cage or secure room) and provide water.
- Block downpipes (at the top) and fill gutters with water if possible.
- Wet down the sides of buildings, decks and close shrubbery in the likely path of the bushfire.
- Wet down fine fuels (e.g. leaf litter) close to buildings.
- Turn on garden sprinklers for 30 minutes before the bushfire arrives.
- Fill containers with water - baths, sinks, buckets, wheelie bins.
- Put on protective clothing.
- Drink lots of water.



Planning to evacuate?

If you plan to leave early, then you must leave your home well before a bushfire threatens and travelling by road becomes hazardous.



Bushfire

During

a bushfire

If your family plan is to stay and defend your property:

Preparation is the key to survival. Being involved in a fire will be one of the most traumatic experiences of your life. In making your decision to stay there are a few things you need to consider.

You will need to:

- Be mentally and physically prepared.
- Have a battery operated radio, tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Be able to withstand the impact of bushfire. Check the specific factors which reduce risk here: ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/Know-your-risk.aspx
- Have well-maintained resources and equipment and know how to use them.
- Clearly understand what you will do to protect your property and life when the fire arrives.
- Discuss details of your plan with family, friends and neighbours.
- Prepare a Bushfire Emergency Kit so you will be equipped to extinguish small fires.
- Have basic protection from heat, smoke and flames.

As the fire front arrives:

- Disconnect hose and fittings and bring inside.
- Go inside for shelter.
- Drink lots of water.
- Shelter in your house on the opposite side of the approaching fire.
- Patrol and check for embers inside, particularly in the roof space.
- Check on family and pets.
- Maintain a means of escape.
- Continually monitor conditions.

After

a bushfire

After the fire front has passed:

- In an emergency dial 000 or 112 from a mobile.
- Tune in to your local radio station, heed warnings and advice.
- If you evacuated, wait until the all-clear has been given by Emergency Services before leaving your safe area.
- Consider using a face mask or similar (e.g. hanky, flannel).
- Check around the property for live electricity, leaking gas, sewage leaks, hot embers, overhanging trees or branches or structural damage.
- If unsure about the safety of the property, seek advice from local Emergency Services. Don't take any risks.
- Drink lots of water.
- If you are stranded, hurt or need other help, contact Emergency Services on 000.

Also check for small spot fires and burning embers:

- Inside the roof space.
- Under floor boards.
- Under the house space.
- On verandahs and decks.
- On window ledges and door sills.
- In roof lines and gutters.
- In garden beds and mulch.



Bushfire Emergency kit



Did you know?

Bushfires can be so hot they can burn skin 100 metres away.





Heatwave

A heatwave is three or more days of maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusually high for a location at that time of year.

Heatwaves will likely be more challenging for the elderly, pregnant women, young children and babies.

Heatwaves are a risk for anyone who does not take precautions to keep cool, even if you are healthy.

Heatwaves can also cause normally reliable infrastructure such as power and transport to fail.

Severe and extreme heatwaves have taken more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia's 200 year history. An example in Victoria: 173 people perished as a direct result of the bushfires, however 374 people lost their lives to an extreme heatwave before the bushfires.



Know the signs

Heat stress and heat exhaustion can be serious, even fatal.

- Breathlessness
- Chest pain
- Confusion
- Intense thirst
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Cramps which get worse or don't go away

Before

a heatwave

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

-  disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  burdekin.qld.gov.au
-  [BurdekinDisasterInformation](#)
-  bom.gov.au

- Think about modifying your planned activities so that you are indoors or in air-conditioning.
- Install blinds, curtains or other devices which help to keep the heat out.
- Check your fans and air-conditioners are working properly.
- Plan ahead to make sure you have enough food, water and medicine.

During

a heatwave

- Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Stay out of the sun, especially between 11am – 3pm.
- Close curtains and blinds to keep rooms cool.
- Avoid physical exertion if possible.
- Wear loose, cool clothing, and wear a hat, glasses and sunscreen if going outside.
- Have cool baths or showers or splash yourself with cool water.

After

a heatwave

- Check on friends, neighbours and vulnerable people who may be less able to look after themselves.

Tsunami

Tsunamis are long ocean waves or surges, caused by a major disturbance to the sea floor such as an undersea earthquake, landslide or volcanic eruption. They are different to the storm tide surge which can occur with cyclones and from large waves which can accompany storms.

The phenomenon is usually associated with earthquakes, landslides or volcanic eruptions in, or adjacent to oceans, and results in sudden movement of the water column. Until recently tsunamis were called tidal waves, even though the event has nothing to do with tides.

In deep water, tsunamis can reach speeds of up to 950km/hr and may travel across the sea for hundreds of kilometres hitting distant communities hours after they are generated. They slow down but grow in size as they come ashore. Rather than one huge wave, a tsunami may look like a rapidly rising or falling tide and occur as a series of waves with periods of time in between.

Despite the presence of the Great Barrier Reef, the Burdekin region could still be affected by a tsunami. Although the reef may reduce the impact of a tsunami, the scale of impact depends on what caused the tsunami, how far away the event was and where it was in relation to our Shire.

There may be only a few hours' warning. Even a relatively small tsunami of less than one metre can move with force and cause dangerous rips and currents.



Warning Signs

You may notice changes such as the water withdrawing or becoming shallow.

A shaking of the ground in coastal regions may reflect the occurrence of a large undersea earthquake nearby that may generate a tsunami.

A roaring sound may precede the arrival of a tsunami.

A tsunami may not be one large wave approaching the coast. It can occur as a series of seemingly quite low but very powerful waves. The force of the water may be so strong it can carry vehicles, boats, bridges and buildings with it.

During a tsunami

- Tune in to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Follow local instructions and take immediate action, no matter how small the tsunami may be.
- If you are at the beach, immediately move inland or to higher ground. Get out of the water and away from the coast.
- If your boat is in deep water and offshore, maintain your position.
- If your boat is berthed or in shallow water, secure your vessel and move inland or to higher ground.
- If you are on the coast and cannot move inland, seek shelter in the upper levels of a stable building.
- Stay where you are if your location is on high ground.

After a tsunami

In an emergency dial 000 or 112 from a mobile.

- Tune in to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Stay at your high ground location until advised it is safe to leave. More waves are likely to follow the first and it may take time for this to happen.
- Beware of damaged power lines, roads, bridges and fallen trees.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Turn off electricity, gas or water supplies and check whether they have been affected.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Check for cracks and damage to your building's floors, walls and ceilings. Evacuate if the building is badly damaged.
- Treat all items exposed to water as contaminated.
- Dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with water.
- Follow any instructions for treating water. Conserve food and water as supplies may be interrupted.



Landslide

A landslide is the movement of rock, debris or earth down a slope. Landslides result from the failure of the materials which make up the hill slope and are driven by the force of gravity. Landslides are also known as landslips, slumps or slope failure.

Landslides can be caused by earthquakes or volcanic activity, but in Queensland, they're generally caused by heavy rain.

The rain saturates the soil on a hillside past the point where any remaining vegetation can support the soil's weight against the force of gravity where there has been human activity (e.g. construction where trees and plants have been removed), The top saturated layer of soil then slips down the hill taking whatever is on the land with it.

Be aware of the area you live in — is it close to a hillslope, cliff or steep rocky area? Is there a history of landslides? If you live in such an area and there has been a period of heavy rain, you may be at risk of a landslide. Make sure your household Emergency Plan includes this hazard.

You may notice changes in the yard or house such as:

- Leaning trees, slumping earth, movement in fences or trees, cracks in paths.
- Outside walls start to pull away from the building, new cracks appear in plaster, tile, brick or foundations, doors or windows stick for the first time.
- You may hear a rumbling sound which increases as the landslip nears. A trickle of falling mud or debris may precede a larger slip.



Did you know?

Landslides usually occur from rainfall and friction. Stay away from the landslide area and check for injured people. Alert emergency services.

During a landslide

- Tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- If it is safe to do so, leave the area and go quickly to your agreed safer location.
- Advise neighbours and Emergency Services of the slip threat.
- If you cannot leave and are downhill of the landslide, move to a second storey if there is one.
- Follow any instructions from Emergency Services.

After a landslide

- Tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice.
- Stay away from the slip area - there may be danger of additional slips.
- Watch for flooding, which may occur after a landslide or debris flow.
- Check for injured and trapped people near the slip and alert Emergency Services.
- Look for and report broken utility or damaged roads to the appropriate organisations.



Pandemic

A pandemic is an epidemic of infectious disease that spreads through human populations across a large region causing mass illness, debilitation and death.

Pandemics spread with the movement of people and animals. The most likely form of a pandemic to impact the region is from influenza or a virus. A human influenza outbreak in Queensland will be a 'controlled notifiable condition' under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

The Chief Medical Officer of Queensland Health is responsible for the overall management and control in response to any public health emergency. A pandemic has immediate impacts to the local business economy, local tourism and agriculture industry within the region until controlled. An outbreak in the area has the

potential to be catastrophic in its effect on each and every person within the region. Federal Government entry regulations are in place to detect and act on such an event.

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption.

The Burdekin LDMG will provide updates to the local community if there are an significant changes likely to impact the Shire.



More information

For ongoing updates on COVID-19, please visit the Queensland Health website: health.qld.gov.au.

Should I evacuate?

In most disaster events, the safest thing to do is to shelter in place – that is, to stay at home and ride it out with your household.

If there is enough notice of the disaster, you can evacuate the area at risk with your pets well ahead of time and stay outside threatened areas with family, friends or at a hotel/motel. If you live in an area at risk of being impacted by a disaster, you may be advised to evacuate. Evacuation is based on the risk of the disaster (ie for bushfires, the proximity to your property or for storm tides, your property's level of possible inundation).

You should also consider evacuating if you live in a pre-1982 home, which may not withstand a range of disasters as well as modern homes, or if you feel concerned for your safety.

If you need to or decide to evacuate, the best option is always go to family, friends or colleagues outside threatened areas. Plan this now and include the information in your Emergency Plan.

Places of Refuge are a last resort, and the LDMG open them only when absolutely necessary. Only vulnerable residents (such as the elderly without family in the region, the disabled, or those in areas impacted by disaster events that cannot evacuate to family and friends) should consider the Place of Refuge as a last resort.



Places of refuge - a last resort

Your first and best option is to shelter with family or friends, where you will be much more comfortable and can shelter with your pets during a natural disaster.

In the Burdekin Shire, the Multi-Purpose Hall situated at the Ayr Showgrounds will be used as a Place of Refuge and will only be opened as needed at the direction of the Burdekin LDMG.

Places of Refuge offer seating areas only – you will not be able to lie on a mattress or stretcher.

This facility has limited space for the shelter of pets. Assistance animals or registered companion animals will be permitted. Final discretion will rest with the Facility Manager.

If you decide to enter the Facility you will need to be registered and be self sufficient with your own food, water, medical supplies and toiletries.

These items are essential and you should bring enough for you and each of your family members to last 24 hours.

To ensure the structural integrity of the building and the safety of the occupants, during this time there will be no ability to enter or leave the Place of Refuge once it is “locked down”.

When evacuating

Evacuation advice is based on the level of potential from storm tide. This falls into three zones: red, orange and yellow (listed on page 34). Do not wait - go when advised.

There are three evacuation zones which are determined based on modelling and previous experiences of inundation above the “average height datum” AHD. For these purposes you can consider AHD to be sea level.

Look at the Storm Surge Maps at the back of this book to determine your risk.

- Wear strong shoes (not thongs) and tough clothing for protection.
- Lock doors; turn off power, gas, and water; take your Evacuation Kit and Emergency Kit.
- If evacuating, take pets and leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- Follow directions of Emergency Services.
- If going to a Place of Refuge, take your own food, water and essential items.
- Leave pets at home or in a safe location where they are protected and with food and water.

Whether you are evacuating to family, friends, a place of refuge or another location, register where you are going so that family can find you and know you're safe.

Is your home in a storm tide evacuation zone?

Don't know?
Contact the Burdekin Shire Council

 07 4783 9800

 burdekin.qld.gov.au



plan & prepare
in case you need to go

Was your home built before 1982 or is your home in bad condition?

Don't know?
Contact the Burdekin Shire Council

 07 4783 9800
for a building search.
If you rent, contact your real estate agent or the owner.



plan & prepare
in case you need to go

Do you live alone or have special needs?

Have a plan ready.

Contact family and friends and advise them of your plan.



plan & prepare
in case you need to go

 **Shelter in place**

 **Evacuate & shelter in safer place**

 Register. Find. Reunite: register.redcross.org.au This service is only activated during emergencies.

Storm tides

How to navigate the evacuation maps

Evacuation maps



1 Identify where your residence is on the map.



2 If you are in one of the coloured zones, you may be at risk from storm tide flooding during cyclones.



3 Identify your evacuation route to your pre-determined safer location. For further information on evacuation visit council's website: burdekin.qld.gov.au/services/emergency-services



4 During a cyclone event tune into warnings.



5 Authorities will advise which zones need to evacuate.



What is HAT?

HAT stands for Highest Astronomical Tide, often referred to as king tides. A HAT is the highest level of water which can be predicted to occur under any combination of astronomical conditions.

Evacuation zones

RED EVACUATION ZONE	<p>INDICATES AREAS AT HIGHEST RISK OF FLOODING FROM CYCLONE STORM TIDE</p> <p>Residents in the Red Zone face the highest risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide. The Red Zone includes low-lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide flooding up to approximately 1 metre above HAT.</p>
ORANGE EVACUATION ZONE	<p>INDICATES AREAS AT HIGH RISK OF FLOODING FROM CYCLONE STORM TIDE</p> <p>Residents in the Orange Zone face a high risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide. The Orange Zone may experience storm tide flooding up to approximately 2 metres above HAT.</p>
YELLOW EVACUATION ZONE	<p>INDICATES AREAS AT MODERATE RISK OF FLOODING FROM CYCLONE STORM TIDE</p> <p>Residents in the Yellow Zone face a moderate risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide. The Yellow Zone may experience storm tide flooding up to approximately 2 to 4 metres above HAT.</p>
BLUE EVACUATION ZONE	<p>INDICATES AREAS AT LOW RISK OF FLOODING FROM CYCLONE STORM TIDE</p> <p>Residents in the Blue Zone face a low risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide. The Blue Zone may experience storm tide flooding higher than approximately 4 metres above HAT.</p>



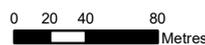
BURDEKIN STORM TIDE ZONES ALVA

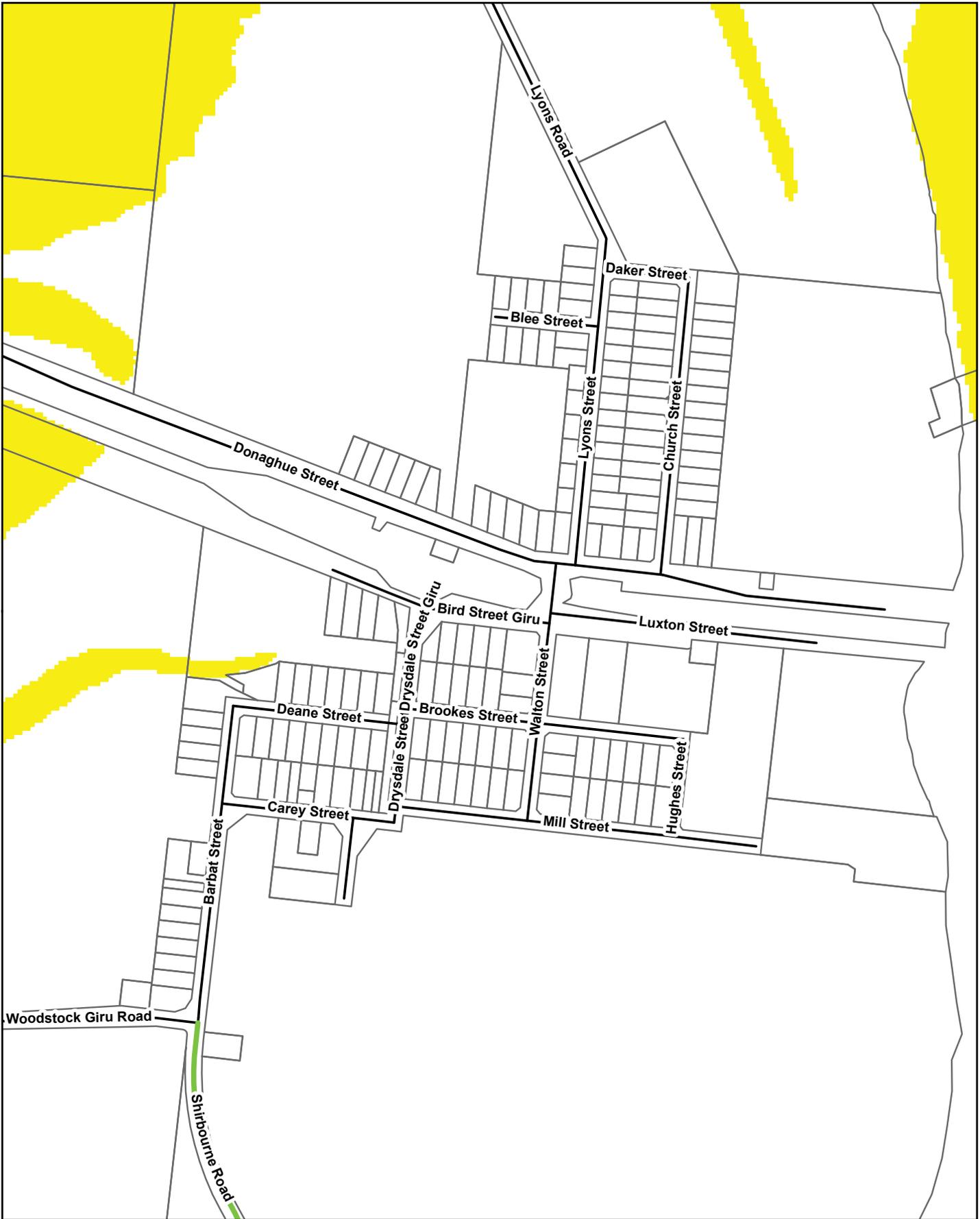
DISCLAIMER

Storm Tide Evacuation Zones are based upon geographical data from the National Storm Tide Mapping program. Evacuation Zones are designed to provide an easy to understand method for the public to identify coastal areas that may be affected by storm tides caused by tropical cyclones or severe east coast storms. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within these Public Information Maps is accurate. However, Burdekin Shire Council does not give any warranty or accept any liability in relation to the content of these maps. Cadastral data must not be used for direct marketing or be used in breach of the privacy laws. External contributors to cadastral data listed at www.resources.qld.gov.au/data-mapping OR www.burdekin.qld.gov.au

Evacuation Zones

- Yellow
- Orange
- Red
- Major Evacuation Routes
- Shire Roads





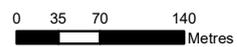
BURDEKIN STORM TIDE ZONES GIRU

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Evacuation Zones

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- Shire Roads





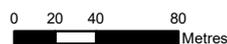
BURDEKIN STORM TIDE ZONES GROPER CREEK

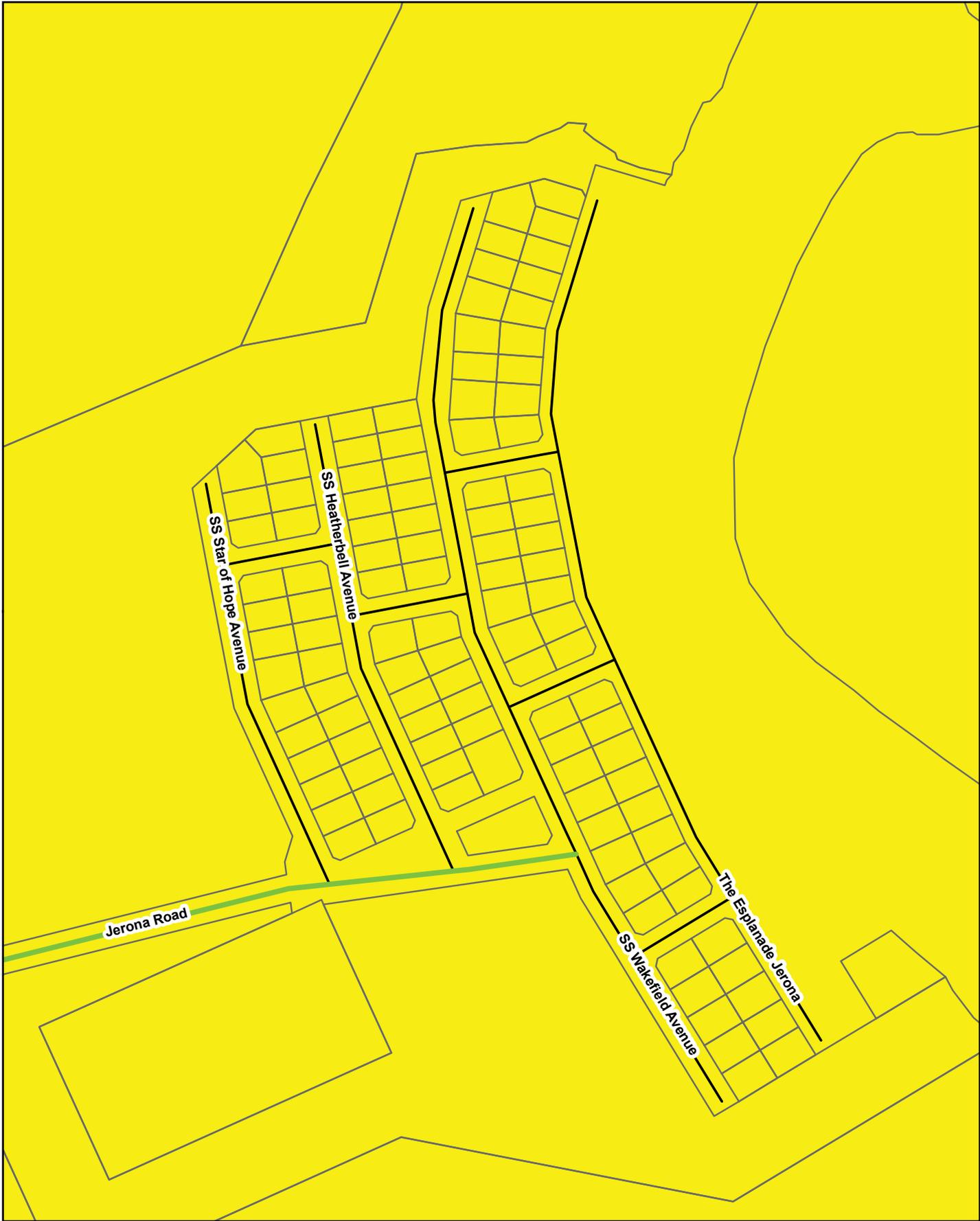
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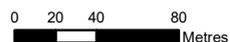
BURDEKIN STORM TIDE ZONES JERONA

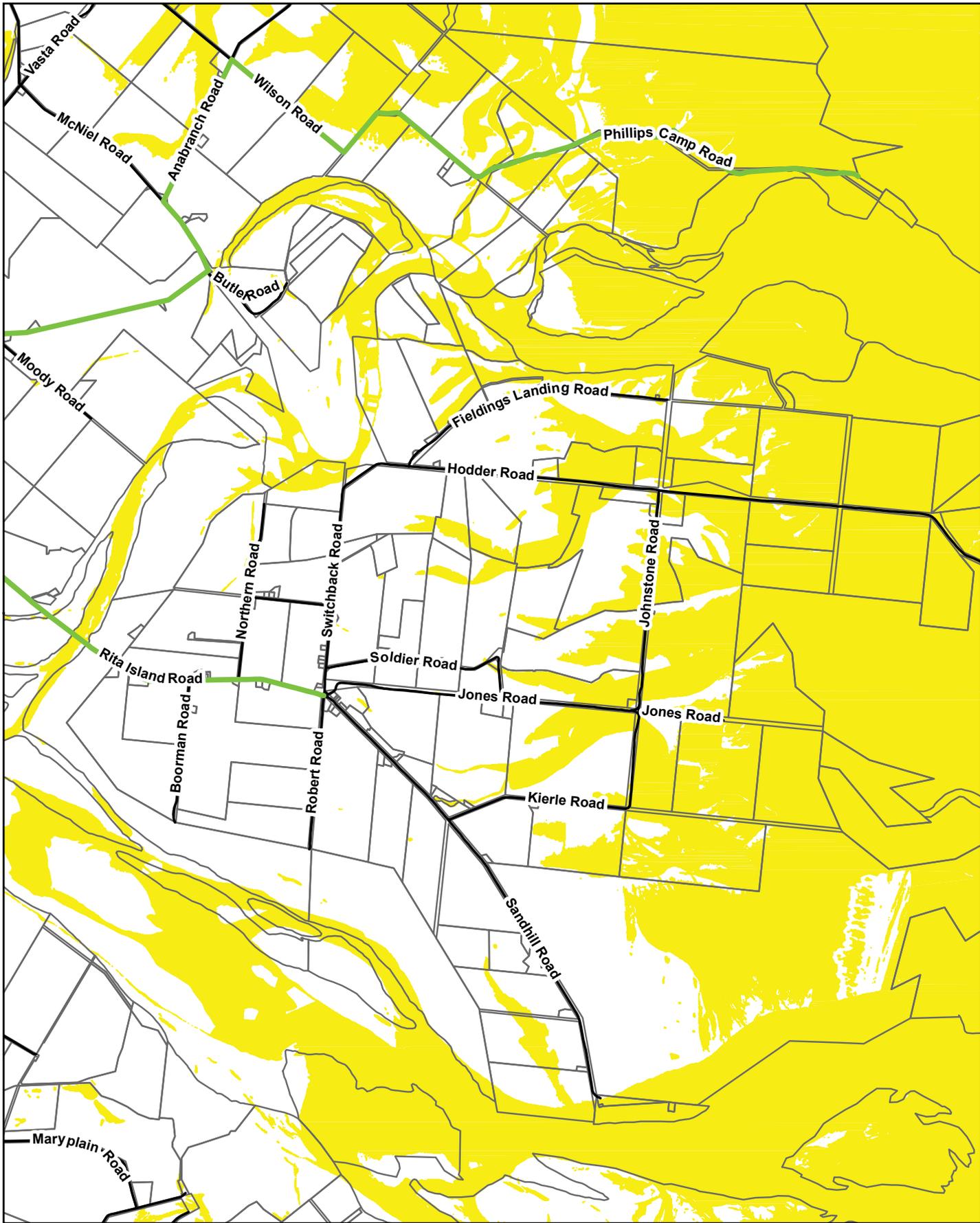
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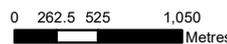
BURDEKIN STORM TIDE ZONES RITA ISLAND

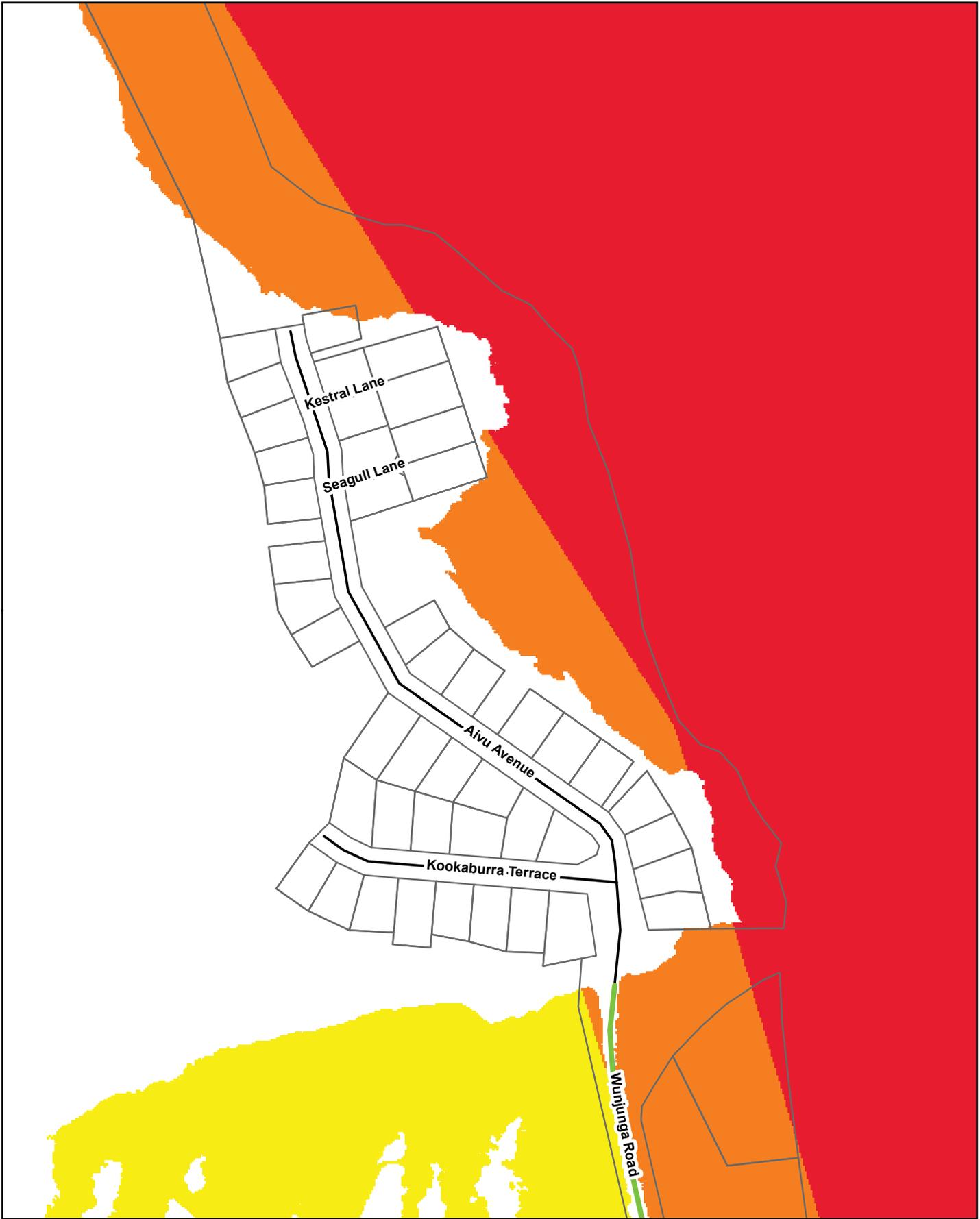
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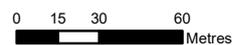
BURDEKIN STORM TIDE ZONES WUNJUNGA

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Evacuation Zones

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- Shire Roads



Important contacts

Emergency

Police, Fire and Ambulance **000**

From mobile phone **112**

Police (non emergency) **131 444**

SES **132 500**

ses.qld.gov.au

Burdekin LDMG **disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au**

Burdekin Shire Council **07 4783 9800**

burdekin.qld.gov.au

[facebook.comBurdekinDisasterInformation](https://facebook.com/BurdekinDisasterInformation)

Bureau of Meteorology

Weather and warnings **1300 659 219**

Cyclone warnings **1300 659 212**

bom.gov.au

Bushfire Warnings

fire.qld.gov.au

Road Conditions

Department of Transport & Main Roads **13 19 40**

Burdekin Shire Council **burdekin.qld.gov.au**

Where possible, Council will provide an update on local road conditions.

Radio

630AM ABC North Queensland

97.1 Sweet FM

Electricity & Gas

Ergon Energy

For emergencies **13 16 70**

To report a fault **13 22 96**

ergon.com.au

Origin Energy (Gas Leaks Only) **13 35 74**

Telecommunications

Optus Faults **13 13 44**

Telstra Faults **13 22 03**

NBN customers please note: NBN services require a power source at both the exchange and customer end to operate. So even if you have a backup power supply within your premises, you may lose telephone and internet services during power outages.

Emergency Warnings

Australia's national telephone warning system – Emergency Alert – sends messages to mobile phones and landlines within a geographical area to advise of a disaster or emergency. It works across all carriers, you don't need to be on a mobile plan to receive messages, and you don't have to register for them.

For more information emergencyalert.gov.au

Other Contacts

Australian Government Emergency

Information Line **180 22 66**

disasterassist.gov.au

Burdekin Community Association **07 4783 3744**

Centrelink **centrelink.gov.au**

Department of Communities
Community Recovery **1800 173 349**

Department of Housing **1800 806 197**

GIVIT (Emergency Donations) **givit.org.au**

Legal Aid **1300 651 188**

Assistance with
insurance claims **legallaid.qld.gov.au**

Lifeline – Counselling **13 11 14**

lifeline.org.au

Wildlife Care NQ **0414 717 374**

Queensland Disaster
Management Services **disaster.qld.gov.au**

Red Cross
North Qld Volunteer Services **07 4759 6111**

redcross.org.au

RSPCA **07 4774 5130**

rspcaqld.org.au

Acknowledgements

Bureau of Meteorology
Geoscience Australia

disaster.burdekin.qld.gov.au



**Be DISASTER
aware.**

**Take action
and prepare.**

145 Young Street | PO BOX 974 | Ayr QLD 4807

(07) 4783 9800 | enquiries@burdekin.qld.gov.au | burdekin.qld.gov.au



Burdekin Disaster & Emergency Information