get ready QUEENSLAND

Queensland Government

WHITSUNDAY REGION

EMERGENCY ACTION GUIDE

Whitsunday Regional Council

disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Important Contacts

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY (Mobile) 112

WHITSUNDAY DISASTER COORDINATION CENTRE 1300 972 006

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000
Police Link 131 444
Bowen Police Station 07 4720 4555
Collinsville Police Station 07 4785 5377
Proserpine Police Station 07 4945 9666
Whitsunday Police Station 07 4948 8888

QUEENSLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Airlie Beach Fire Station (Permanent / Auxiliary) 07 4946 6442
Proserpine Fire Station (Auxiliary) 07 4945 6200
Bowen Fire Station (Permanent / Auxiliary) 07 4786 1811
Collinsville Fire Station (Auxiliary) 07 4785 5083
Mackay District (former Whitsunday Shire area) 07 4965 6641

QUEENSLAND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES (SES)

Flood Storm Emergency 132 500
Mackay Area Office 07 4967 4361 (for SES groups in Airlie Beach, Gloucester, Proserpine and Bowen)

QUEENSLAND HEALTH SERVICES

13 HEALTH | 13 43 25 84
Proserpine Hospital 07 4813 9400
Bowen Hospital 07 4786 8222
Collinsville Hospital 07 4785 4777

QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mackay Local Ambulance Service Network 07 4965 6601 (for stations located at Whitsunday, Proserpine, Bowen, Collinsville and Hamilton Island)

MARITIME SAFETY QUEENSLAND

Airlie Beach (former Whitsunday Shire area) 07 4841 4500
Townsville (former Bowen Shire area) 07 4421 8100

VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

VMR Whitsunday 07 4946 7207
VMR Bowen 07 4786 1950
VMR Burdekin (Molongle Creek) 07 4783 1014
Telstra 13 22 00
Ergon – Emergencies only 13 16 70
Ergon – Faults only 13 22 96
SunWater 13 15 89
Whitsunday Regional Council 1300 972 753

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Acknowledgements - This Emergency Action Guide has been produced by Whitsunday Regional Council in conjunction with the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group. Whitsunday Regional Council acknowledges that advice in this booklet has been obtained from a number of sources including the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire Department State Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health, Ergon Energy, Emergency Volunteering, Geoscience Australia etc.

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.

The Emergency Action Guide (EAG) has been produced by the Whitsunday Regional Council and the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group (WDMG) to provide education and public awareness for residents and visitors to the Whitsunday Region in preparation for, response to, and recovery from disaster events likely to affect our region.

The safety of you, your family and your property are our priority. The EAG will give you safety information and tips relevant to the Whitsunday Region.

The Whitsunday Region encompasses all communities from Gumlu in the north, west to Mt Coolon & Collinsville, the towns of Bowen and Proserpine, south to the O'Connell River, and east to Cannonvale, Airlie Beach, Shute Harbour and the Whitsunday Islands.

This guide will help you:

- Understand your risk and likelihood of disasters in the Whitsundays
- 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



A message from the Mayor

Living in the amazing Whitsunday Region carries with it the responsibility of always being prepared for cyclones, flooding and other threats such as earthquakes. It is the price we pay for living in tropical paradise. Natural disasters do happen, and it is not a matter of "if' but "when".

Public complacency is the greatest danger that our community faces in natural disasters. Preparation saves a lot of time in an event. Start getting ready now! Remember, preparing for a natural disaster is not unlike preparing for a four-day remote camping trip.

Be community minded. If you have elderly neighbours, don't forget to ask if they need any assistance in getting their house ready.

The Whitsunday coastline is subject to storm tides as a result of cyclones and this Emergency Action Guide will help you know your zone, should a storm tide evacuation be required. If you are not required to evacuate, your prepared home is often the safest place for you.

Before a cyclone, you will need to make sure you and your family are safe and secure in your home by preparing. If you feel you are not going to be safe, decide early and please make alternate arrangements with friends and relatives who live outside of your evacuation zone, or find alternate accommodation, such as a motel, outside of the evacuation zone. You may also wish to consider temporarily leaving the area for the duration of the threat.



The Whitsunday Region has public cyclone shelters available in Bowen and Proserpine for use in severe tropical cyclones (Category 3 or above) however residents are encouraged to seek alternate arrangements in the first instance. The public cyclone shelters should be seen as the last resort only for those most vulnerable.

The shelters will only provide temporary accommodation from the strongest winds and will have no support services such as bedding, food or material aid.

I urge you to read the information provided in this guide, take action to prepare and understand the evacuation procedures and know your evacuation zones. Prepared communities are resilient communities

Ry Collins
MAYOR, WHITSUNDAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



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.
- ☐ Check house insurance is current, and the amount insured is adequate.

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.

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 fueled.

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 is also handy to have a basic tool kit, extra supplies and a portable cooker.

- ☐ Fresh water for five days
- ☐ Torch
- ☐ Portable Radio
- ☐ Batteries
- ☐ Five days worth of non-perishable food & a can opener
- ☐ Important documents & cash in sealed bags
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Essential medications
- ☐ First Aid Kit

Evacuation Kit

As well as those 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.

- ☐ Valuables and mementos
- ☐ Pillow and blanket
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Kids toys & entertainment
- ☐ Warm clothes





First Aid Kit

Queensland Ambulance Service recommends that families include the following in their first aid kit:

- ☐ 1 x packet of band aids
- ☐ 1 x roll non allergenic tape
- ☐ 2 x sterile eye pads
- ☐ 4 x triangular bandages
- ☐ 1 x conforming gauze bandage (10cm)
- ☐ 1 x conforming gauze bandage (7.5cm)
- ☐ 1 x conforming gauze bandage (5cm)
- ☐ 1 x hospital crepe bandage (10cm)
- ☐ 1 x sterile combine dressing (9x10cm)
- ☐ 1 x sterile combine dressing (20 x 20cm)
- ☐ 1 x medium wound dressing (#14)
- ☐ 2 x non-adhesive dressings (5 x 7.5cm)
- ☐ 1 x non-adhesive dressing (10 x 7.5cm)
- ☐ 1 pair stainless steel scissors
- ☐ 1 x square gauze swab
- ☐ 1 pair forceps
- ☐ 1 pack (10) latex gloves
- ☐ 1 resuscitation mask
- ☐ 2 x bottles eye irrigation (15ml)
- ☐ 1 tube antiseptic cream (50g)
- ☐ 1 wound closure steri-strip
- ☐ 1 stainless steel splinter remover
- ☐ 1 bottle antiseptic solution
- ☐ 5 x alcohol swabs
- ☐ 1 x first aid hints booklet

Shopping List

Cyclone Season Grocery Shopping List

GRAIN FOODS| NUTS & SEEDS

- ☐ Breakfast cereal (dry)
- ☐ Flat bread e.g. pita bread, tortillas, wraps
- ☐ Wholegrain crisp bread/dry biscuits
- ☐ Ready-to-eat rice or noodles
- ☐ Nuts and/or seeds

FRUIT | VEGETABLES

- ☐ Canned fruit in natural juice
- ☐ Dried fruit
- ☐ Fruit juice (100% fruit juice)
- ☐ Starchy vegetables e.g. canned potatoes
- ☐ Green vegetables e.g. canned peas, beans
- ☐ Other canned vegetables e.g. carrots, corn

LEGUMES & BEANS

- ☐ Canned legumes e.g. kidney beans, lentils
- ☐ Baked beans
- ☐ Canned soup/Packet soup

MILK| YOGHURT | CHEESE

- ☐ Long life milk or calcium fortified soy milk
- ☐ Long life cheese e.g. cheese wedges, sticks
- ☐ Long life custard

MEAT | POULTRY | FISH | EGG

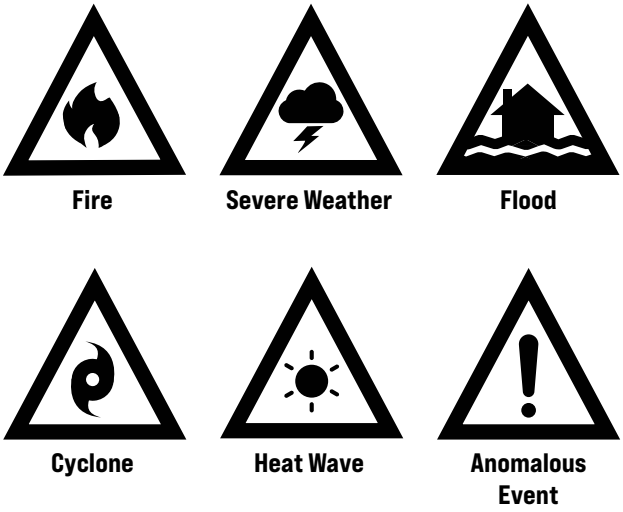
- ☐ Canned meat e.g. canned ham or chicken
- ☐ Canned fish e.g. tuna, salmon, sardines

OILS & TREATS

- ☐ Unsaturated oil e.g. olive oil
- ☐ Muesli bars
- ☐ Protein bars
- ☐ Crackers or biscuits

Warnings

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



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.

Warnings are urgent

You need to act immediately on the information provided.

Did you know?

The Whitsunday Disaster Dashboard offers an Opt-in Notification service, providing real-time emergency alerts and weather warnings. Register to ensure you receive timely information when it matters most.

There are three warning levels:

Advice

An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

- 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.

- 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.

Depending on the disaster event, you may be required to:

- Leave/evacuate
- Seek/take shelter
- Stay in place - too late/dangerous to leave

Stay Updated

Go to the Disaster Dashboard for all up to date disaster information: disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Visit Council's website for digital copies of local emergency management plans, action guides, mapping and evacuation information: whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/our-council/disaster-and-emergency

Like the Whitsunday Regional Council Disaster & Emergency Information Facebook Page for up-to-date information provided directly from the Whitsunday WDMG: facebook.com/WhitsundayDisasterandEmergencyInformation

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 news channels. Watch and listen for emergency updates.

Tune your radio to your local radio station 630AM ABC North Queensland, 101.1FM (Proserpine) or 89.9FM (Airlie Beach).

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 at our customer services centres.

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 Whitsunday Regional Council Disaster Dashboard is your official source of information.

The Dashboard is available 24/7 and contains important information all year round with useful links to 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:

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

disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

PPRR Overview

Prevention

Prevention activities reduce the impact of disaster events through the identification of hazards. Hazards are risks that could affect your household, causing you to evacuate or that could impact your evacuation plans. Hazards can include having power lines near trees, living in a street with only one access point, or having a creek behind your house. At a regional level, it also involves legislation, land-use planning and technical solutions.

Preparedness

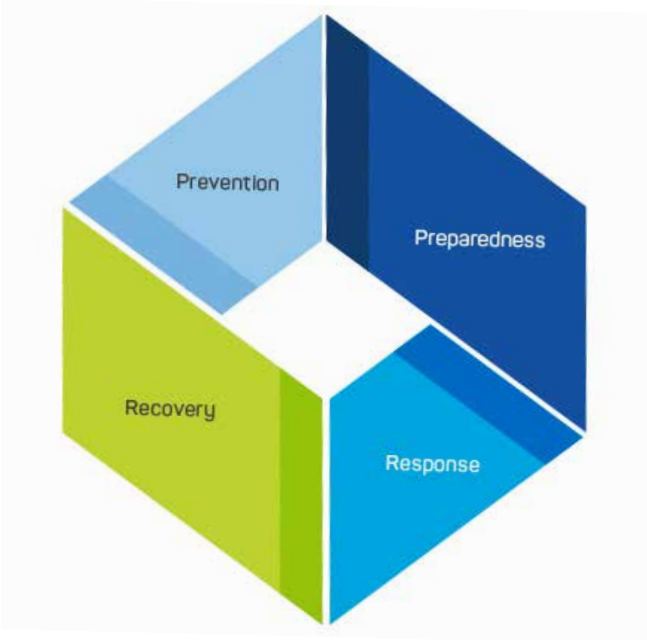
Preparedness is an ongoing set of activities in which people plan, prepare/organise and train for emergency situations. This includes tasks such as having an emergency kit, making an evacuation plan, simulating disaster situations and appropriate responses, and discussing emergency preparedness with your family, friends and neighbours.

Response

Response is responding to the immediate needs of the emergency situation. A well-rehearsed emergency plan developed during the preparedness stage enables more effective responses at all levels.

Recovery

Recovery involves activities and decision making necessary to restoring the affected area to its previous state, often taking the opportunity to build stronger by reducing pre-disaster risks inherent in the community and infrastructure. This stage often involves rebuilding, re-employment and repair of essential infrastructure. There is also a focus on human social recovery to individual health and wellbeing.



Disaster Mitigation

Although most disaster events can't be prevented, knowing the hazards and risks, learning lessons from past events and implementing mitigation measures can help minimise future impacts from disaster events.

Whitsunday Regional Council plays a major role in disaster mitigation activities including:

- Road network upgrades (bridges, culverts, road sealing)
- Drainage works (creek clearing, upgrading infrastructure, non-return valves in low-lying coastal areas)
- Water and sewerage network improvements and redundancy options
- Foreshore protection activities (rock walls, erosion prevention)
- Installing more disaster resilient infrastructure in lower risk locations
- Educating the community about preparedness activities

Get Ready Queensland

When it comes to extreme weather events in Queensland, it's not so much a matter of 'if' but 'when'. The more prepared our community is, the faster we will recover afterwards.

The Queensland Government's Get Ready Queensland website contains detailed information and fact sheets about what you need to know about preparing for a disaster.

Each person in the Whitsunday Region should take time to conduct preparedness activities around the home and business or sit down with the family to talk about your Household Emergency Plan.

Visit **getready.qld.gov.au** for more information.

Community Resilience

Community resilience is a community's capacity to absorb disturbance and respond positively to a crisis. Resilient communities are ones where residents are connected to one another and work together in ways that enable it to function in the face of stress and trauma. It has the ability to adapt to changes in the physical, social or economic environment and is able to learn from experience and improve over time.

A community's positive response to a disaster can also allow us to focus on our capabilities and strengths and less on our vulnerabilities. There is no hard and fast rule on how to build community resilience however it is best strengthened continuously, not just in times of crisis.

For example, do you know your neighbours? Are you actively involved in your local community? Do you know what to do before, during and after a natural disaster?

To see how well prepared you are, visit:
getready.qld.gov.au



Risks & Hazards

Understanding the Disaster Risk Assessment Whitsunday Profile

In 2023 an updated disaster management risk assessment methodology known as QERMF (Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework) was conducted for the Whitsunday Region. This methodology helps to better understand our local hazards, including their likelihood of occurring within a one-year timeframe, the vulnerability of exposed elements and an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of mitigation measures currently in place. The WDMG's (Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group) commitment to proactive risk assessment and mitigation measures ensures that our region is well-equipped to respond to and recover from potential disasters. This coupled with a community that understands their risks and draws on its strength and resilience, will help to reduce the impacts when disaster strikes.



Important Note

These document can be viewed electronically on the Whitsunday Regional Council Disaster & Emergency website **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/our-council/disaster-and-emergency/prevention** or a hard copy is available at each of the Customer Service Centres.

Community Resilience Strategy*

About The Strategy

Aim

- Tell our resilience story
- Build on what needs to be done to improve disaster resilience in the Whitsunday region
- Deliver a clear Whitsunday Community Resilience Strategy

Who should use the Strategy?

Disaster resilience is a shared responsibility and relies on a collective effort to make effective change. The Strategy is designed to be used by all levels of government and the not-for profit and private sectors to better support the community.

Why do we need a disaster resilience Strategy?

A disaster can be described as an event that overwhelms the resources of a community and causes significant harm to people, buildings, infrastructure, the environment and/or the economy. A significant and coordinated response is needed to assist communities to cope with and recover from the consequences of a disaster. Disasters caused by natural hazards are an inherent part of the Queensland landscape and are occurring more frequently and often concurrently (Intergovernmental Panel Climate Change 2022). All levels of government are investing significantly in projects to reduce the risks posed by natural hazards, however, there remain hazards that cannot be entirely managed or eliminated.



*This project was funded by NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) for PAC (Preparing Australian Communities).

Activation of the Whitsunday Disaster Coordination Centre

The Whitsunday Disaster Coordination Centre (WDCC) is based at the Whitsunday Regional Council office in Proserpine and will be activated and manned by emergency agencies and council staff to coordinate resources responding to a disaster event.

The Centre may not necessarily be activated prior to the impact of the event. If not, the Centre will be activated as soon as possible following a disaster event.

A disaster event is one that causes a serious disruption in a community that requires a significant coordinated response by the State Government and other entities to help the community recover. Examples of these include cyclone, earthquake, flood, severe storm, tornado, tsunami, fire, infestations, plague, epidemic, failure of essential services or infrastructure and terrorism.

Advice of activation of the Centre will be communicated to residents through a range of communication mediums such as the radio, Council's website, disaster dashboard and social media. Anyone requiring assistance following a disaster event should contact the centre and provide details as requested by the telephone operator.

In what instances will the Whitsunday Disaster Coordination Centre (WDCC) not be activated?

In general circumstances, the Whitsunday Disaster Coordination Centre will not be activated for emergency incidents or smaller events that are not defined as disaster events under the Disaster Management Act 2003 such as:

- Road traffic crashes
- Storm damage (telephone SES on 132 500)
- Wet season rainfall and flooding that inundates roads



Cyclone

What is it?

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 center 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.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **WhitsundayDisasterand-EmergencyInformation**
- **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: **http://www.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:

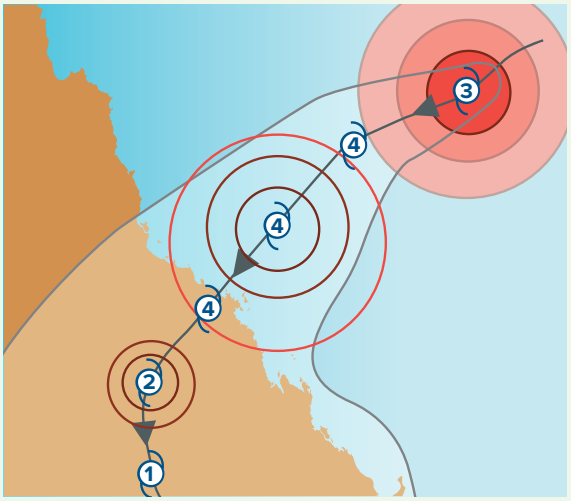
- ☐ Finalise packing your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit
- ☐ Hold a family meeting to make sure everyone knows your cyclone plan and whether you are staying to shelter in place or evacuating.

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 fueled. 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:

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Have your Evacuation Kit and Emergency Kit ready to take with you.
- ☐ 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 WDMG 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		Maximum mean wind speed	Typical effects
1	TROPICAL CYCLONE	63 - 88 km/h	Minimal house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Boats may drag moorings.
2	TROPICAL CYCLONE	89 - 117 km/h	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	118 - 159 km/h	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failure likely.
4	SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE	160 - 199 km/h	Significant roofing and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
5	SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE	more than 200 km/h	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 WDMG 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 Jan 2011.

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

Cyclone Ada
Category 3, crossed the Whitsunday Island group and the coast near Shute Harbour and Proserpine late on Saturday 17 January 1970 and during Sunday 19 January 1970 causing considerable damage from the high winds and subsequent flooding. The cyclone eventually lost intensity after moving inland beyond Proserpine and degenerated into a weak depression on the evening of Monday 19 January 1970. The damage which Ada wrought has been conservatively estimated at $12 million (1970 dollars) and the cyclone was responsible for the loss of thirteen lives.

Information sourced from **bom.gov.au**

Storm Surge/Tide

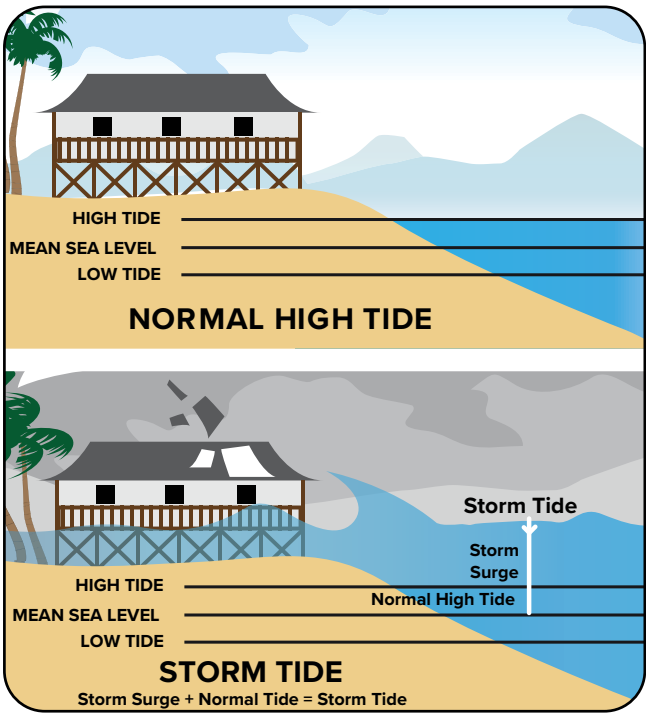
What is it?

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.



Cyclones are notoriously unpredictable, making it challenging to forecast their exact landfall and the resulting impact on astronomical tides. The Bureau of Meteorology issues warnings based on the 'worst case' scenario, assuming the cyclone will hit at high tide, as the difference between high and low tide is only a few hours. During a cyclone threat, it's crucial to listen to official warnings from both the Bureau of Meteorology and the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group (WDMG). These warnings will inform you about expected high tides, coastal flooding, and any necessary evacuations from storm tide color zones.

Did you know?

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

What are the local risks?

The Whitsunday Region has a very high risk of being impacted by cyclones including storm tide during the cyclone season which officially runs from 1 November to 30 April. Also, the Whitsunday Region is largely a coastal and island based community, with several low-lying areas at significant risk from storm tide. Inland areas such as Collinsville are not at risk from storm tide.

What Should I do?

You need to plan well ahead of time.

- Know your Evacuation Zone (Storm Tide). Refer to page 38
- Be ready to evacuate and have an Evacuation Kit. Refer to page 4
- Consider and identify your evacuation and shelter options.

When a cyclone threat develops, keep listening to official warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. These will advise if high tides and coastal flooding are expected. Listen to official warnings from the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group (WDMG), which will advise of the evacuation of any storm tide colour zones.

Difference between Storm Surges and Tsunamis

Storm surges are caused by weather systems like cyclones, forcing water onshore over a limited coastline, typically building up over a few hours and often accompanied by wind-waves. Tsunamis, on the other hand, are generated by events such as earthquakes, undersea landslides, or volcanic eruptions. They can travel vast distances across oceans, impacting extensive coastal areas.

Understanding Storm Surge

Before a storm surge/tide

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

- **disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **WhitsundayDisasterand-EmergencyInformation**
- **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.
- ☐ Consider and identify your evacuation and shelter options.

After a storm surge/tide

- ☐ 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 WDMG 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

What is it?

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 Whitsunday Regional 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.

Floodwaters are easily misjudged and 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.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **WhitsundayDisasterand-EmergencyInformation**
- **bom.gov.au**

- ☐ Check your residence well in advance of the wet season here: **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au/economic-development-business-and-planning/building-and-development/planning**
- ☐ 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.

Road Closures

Regularly during the wet season and other significant rainfall events, there are many roads throughout the Whitsunday Region which are subject to localised flooding. Road closure hot spots include but are not limited to:

- Bruce Highway, between Merinda & Bowen (5-13hrs)
- Bowen Development Rd, Bowen (6-13hrs)
- Bruce Highway, between Proserpine & Bowen (1-7hrs)
- Bruce Highway, between Mackay & Proserpine at Goorganga Plains access to Whitsunday Coast Airport (5-48hrs)
- Shute Harbour Rd, between Proserpine &
- Airlie Beach at Myrtle Creek and at Hamilton Plains (1-12hrs)
- Gregory - Cannon Valley Road, between Proserpine & Airlie Beach at Crofton Creek (1-2hrs)
- Shute Harbour Road, between Airlie Beach & Jubilee Pocket (1-2hrs)
- Paluma Rd, between Cannonvale & Woodwark (1-2hrs)
- Bruce Highway, near Dingo Beach turnoff (15-20hrs)

Road Closures: qldtraffic.qld.gov.au

Disaster Dashboard: disaster.whitsundayrc qld.gov.au

Sandbags

Properly placed sandbags can reduce flooding impact on your property. Learn when and how to use them in this video.

Dams

Three referable dams could impact land in the Whitsunday Region during a flood event or dam break. All are owned and operated by Sunwater and are of interest to the Whitsunday community.

Peter Faust Dam

Located about 27km west of Proserpine township, was built in 1990 on the Proserpine River for irrigation and urban water supply. It also provides flood mitigation by capturing 75% of the 470km2 total Proserpine River catchment area. Managed by Sunwater, the dam's Emergency Action Plan addresses a Sunny Day Failure 'Extreme' consequence has a 5253 population at risk and a flood failure 'Major' consequence to impact over 1,500 population at risk.

The Whitsunday region has a levee and spillway system, built on the Proserpine River managed by Whitsunday Rivers Improvement Trust. Together, the dam and levee system significantly reduce, but do not eliminate, flood risks.

Significant rain events could still result in flooding affecting Proserpine and surrounding areas. The Whitsunday Regional Council has upgraded the rainfall and river gauge network in the Proserpine catchment to improve early flood warnings and information.

Eungella Dam

The Eungella Dam, located in the Mackay Region, releases water into the Whitsunday Region, flowing down the Broken River into the Burdekin catchment. A significant flood event or dam failure could impact cattle stations and roads in the region's western area

Burdekin Falls Dam

The Burdekin Falls Dam is located on the north-western boundary of the Whitsunday Region. A significant flood event or dam failure has the potential to affect some cattle stations and roads in the north and north-western area of the region.

What should I do?

- Pay attention to weather patterns and weather forecasts
- During flooding, stay away from rivers, creeks and drains
- Have an evacuation plan and emergency & evacuation kits ready - see page 4
- Plan which indoor items you will raise or empty if water threatens your home
- Stay tuned into warnings and updates
- Never drive, ride or walk through flood waters
- Evacuate if threatened by flood water and safe to do so, or if advised to evacuate by authorities

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.



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 WDMG 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/flood**

IMAGE CREDIT: Robert Murolo | Bruce Highway, Proserpine Flooding

Disaster Dashboard

Stay up to date with the WRC Disaster Dashboard. Here you can find everything from the latest road conditions, fire incidents, weather warnings, storm tide evacuation zones and power outages; to evacuation routes and active evacuation centres.

disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

IMAGE CREDIT: Jack Flowerday | Shute Harbour Road - Myrtle Creek Flooding

Severe Weather

What is it?

Severe weather events are potentially hazardous or dangerous weather that is not solely related to severe thunderstorms, tropical cyclones or bushfires. These types of severe weather hazards include damaging or destructive winds, heavy rain, abnormally high tides, damaging waves (BOM).

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.

Getting Ready - Protect your home

Before a severe weather event

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

- **disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **WhitsundayDisasterand-EmergencyInformation**
- **bom.gov.au**

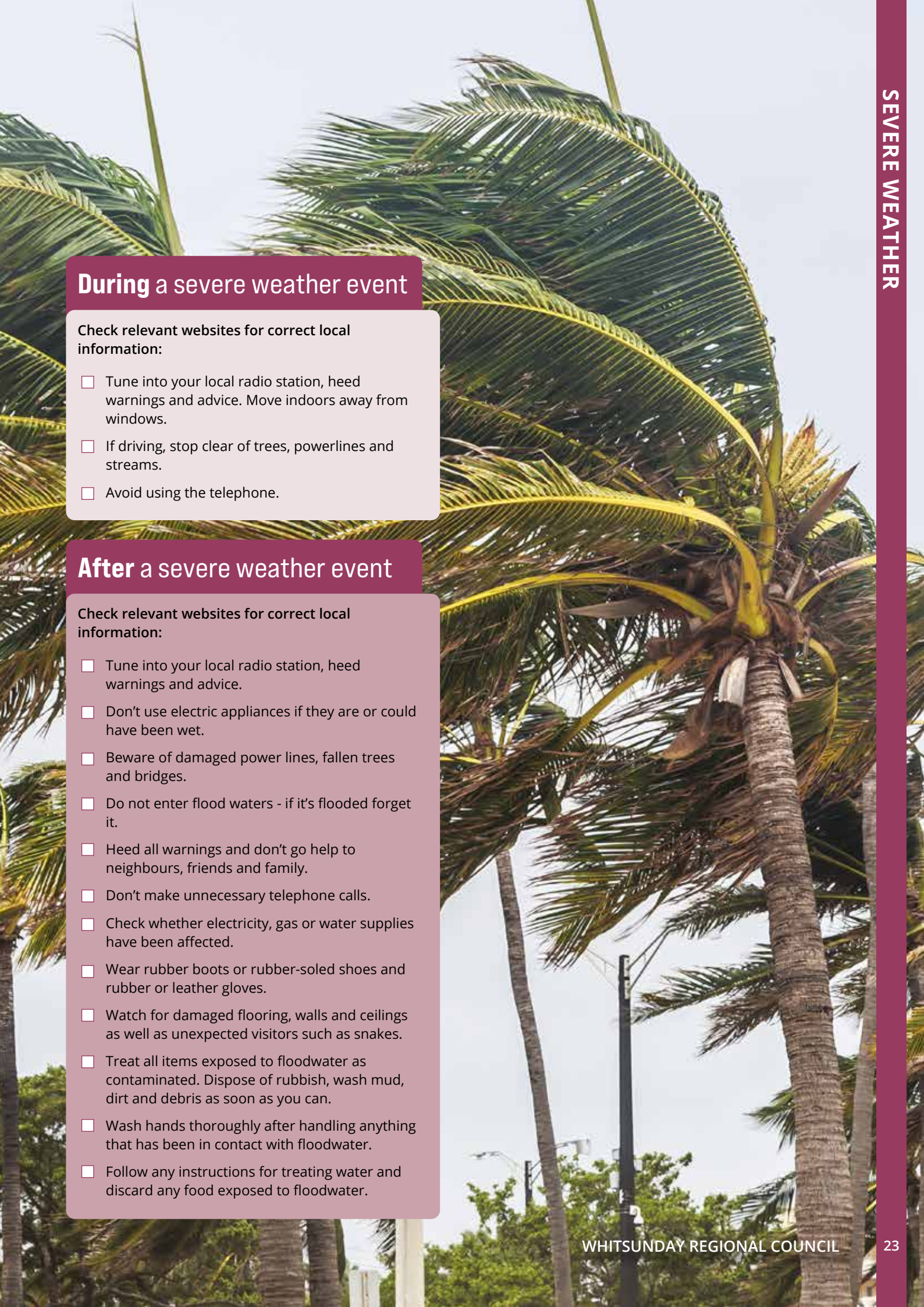
- ☐ Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material.
- ☐ Contact all members of your household & advise of the warning.
- ☐ Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- ☐ Identify how and where to turn off the mains 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:

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



During a severe weather event

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

- ☐ 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 weather event

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

- ☐ 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 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

What is it?

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.



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/recent quakes**

Bushfire

What is it?

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 Whitsunday Regional 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.



ADVICE
You need to be alert and listen for warnings in case the hazard gets worse or closer to you.



WATCH AND ACT
You could be in danger because conditions are changing. You need to act now to be safe.



EMERGENCY WARNING
You are in danger and you need to act IMMEDIATELY to be safe.

Types of fires

Grassfires are fast moving, passing in 5 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 of June through to December. These are common in the Whitsundays, lasting five to 20 minutes, and very rarely become uncontrolled.

Before a bushfire

Check relevant websites for correct local information:

- **disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **WhitsundayDisasterand-EmergencyInformation**
- **bom.gov.au**
- **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:

- [ ] Long sleeved shirt
- [ ] Jeans
- [ ] Boots
- [ ] Hat
- [ ] Safety goggles
- [ ] Bottled water (enough for all)
- [ ] Battery-operated radio
- [ ] Batteries
- [ ] Mobile phone & charger
- [ ] Blankets (natural fibres)
- [ ] Passports & birth certificates
- [ ] Wallets/purses
- [ ] Medications
- [ ] Family photos, valuables & documents
- [ ] 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.

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: **fire.qld.gov.au/prepare/bushfires**
- ☐ 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, sewerage 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 112.

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.

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 is also handy to have a basic tool kit, extra supplies and a portable cooker.



- ☐ Hat



- ☐ Smoke mask



- ☐ Safety goggles



- ☐ Long sleeve shirt & pants



- ☐ Boots



- ☐ Shovel



- ☐ Fire extinguisher



- ☐ Hose



- ☐ Knapsack sprayer



- ☐ Mop & bucket



- ☐ Ladder



- ☐ Towels & blankets



Did you know?

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

Heatwave

What is it?

A heatwave is three or more days in a row where both day time and night time temperatures 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.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**
- **WhitsundayDisasterand-EmergencyInformation**
- **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

After a heatwave

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

Tsunami

What is it?

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 Whitsunday 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 region.

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

What is it?

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:

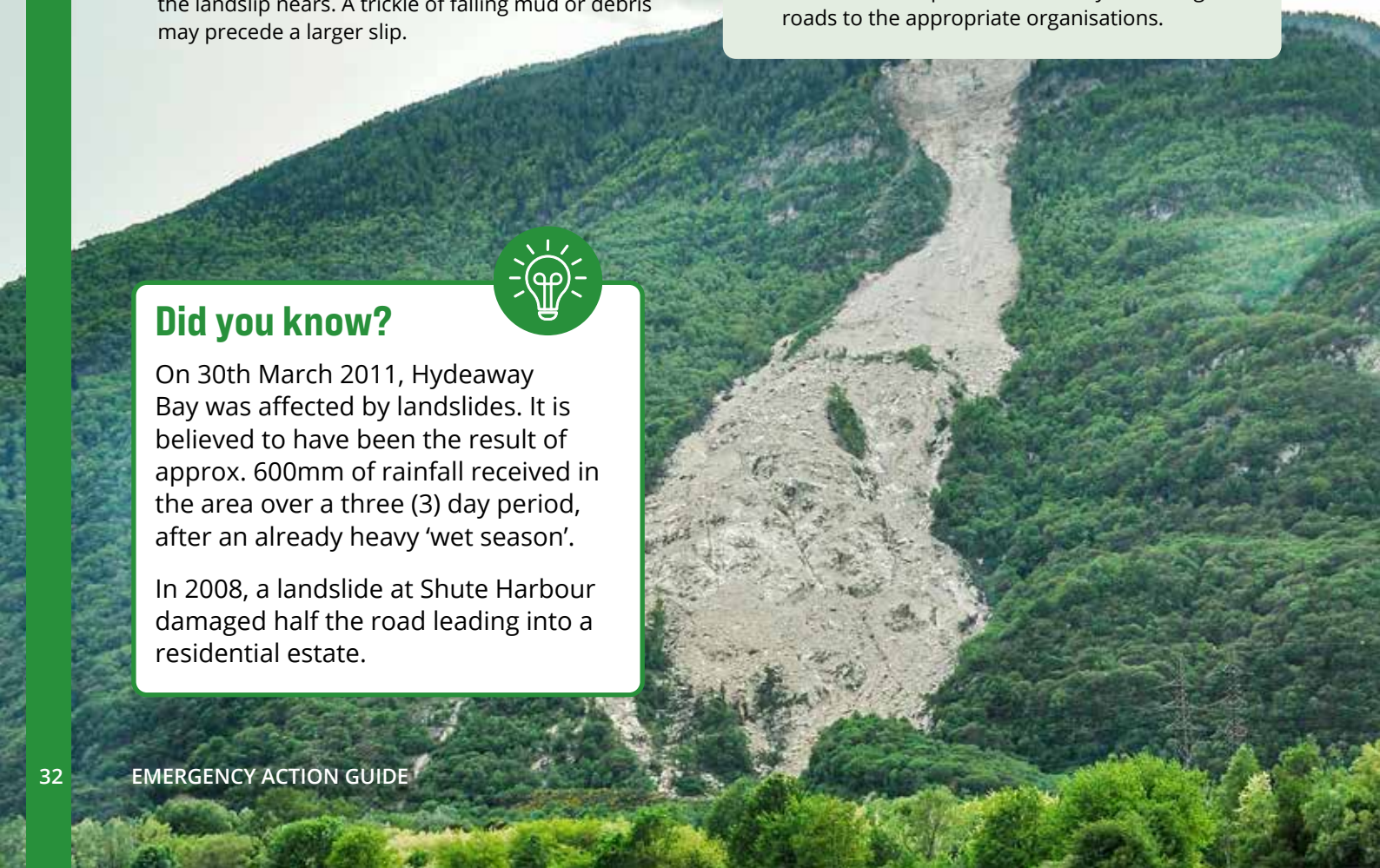
- Leaning trees, slumping earth, movement in fences or trees, cracks in paths.
- Outside walls start to pull away from the building, new cracks appear in plaster, tile, brick or foundations, doors or windows stick for the first time.
- You may hear a rumbling sound which increases as the landslip nears.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

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.



Did you know?

On 30th March 2011, Hydeaway Bay was affected by landslides. It is believed to have been the result of approx. 600mm of rainfall received in the area over a three (3) day period, after an already heavy 'wet season'.

In 2008, a landslide at Shute Harbour damaged half the road leading into a residential estate.

Pandemic

A pandemic is an epidemic of an 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 (SARSCoV-2). The pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption.

The WDMG will provide updates to the local community if there are an significant changes likely to impact the region.

More information

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

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.

Evacuation facilities are a last resort, and the WDMG 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 facility as a last resort.

How are decisions made?

Storm tide warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to the Whitsunday Local Disaster Management Group (WDMG) in the lead up to and during a tropical cyclone event. These warnings contain technical data about predicted and worst case scenario storm tide heights based on a number of factors, height data and at a range of locations. The WDMG then interprets this data to assign a 'colour' zone to evacuate at specific locations.



Did you know?

Register.Find.Reunite is a service that lets family, friends and emergency services know that you are safe in the event of an emergency.

When the service is activated, you can access it on the Red Cross website or at evacuation and recovery centres.
register.redcross.org.au

When evacuating

Evacuation advice is based on the level of potential from storm tide. This falls into five zones: red, orange, yellow, blue and white. Do not wait - go when advised.

There are five 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 Tide 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 the region, take pets and leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- Follow directions of Emergency Services.
- If going to a facility, take your own food, water and essential items.
- If evacuating to a facility leave pets at home or in a safe location where they are protected and with food and water.

Voluntary Evacuation

The Whitsunday Disaster Management Group in close consultation with the Mackay District Disaster Management Group will recommend voluntary evacuation of exposed evacuation zones.

Directed Evacuation

A directed evacuation may be ordered by the Mackay District Disaster Coordinator (high ranking Police Officer). This decision is made in close consultation with the WDMG. If you are in a zone that is directed to evacuate, you must evacuate. Directed evacuations are ordered for colour zones when there is a threat to life and / or property, so it is vitally important to your safety that you evacuate if directed.

How to navigate the evacuation maps



Identify where your residence is on the map.



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



Identify your evacuation route to your pre-determined safer location. For further information on evacuation visit council's website: **disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au**



During a cyclone event tune into warnings.



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 | Storm Tide

RED EVACUATION ZONE **Extreme Risk** Evacuations of the Red Zone may occur with any cyclone depending on tide, intensity and location.	Residents in the Red Zone have the highest risk of inundation or isolation from a cyclone storm tide. The Red Zone includes low-lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 1.25 metres above Highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
ORANGE EVACUATION ZONE **Major Risk** There is a 0.1 per cent chance of this occurring in any year.	Residents in the Orange Zone have a high risk of inundation or isolation from a cyclone storm tide. The Orange Zone includes low-lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 2.25 metres above Highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
YELLOW EVACUATION ZONE **Moderate Risk** There is a 0.01 per cent chance of this occurring in any year.	Residents in the Yellow Zone have a medium risk of inundation or isolation from a cyclone storm tide. The Yellow Zone includes low-lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 4.25 metres above Highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
BLUE EVACUATION ZONE **Minor Risk** There is a less than 0.01 per cent chance of this occuring in any year.	Residents in the Blue Zone have a low risk of inundation or isolation from a cyclone storm tide. The Blue Zone includes low-lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 6.25 metres above Highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
WHITE EVACUATION ZONE **Extremely Minor Risk or No Risk**	Residents in the White Zone have a very low risk or no risk of inundation or isolation from a cyclone storm tide. The White Zone includes areas that are at least approximately 6.25 metres above Highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide) and higher.

Evacuation Facilities

If your home is not safe, then plan and prepare now so you can evacuate to a safer place.

Public Cyclone Facilities must be considered as the last option for residents that live in an evacuation zone, have exhausted all other shelter options and are unable to leave the warning area. Public Cyclone Facilities are intended as a short term shelter option (up to 18 hours) and have very basic amenities.

Limitations of Public Cyclone Facilities

These facilities have limited capacity and will be used to accommodate as many people as possible. This means that there will be limited space and you will need to be aware of the following limitations and conditions:

- You will need to be seated in a chair and will not be able to lie or sit on a mattress or stretcher (there is not enough space for bedding)
- Domestic pets and other animals will not be allowed in the shelter and you will need to make other arrangements for sheltering your pets prior to cyclone season. Note: assistance animals are permitted to enter the shelter and stay with owners
- All personal belongings are to be kept within a backpack or small bag able to fit under a chair

You will need to be self-sufficient and support yourself and your family for the duration of the shelter period, so you need to include personal medications, essential non-perishable food and refreshments, identification papers and essential personal items. Anything deemed oversized and / or unnecessary will not be permitted into the shelter. There are no cooking facilities, limited bathroom facilities and limited medical support provided.

- There will be limited transport and parking options and
- When using a Public Cyclone Facility you may be in the facility for up to 18 hours or more. During this time the building will be "locked down" for a period when the cyclone is passing. To ensure the structural integrity of the building and the safety of occupants during this time, there will be no ability to enter OR leave the shelter

Cyclone Facilities - 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.

Residents in evacuation zones with no other sheltering option will be advised when the Public Cyclone Facility is activated, via local radio, on Council's website and facebook page and on the Disaster Dashboard.

Bowen Cyclone Facility
Bowen State High School,
54-86 Richmond Road, BOWEN QLD 4805

Proserpine Cyclone Facility
Proserpine State Primary School,
Sterry Street, PROSERPINE QLD 4800



Prohibited Items



It is a condition of entry that prohibited items must not be brought into the shelter, these include:

- All alcohol
- All weapons including knives or similar edged items
- All illicit drugs and associated items and
- All aerosols (except personal medications such as asthma puffers, etc)
- Smoking is prohibited

People seeking entry to the shelter will be required to surrender any prohibited items. You and your belongings may be searched by a Queensland Police Officer if officers have a reasonable belief that such items have been taken into the shelter.

Public Cyclone Facility Conditions of Entry

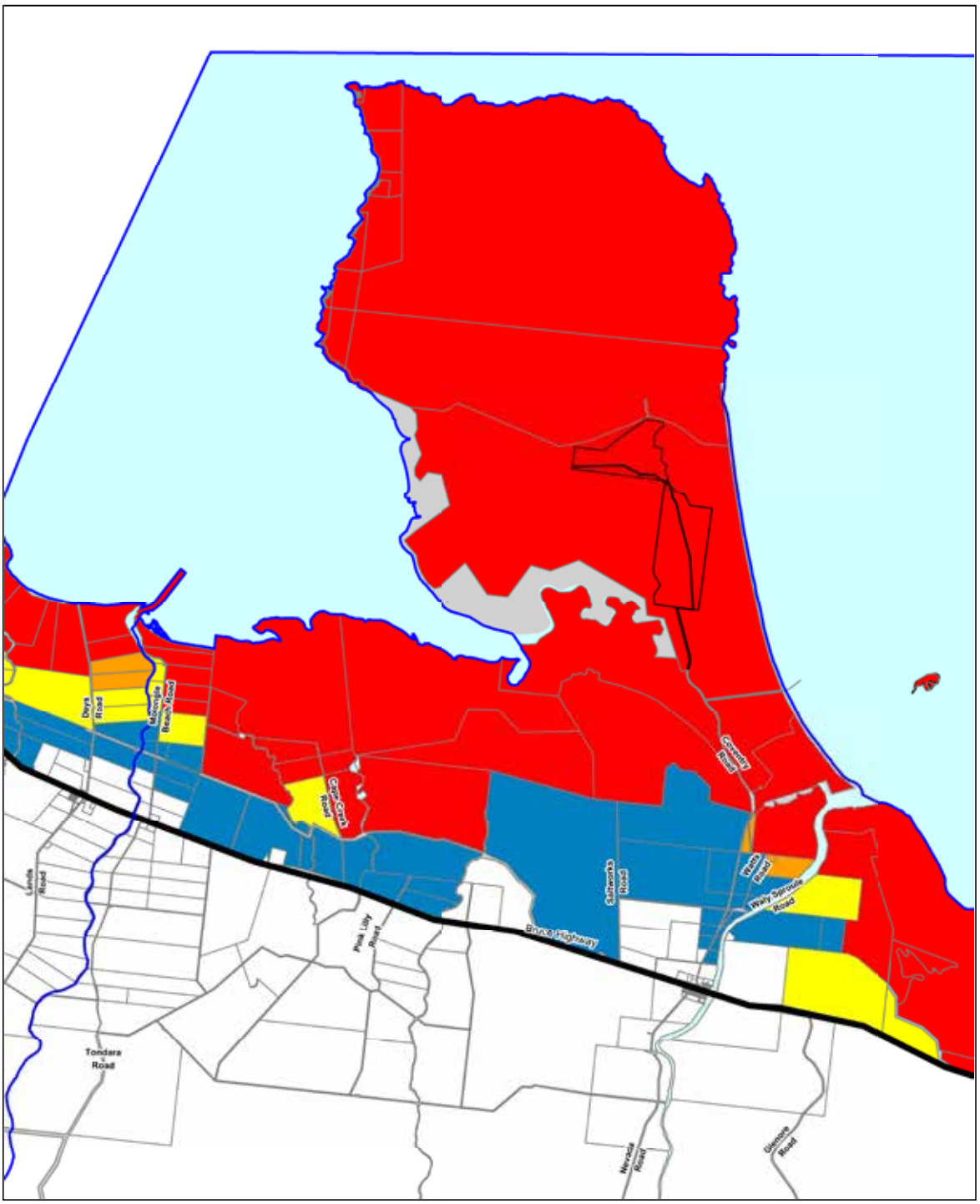
Any person unable or unwilling to abide by these conditions will need to make alternate sheltering arrangements (e.g. sheltering with family or friends located outside the storm tide evacuation zone or leaving the area that is subject to the cyclone and storm tide impacts). Shelter occupants who do not comply with the Code of Conduct prior to lock down may be required to leave the facility. Occupants who do not comply with the Code of Conduct after lock-down may be prosecuted.

Public Cyclone Facility Code of Conduct

All persons occupying the Shelter will:

- Provide the required registration details to the Shelter staff prior to entry to the shelter
- Comply with directions of the Shelter staff
- Not use anything that is dangerous or interferes with the health and comfort of yourself and others (this includes the consumption of alcohol, illicit drugs or tobacco products/smoking). Non-compliance with this requirement may result in prosecution
- Be mindful of the large number of people in a small space. Keep calm and respect others by not shouting, yelling or using loud obscene language
- Not intentionally cause damage to the building, furniture, fittings and fixtures and immediately report any accidental damage, incidents of vandalism, theft and / or other illegal activity to the Shelter staff
- Supervise children closely. Children remain the responsibility of parents or guardians and must be accompanied to the toilets and showers by a parent or guardian
- Wear appropriate rubber or soft-soled footwear at all times for safety and hygiene reasons
- Occupy the seat allocated to them by the Shelter staff and stow personal items below that chair. Occupants are responsible for the security of their own valuables
- Keep walkways and emergency exits clear
- Remain within the main area of the Shelter and not enter storerooms, kitchens or office space unless requested or permitted by the Shelter staff; Use earphones to listen to battery operated personal music / electronic devices. Volume levels are to be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbing others
- Not use electronic devices with Shelter power outlets unless approved by Shelter staff
- Only use shower facilities at the direction of the Shelter staff
- Maintain cleanliness and dispose of rubbish in the bins provided and
- Notify the Shelter staff of any medical emergency or other critical incidents



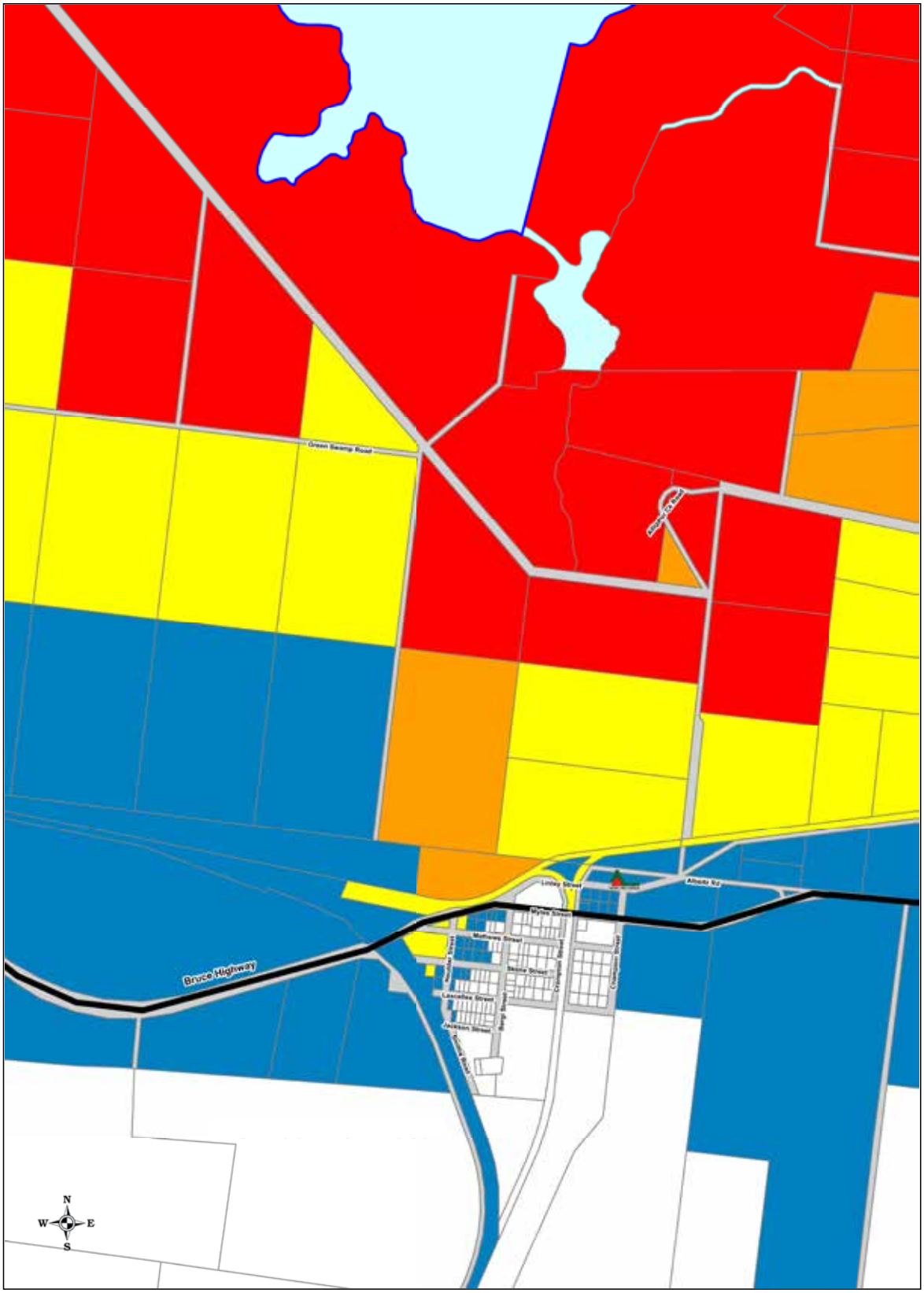


Evacuation Zones

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- White

Key

- Qld Police
- Qld Fire & Emergency Services
- Qld Ambulance Service
- Rural Fire Service
- SES State Emergency Service
- Hospital
- Road Reserve
- Water Body
- Major Road
- Locality Boundary
- Primary Evacuation Route
- Secondary Evacuation Route

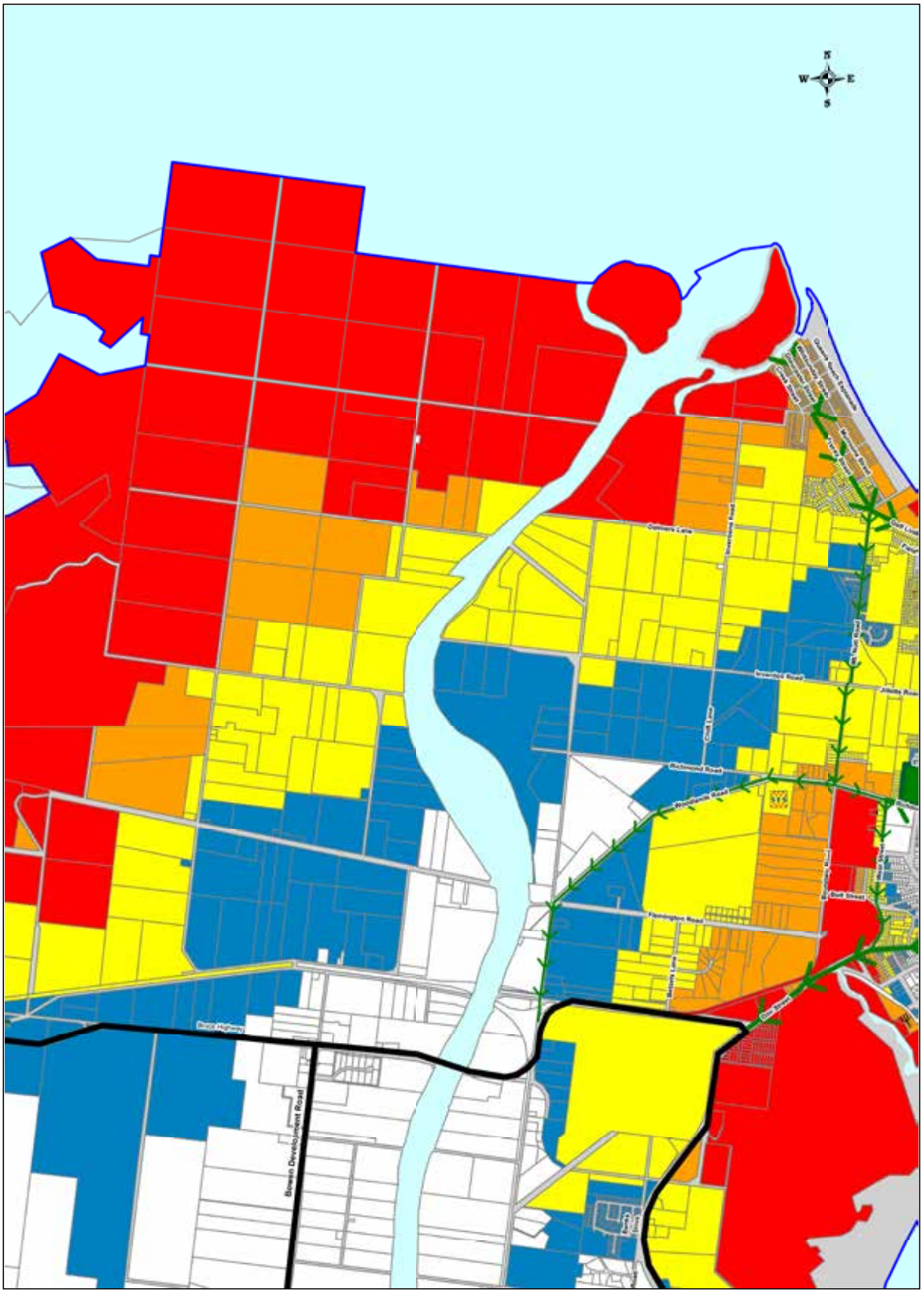


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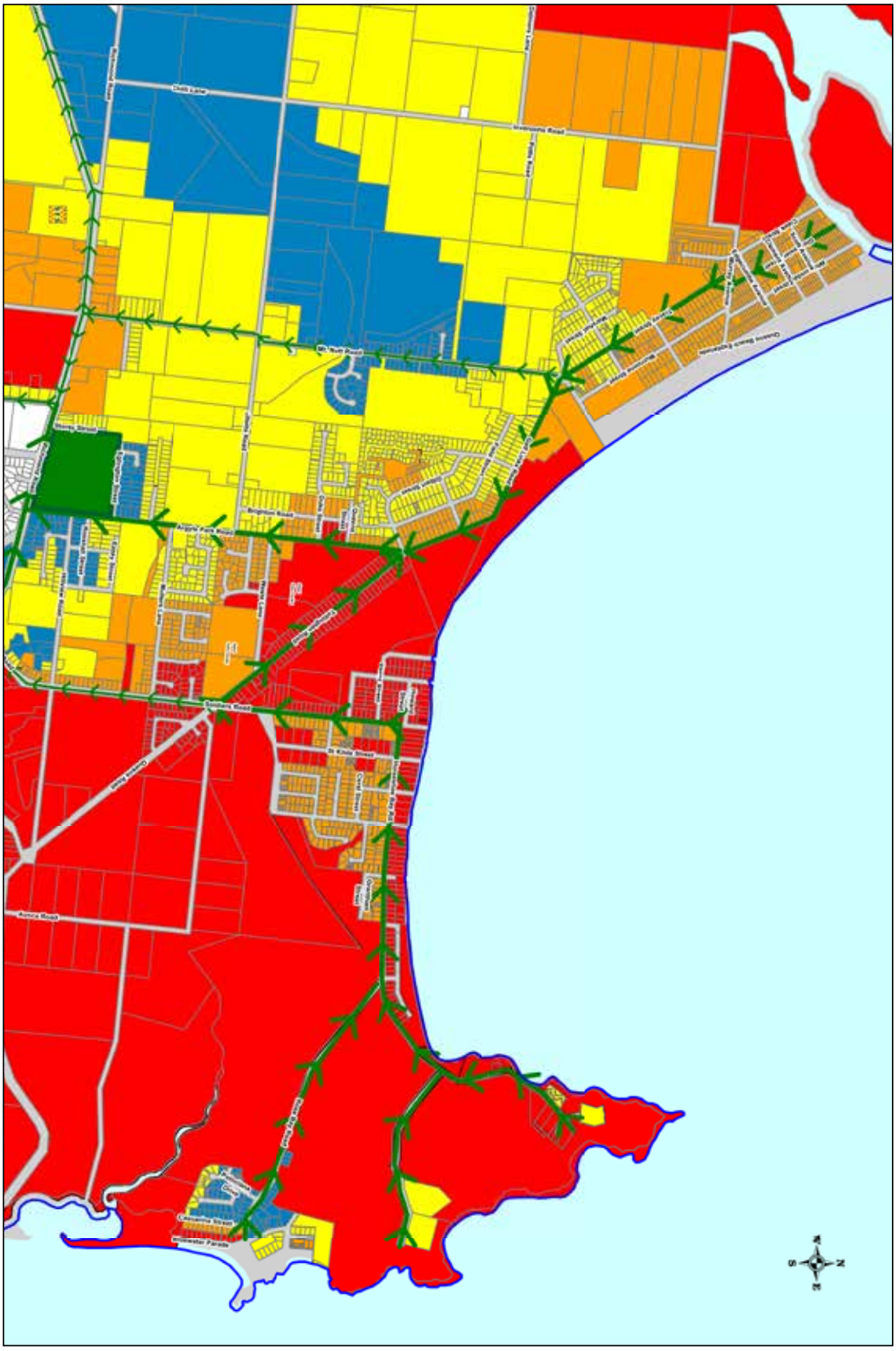


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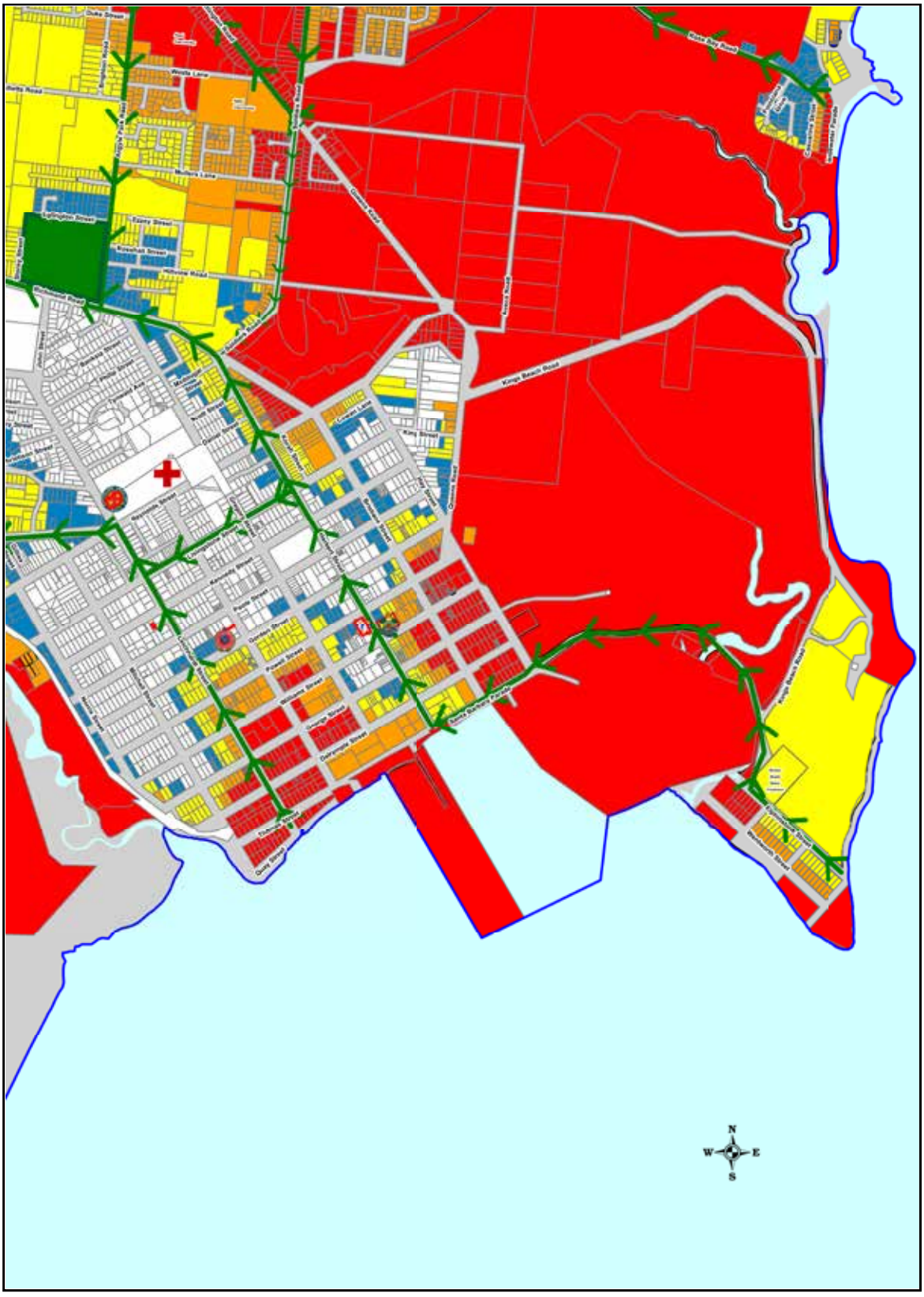


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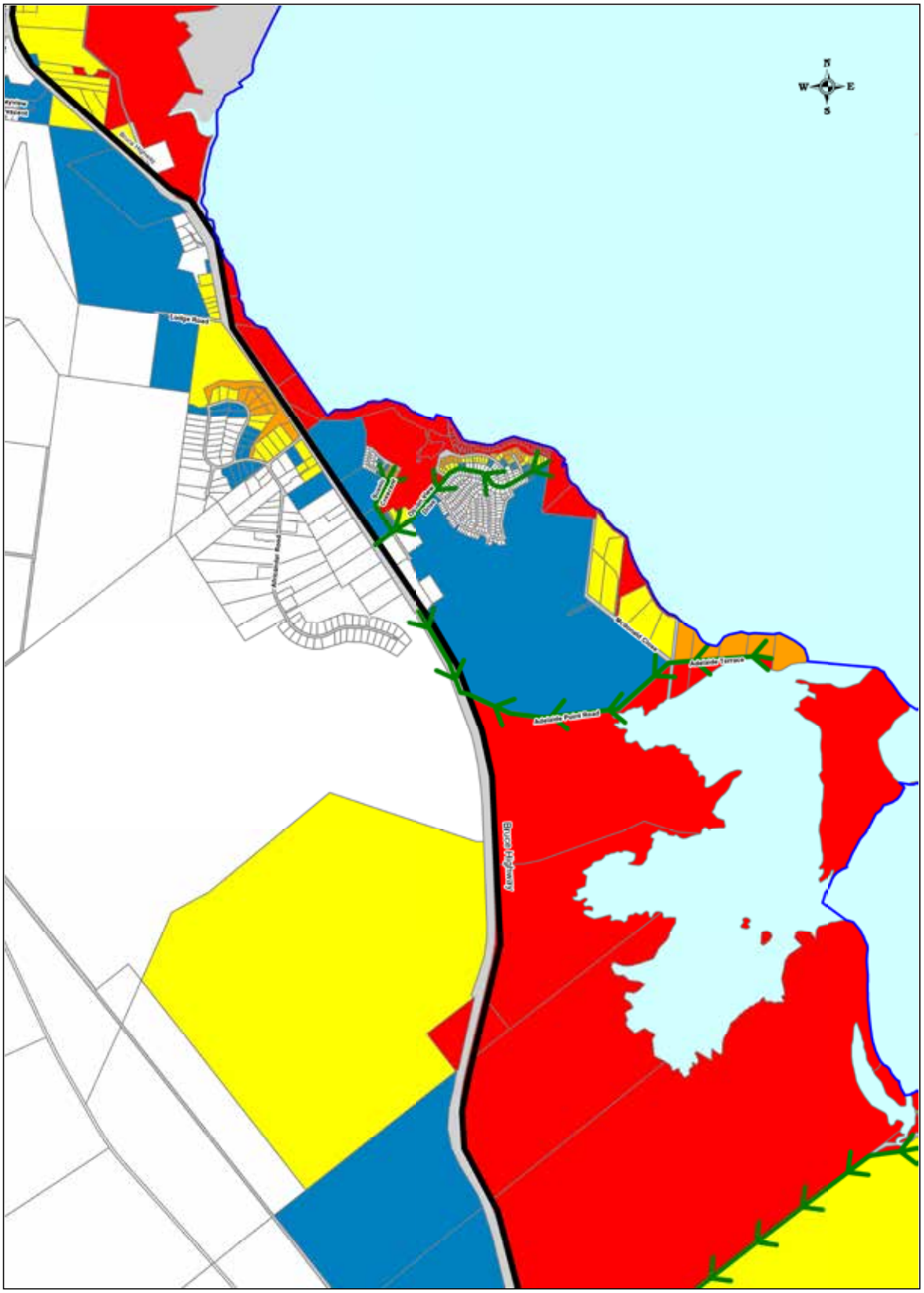


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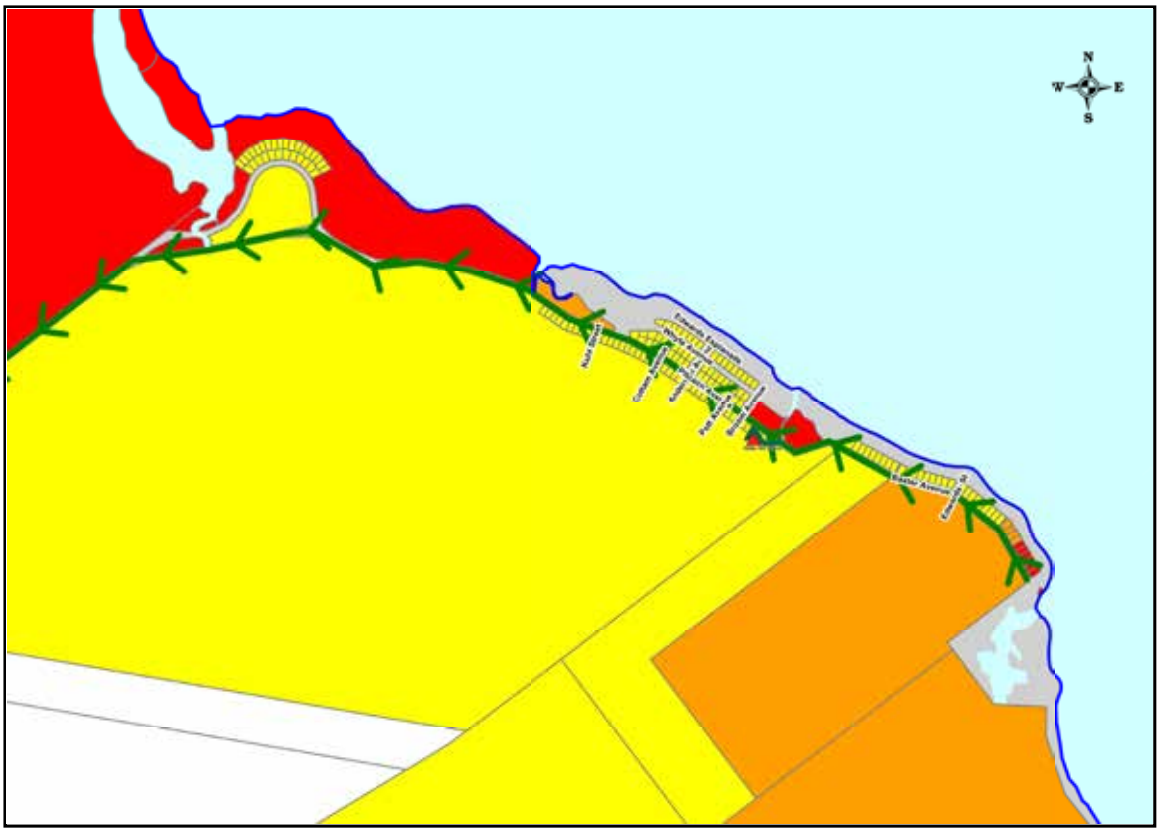


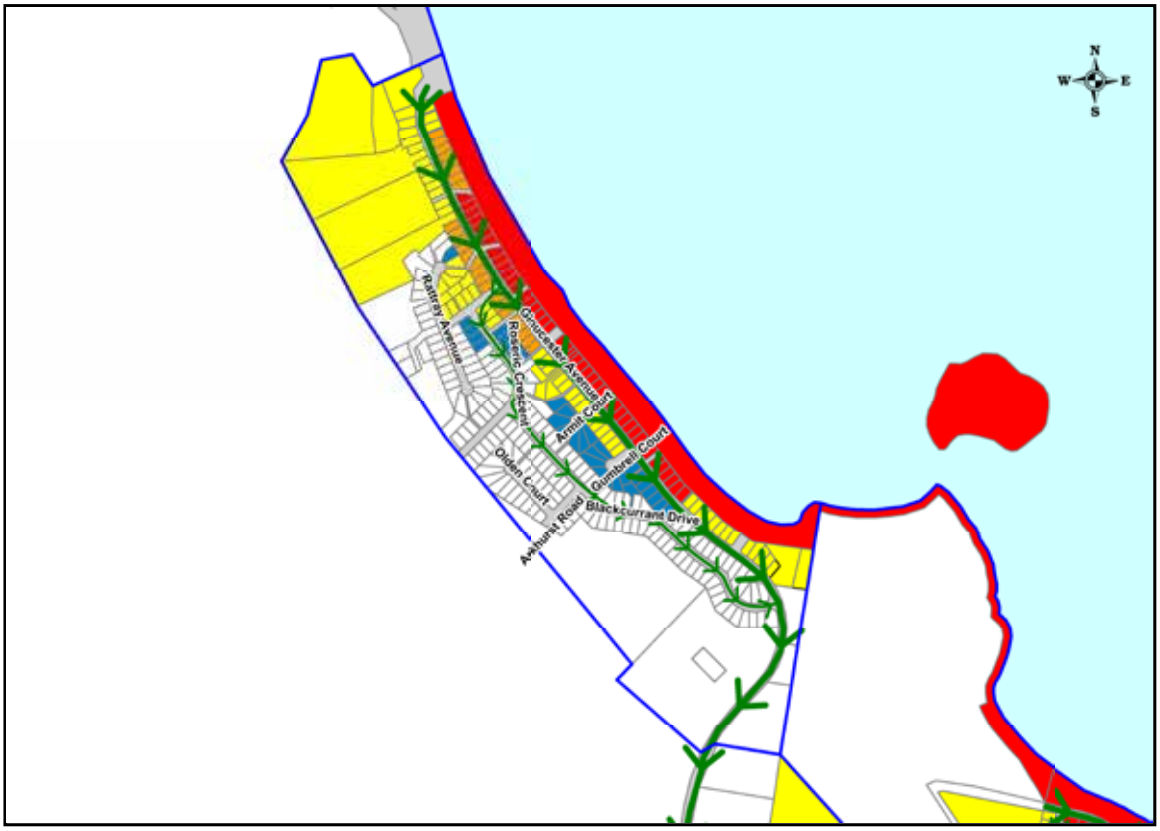
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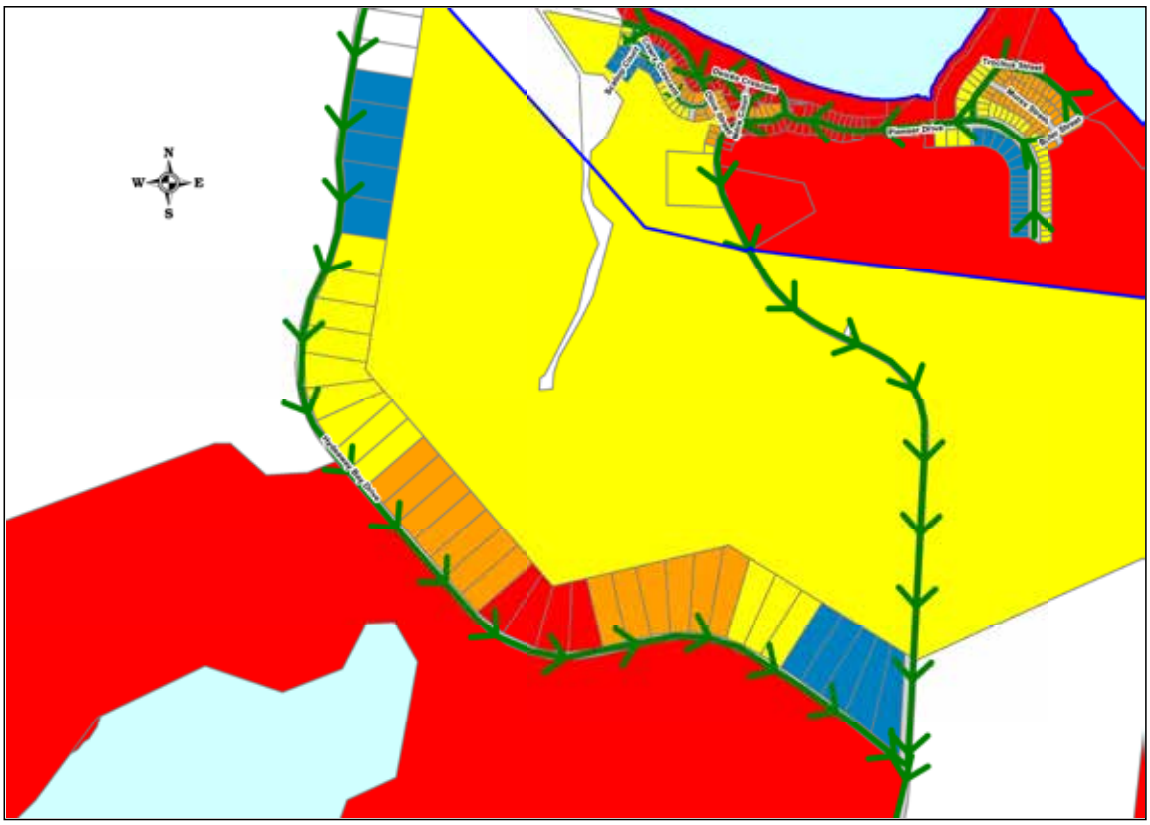


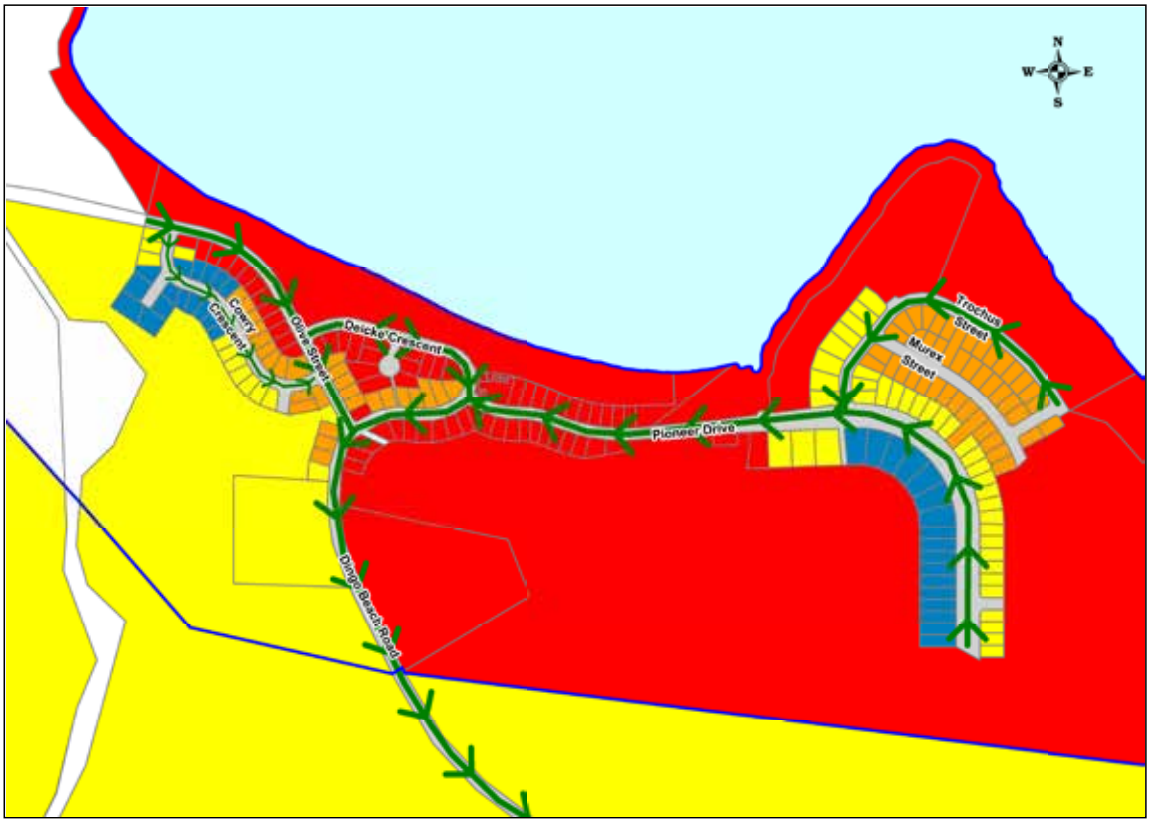
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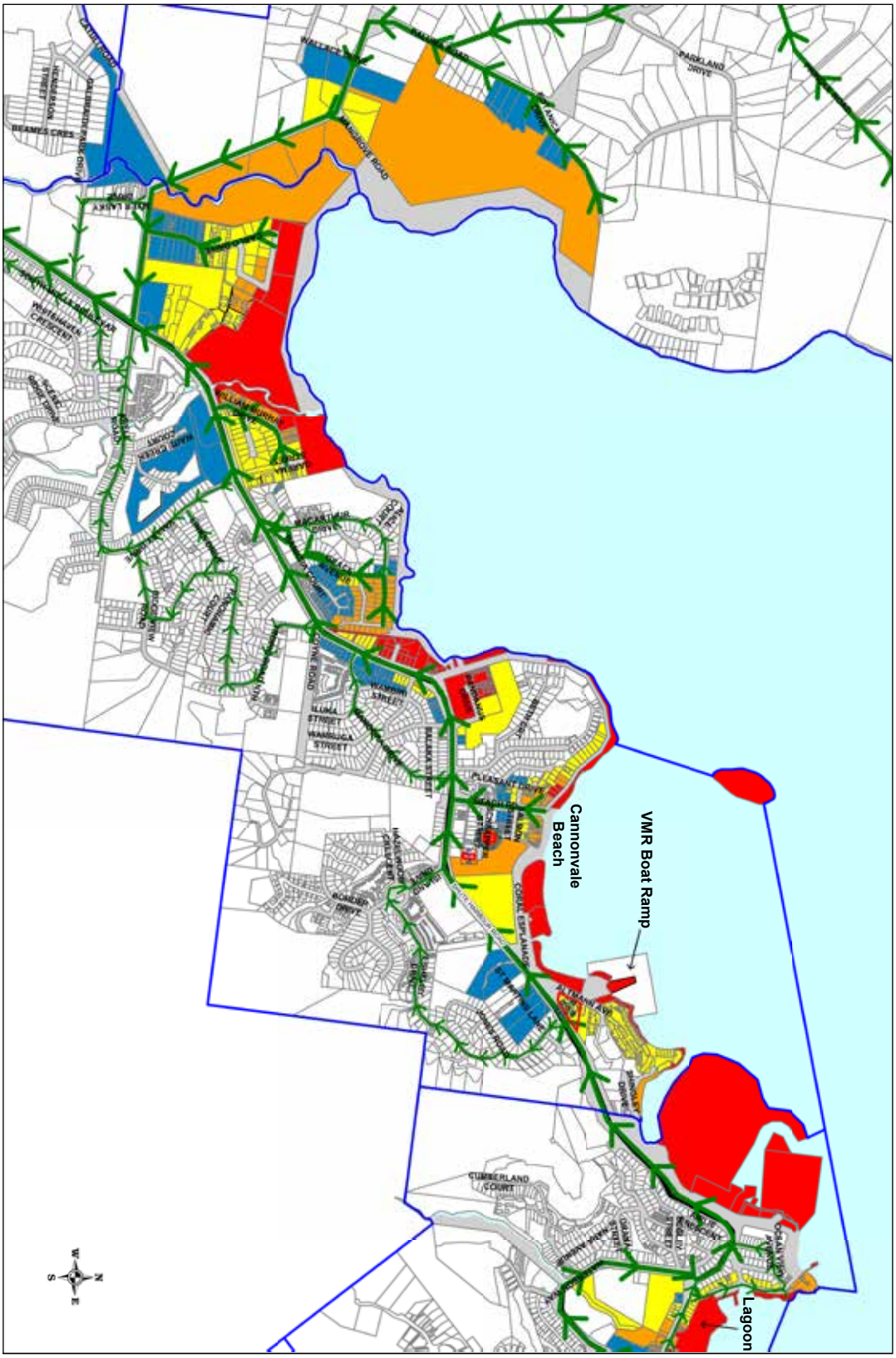


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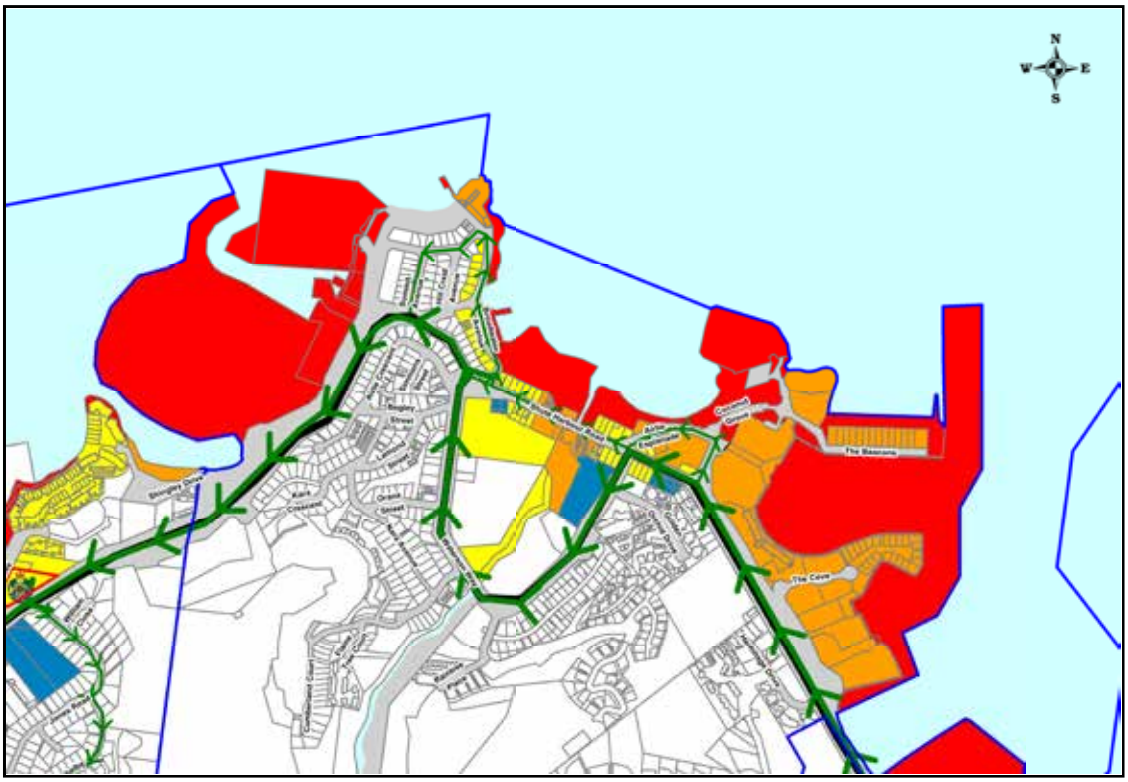


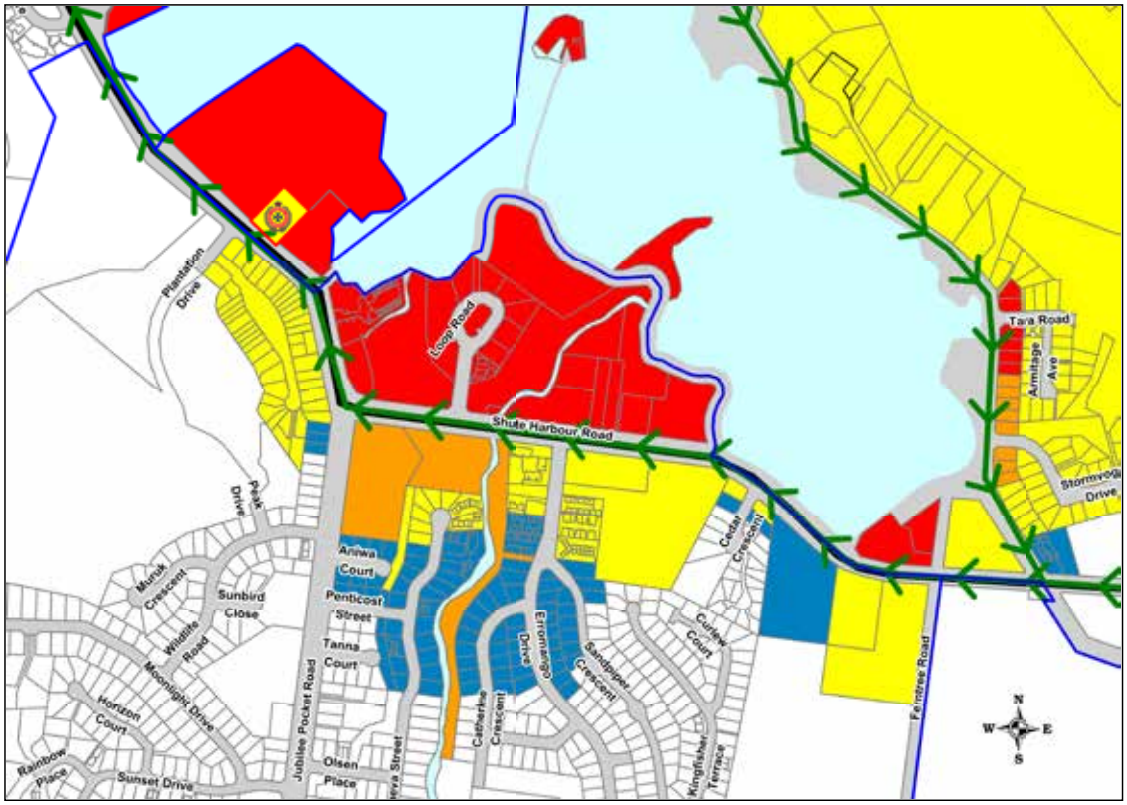
Evacuation Zones

- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- White

Key

- Qld Police
- Qld Fire & Emergency Services
- Qld Ambulance Service
- Rural Fire Service
- SES State Emergency Service
- Hospital
- Road Reserve
- Water Body
- Major Road
- Locality Boundary
- Primary Evacuation Route
- Secondary Evacuation Route



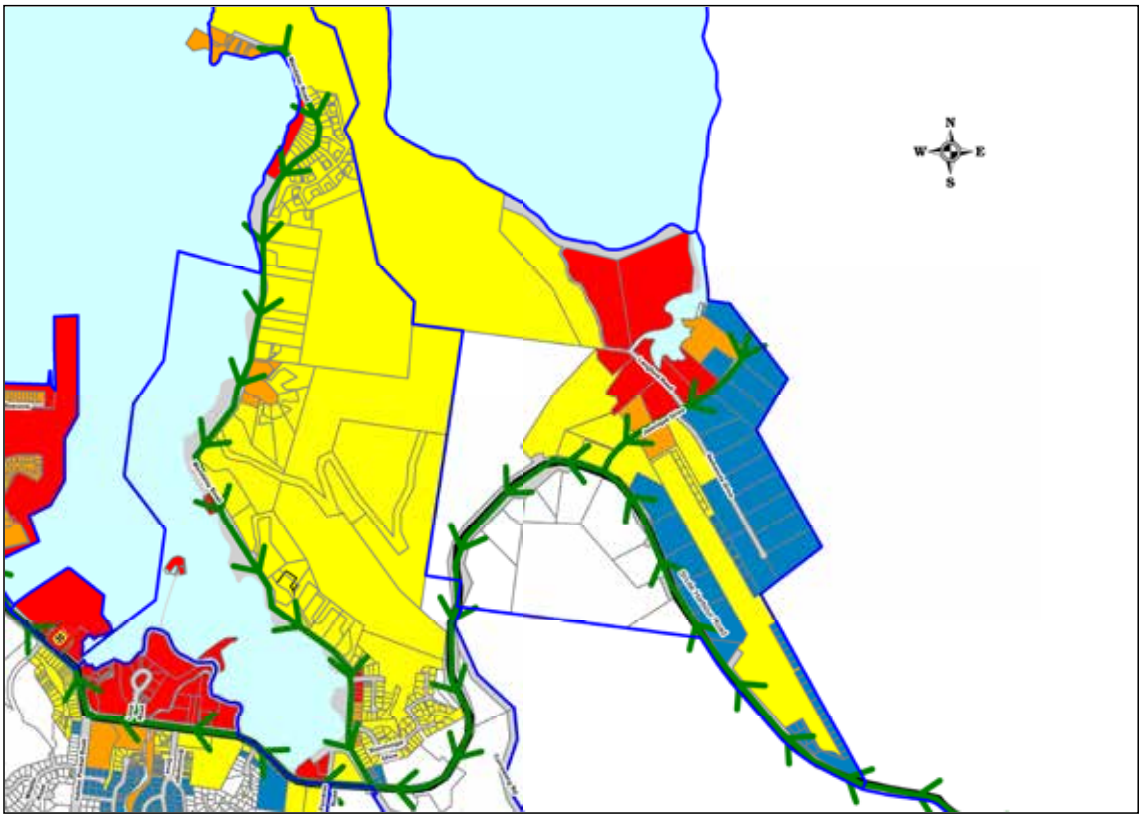


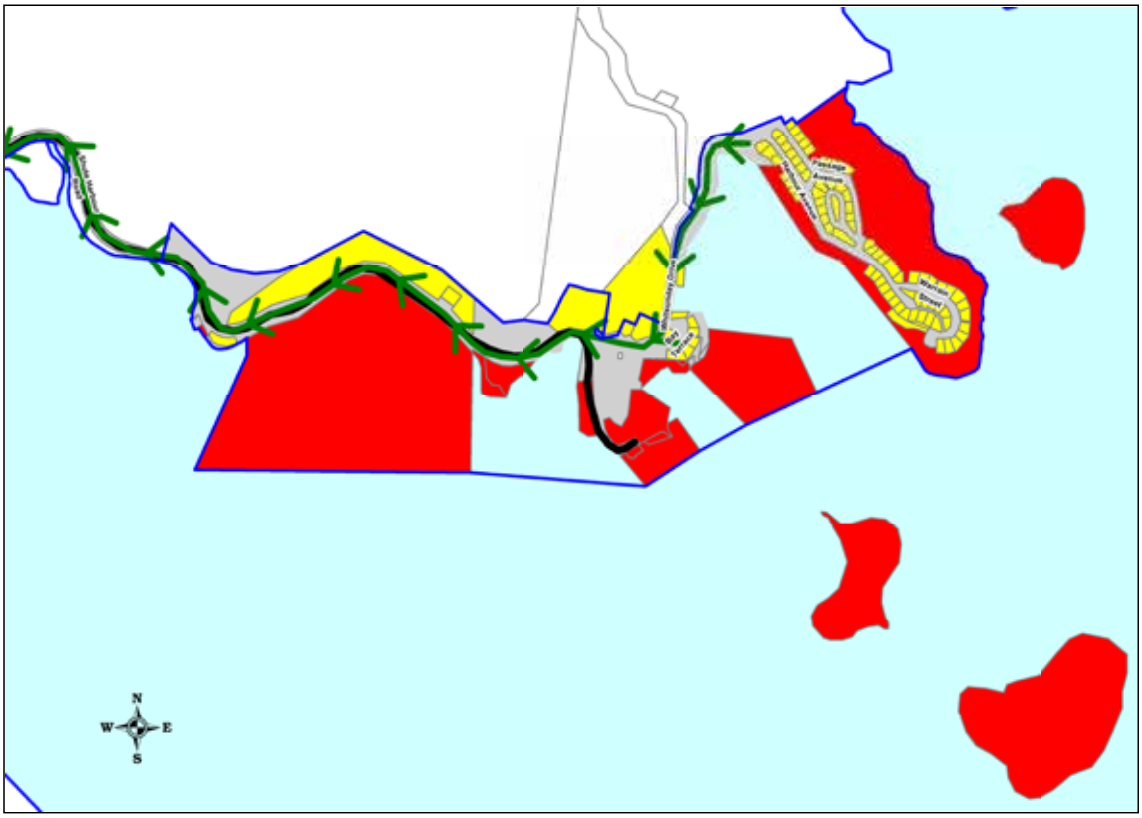
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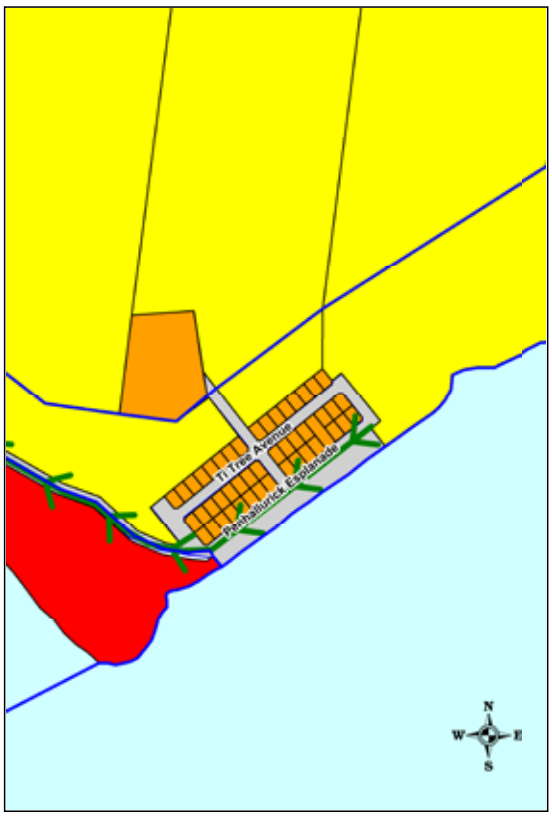


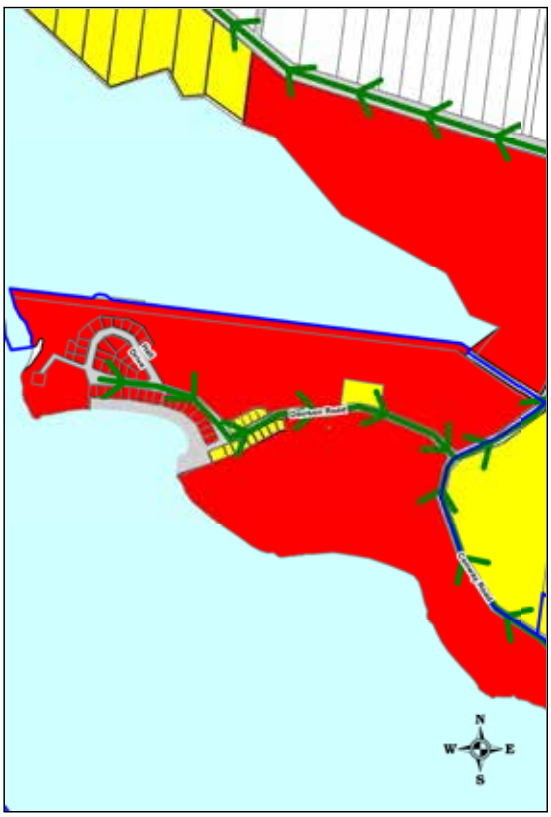
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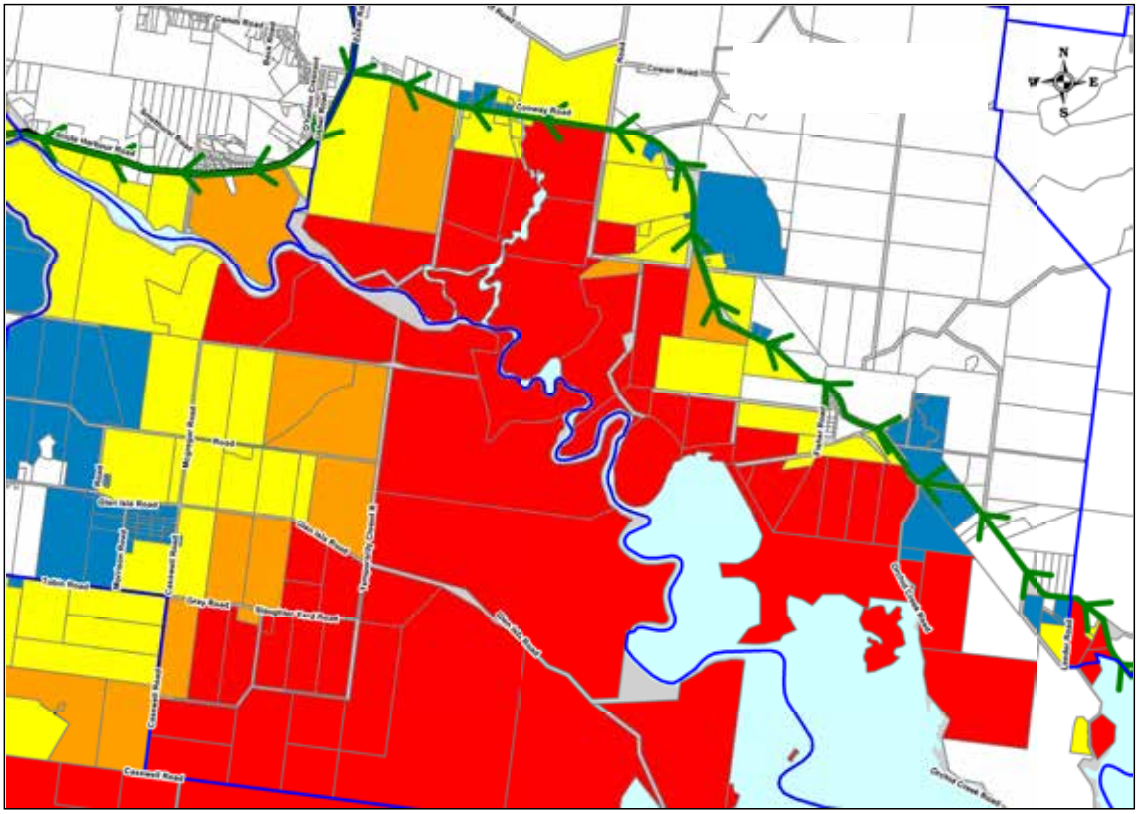
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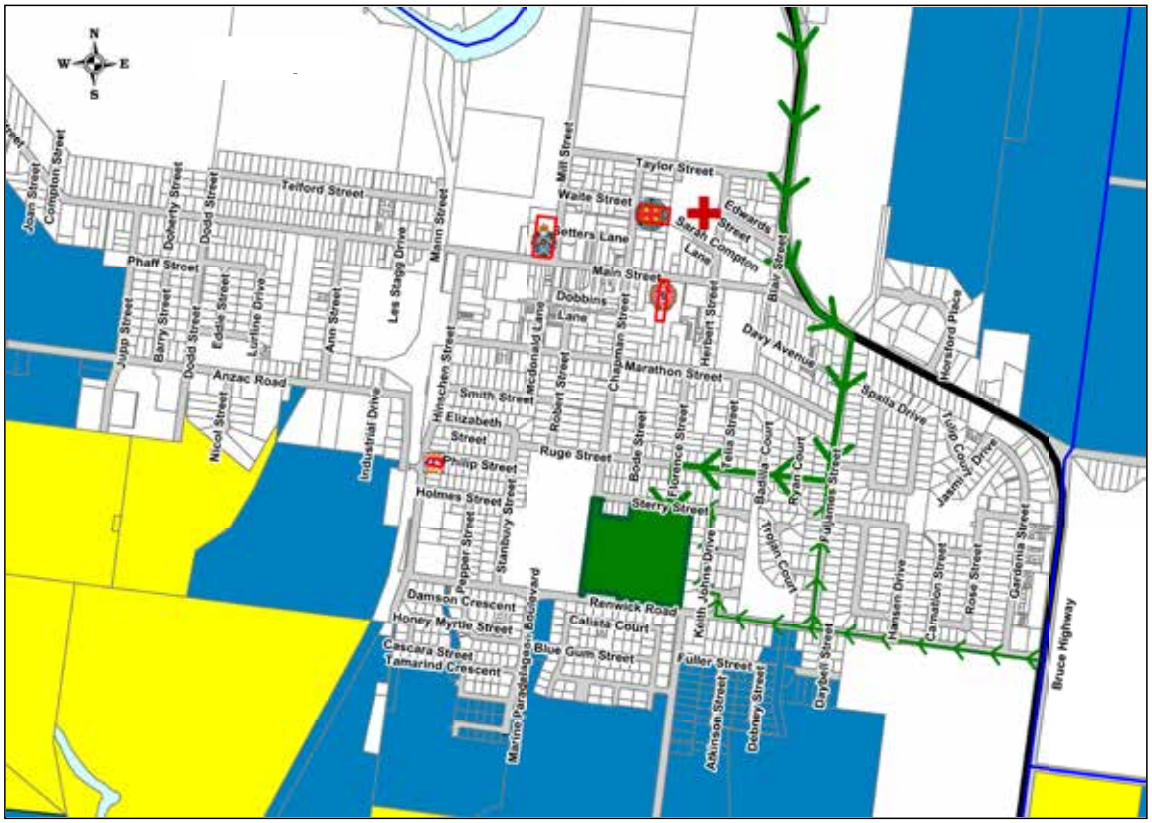


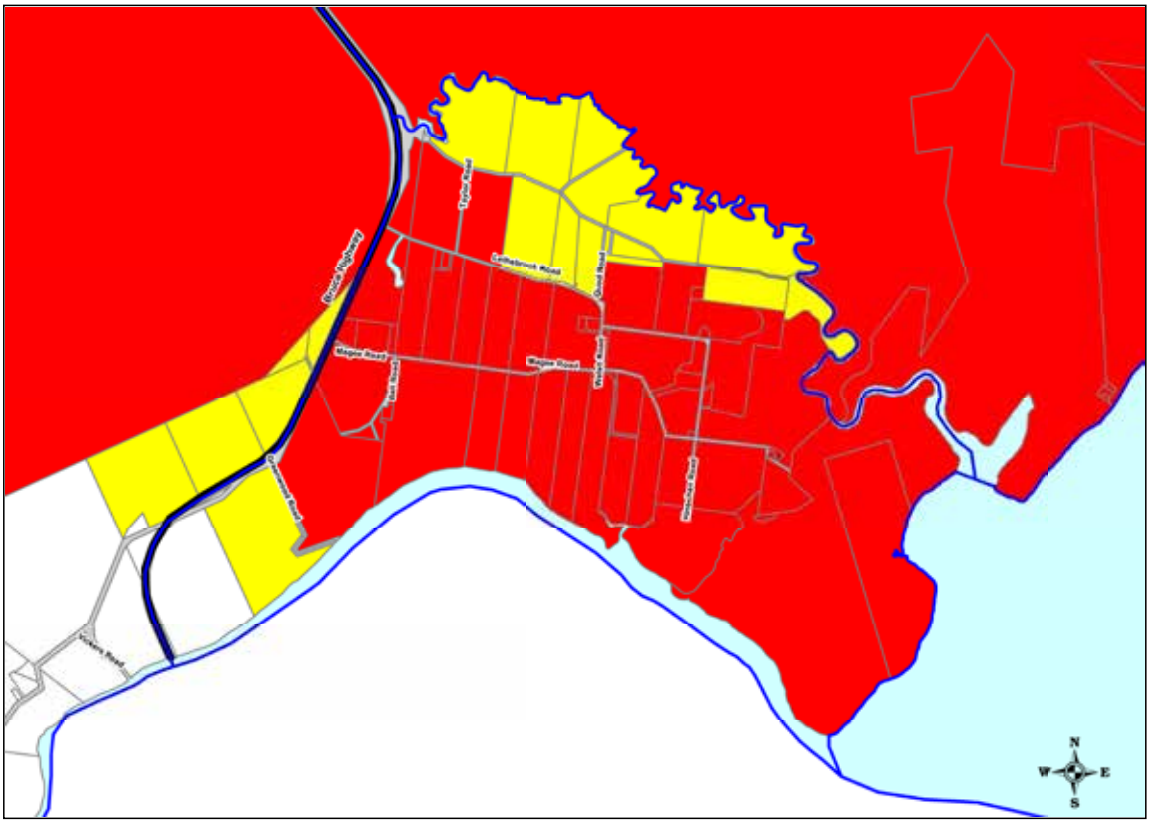
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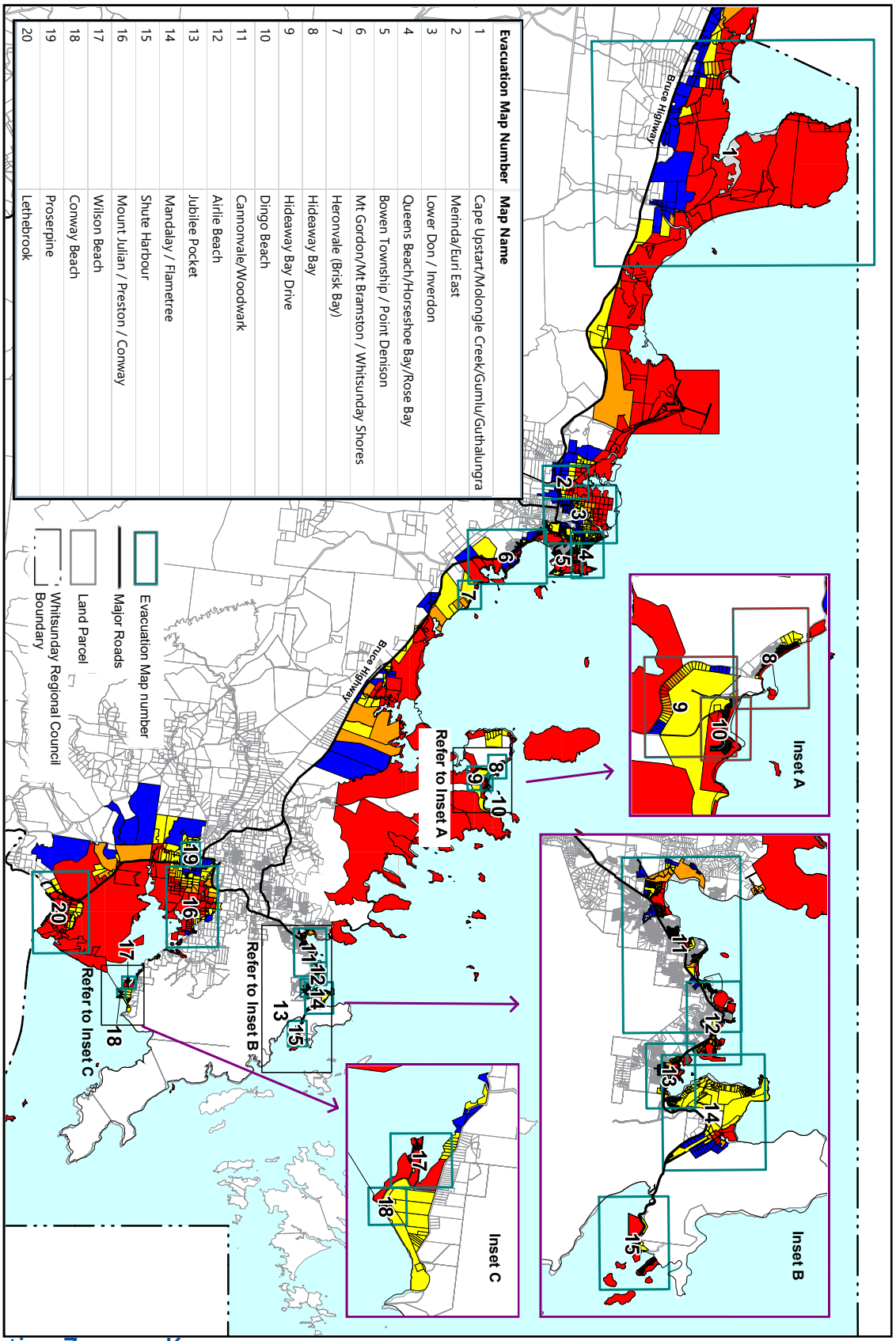


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Evacuation Map Number	Map Name
1	Cape Upstart/Molongle Creek/Gumlu/Guthalungra
2	Merinda/Euri East
3	Lower Don / Inverdon
4	Queens Beach/Horseshoe Bay/Rose Bay
5	Bowen Township / Point Denison
6	Mt Gordon/Mt Bramston / Whitsunday Shores
7	Heronvale (Brisk Bay)
8	Hideaway Bay
9	Hideaway Bay Drive
10	Dingo Beach
11	Cannonvale/Woodwark
12	Airlie Beach
13	Jubilee Pocket
14	Mandalay / Flametree
15	Shute Harbour
16	Mount Julian / Preston / Conway
17	Wilson Beach
18	Conway Beach
19	Proserpine
20	Lethebrook

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Community Recovery

What is it?

Recovering from a disaster is a multifaceted process that involves addressing various aspects of community life, including economic stability, environmental restoration, social well-being, and infrastructure repair.

This process is complex and dynamic, relying heavily on the resilience and active participation of the affected community. Recognising the diversity within the community is essential, as recovery efforts must cater to a wide range of immediate and evolving needs, potentially leading to long-term impacts. While quick action is expected, resource limitations may pose challenges.

Success depends on understanding the local context, employing community-led approaches, coordinating efforts effectively, and building local capacity. The Whitsunday Regional Council remains committed to fostering community resilience and applying lessons learned from past recovery efforts, such as the transition from "Recovery" to "Business as Usual" (BAU) after TC Debbie. Ongoing projects are now seen as resilience-building initiatives within the BAU framework.

Did you know?

There are still recovery projects and activities happening in the Whitsunday region, but as we are in the phase of Business as Usual we look at them as resilience activities.

Recovery Functions

Effective disaster recovery requires a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach that involves careful planning, needs analysis, and consequence management, alongside robust community engagement and service delivery. The recovery process is organised into key functional areas—economic stability, environmental recovery, social well-being, and infrastructure repair—each led by a designated agency whose role aligns with their core responsibilities.

These functions are adaptable based on the nature and impact of the disaster. For instance, a marine oil spill may require a greater focus on environmental and economic recovery, while a cyclone might prioritise infrastructure and property repairs. In contrast, a pandemic may necessitate an emphasis on social recovery and communication strategies. Functional areas may be further subdivided to ensure that significant impacts receive appropriate resources and strategic direction.

The State Recovery Group (SRG), part of the State Disaster Management Group (SDMG), coordinates recovery activities across these functional areas, supporting local and district groups during recovery operations. Lead agencies and their partners work closely with the community to rebuild and enhance cohesion and capacity, fostering a resilient community as quickly as possible. Effective communication about recovery processes and progress is essential to maintaining public confidence, with early development of metrics and milestones critical for tracking and sharing progress.

Human Social

Human-Social recovery includes personal support and information, physical health and emotional, psychological, spiritual, cultural and social well-being, public safety and education, temporary accommodation, financial assistance to meet immediate individual needs and respond to uninsured household loss and damage.



Economic

Economic recovery includes renewal and growth of the micro economy within the affected area, and includes individual and household entities (e.g. employment, income, insurance claims), private and government business enterprises and industry. It includes assets, production and flow of goods and services. It includes capacity for the export of goods and services from the affected region and securing confidence of overseas markets.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure or built environment recovery includes repair and reconstruction of residential and public buildings, commercial or industrial structures, government structures, utility structures, systems and services (transport, water, sewage, energy, and communications) and other essential services.

Environmental

Environmental or natural environment recovery includes restoration and regeneration of biodiversity (species and plants) and ecosystems, natural resources, environmental infrastructure, amenity/aesthetics (e.g. scenic lookouts), culturally significant sites and heritage structures. It includes management of environmental health, waste, contamination, pollution and hazardous materials.

Cleaning Up

After a disaster, wait until hazards are cleared, essential services are restored,and the site is declared safe before returning home. Wear protective clothing when cleaning up and take necessary precautions.

Insurance

Consider key insurance types: home building, home contents, and motor insurance. Focus on your level of cover and excess amounts. To make a claim:

- Keep your insurer's contact details safe.
- Contact your insurer immediately after the event.
- Make temporary repairs to prevent further damage and take photos before starting.
- Store damaged items in a safe place for possible inspection.

Register, Find, Reunite (Australian Red Cross)

The Red Cross helps you register, find, and reunite with loved ones during disasters. Volunteers offer emotional and practical support, help with immediate needs like emergency housing, and manage evacuation centers during large-scale emergencies.

GIVIT

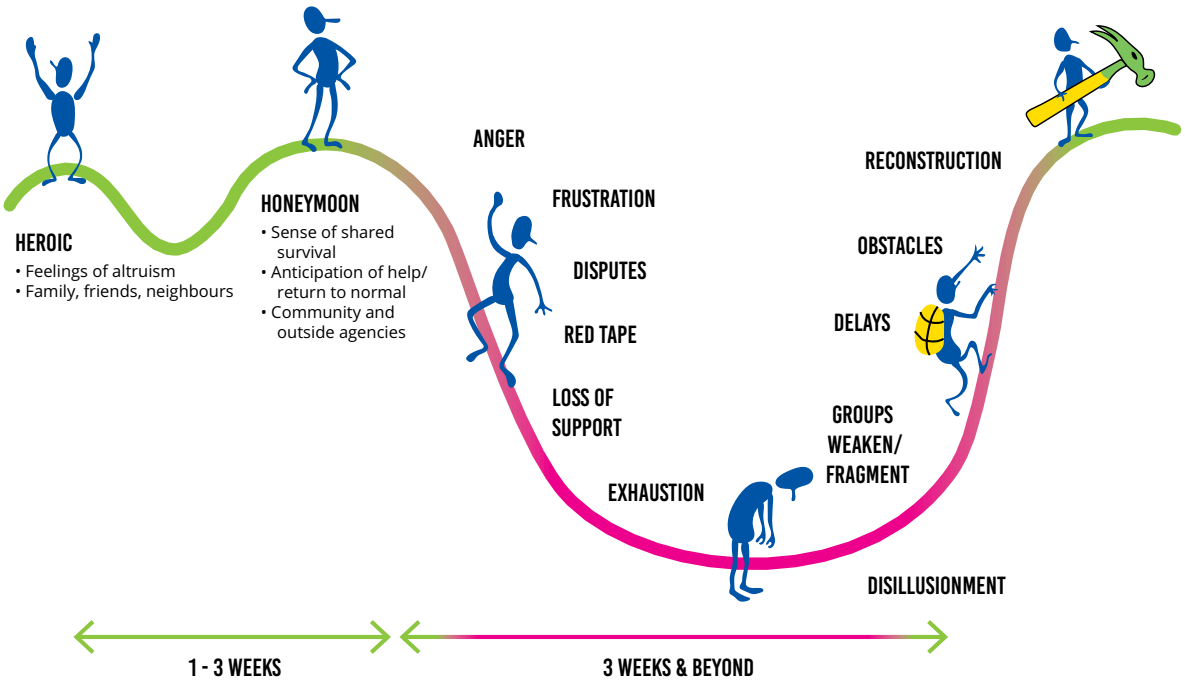
The Whitsunday Regional Council partners with GIVIT to manage donations for vulnerable community members. GIVIT connects donors with those in need through an online portal. Local charities can access a national network for quality donated items, and the public can donate through GIVIT's virtual warehouse.

Useful Links

Emergency Volunteering:
emergencyvolunteering.com.au/qld

QLD Government:
qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/disasters

Disaster Dashboard:
disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au



Community Resilience

What is it?

Community resilience is a community's capacity to absorb disturbance and respond positively to crisis.

Resilient communities are ones where residents are connected to one another and work together in ways that enable it to function in the face of stress and trauma. It has the ability to adapt to changes in the physical,social or economic environment and is able to learn from experience and improve over time. A community's positive response to a disaster can also allow us to focus on our capabilities and strengths and less on our vulnerabilities. There is no hard and fast rule on how to build community resilience however it is best strengthened continuously, not just in times of crisis.

For example, do you know your neighbours?Are you actively involved in your local community?

Do you know what to do before,during and after a natural disaster?

Getting Actionable about Resilience

The Whitsunday Regional Council and Whitsunday Recovery Group will take a coordinating role for community resilience in the Whitsunday region, working with our communities and key stakeholders to contribute to the ongoing evolution of this strategy and our collective objectives.

The Whitsunday Recovery Group will establish a community resilience collective as a mechanism to engage communities, community leaders, community organisations, government and other stakeholders in the role out of this strategy and its ongoing development. Participation and involvement of the community is integral to building trust and buy-in for community resilience initiatives. Adopting an approach to community resilience that empowers communities to determine their own goals and outcomes is a considerable shift from the traditional "top-down" approach of the disaster management sector. However, we believe that an empowered community is more resilient and adaptive in the face of change.



Your important information

Personal Emergency Contacts:

Notes:

Notes:

disaster.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

get ready QUEENSLAND

Queensland Government

Disaster Dashboard

Be DISASTER aware.

Take action and prepare.

1300 WRC QLD (1300 972 753)
info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au | whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au

Whitsunday Regional Council

2024-2026 | OCT26