

CYCLONE
INFORMATION

get
ready
QUEENSLAND

FIVE STEPS TO GET READY FOR A CYCLONE



STEP ONE - UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

What is a cyclone?

The Rockhampton Region is at risk of CYCLONES, as the community has seen with Tropical Cyclones Marcia and Debbie causing significant damage in recent years. Cyclones are powerful weather systems that can cause significant damage to the built and natural environment. They form from low pressure systems that develop over warm oceans in the tropics, and generally intensify over several days, generating severe winds, strong rain and flooding.

The Australian cyclone season officially runs from November to April, although very few have occurred in November. On average about eleven cyclones form in the Australian region each cyclone season. This represents about 13% of the global total.

Tropical cyclone severity categories

The severity of a tropical cyclone is described in terms of categories ranging from 1 (weakest) to 5 (strongest).

Category	Maximum mean wind (km/hr)	Typical strongest gust (km/hr)	Typical effects
1	63-88	<125	Damaging winds. Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Craft may drag moorings.
2	89-117	125-164	Destructive winds. Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small craft may break moorings.
3	118-159	165-224	Very destructive winds. Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failures likely. (e.g. Clare, Olwyn)
4	160-199	225-279	Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures. (e.g. Tracy, Debbie, Lam)
5	>200	>279	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction. (e.g. Vance, Marcia, Yasi)

For more information on cyclones, head over to the Bureau of Meteorology's [Tropical Cyclone Knowledge Centre](#).

Tropical cyclone advice - Watch and Warning

A Tropical Cyclone Advice is issued whenever a tropical cyclone is likely to cause winds in excess of 62 km/h (gale force) over Australian communities within the next 48 hours. The Tropical Cyclone Advice lets people know when they might be affected by issuing either a Watch or Warning for each community in the path of the cyclone.

- A **Tropical Cyclone Watch** is issued for coastal communities when the onset of gales is expected within 48 hours, but not within 24 hours.
- A **Tropical Cyclone Warning** is issued for coastal communities when the onset of gales is expected within 24 hours or are already occurring.

Keep up-to-date with cyclone warnings by logging on to [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

STEP TWO - MAKE A PLAN

Prepare your household emergency and evacuation plan to keep you and your family or household members connected and safe in the event you become separated during a natural disaster. For more information and to complete your plan online access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

STEP THREE - PACK SUPPLIES

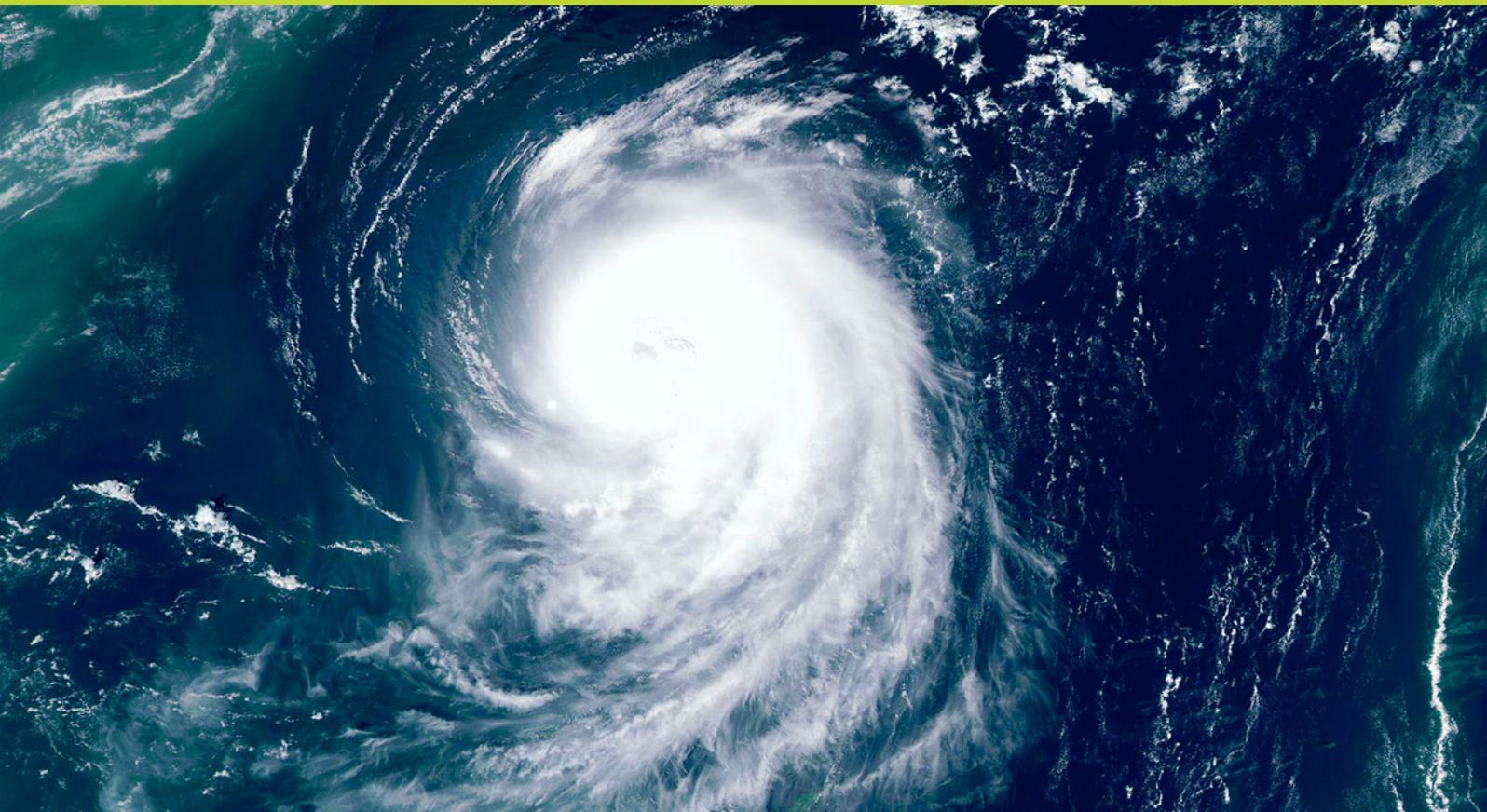
Pack your Emergency Kit with essential supplies in the case you are unable to leave your home for an extended period of time, and your Evacuation Kit if it becomes unsafe to remain and you need to leave your home. For more information and a checklist of supplies to pack in your kits access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

STEP FOUR - PREPARE YOUR HOME

There is no better time than now to get your home prepared so you are ready for the next time a cyclone occurs. For more information on home maintenance and home preparations for when a cyclone is imminent access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).

STEP FIVE - PROTECT YOUR PET

In emergency situations, pets are often the most vulnerable member of the family. It's important to consider what will happen to our pets in the event of a natural disaster. For more information on protecting your pet during a cyclone, including supplies needed for your Pet Emergency Kit, access **Your Emergency Guide** on [Council's Emergency Dashboard](#).



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