

STORM PREPARED



Council says we are better prepared for storms and floods than this time last year.
REPORT BELOW

READER MESSAGE

Like many of its readers, the *Caboolture Shire Herald* will take a break over the Christmas and New Year period, returning on January 17. However, the *Herald's* sister paper, the *Northern Times*, will be published as normal this Friday, and again on December 21, January 4 and 11. For more local news, visit questnews.com.au.

Caboolture Shire Herald



UP NEXT: NewsTour of the Moreton Bay region.



PAGE 12: *Herald* wins Quest paper of the year award.



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NEWS

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MUST-HAVE DISASTER INFORMATION



EMERGENCY KIT

1. Battery-operated radio (with spare batteries)
2. Torch with spare batteries or a gas lantern and waterproof matches
3. Strong shoes, gloves, hats and protective clothing
4. First aid kit and manual
5. Medications, toiletry supplies
6. Water in sealed containers - 10 litres per person
7. Canned or dried food with tin opener
8. Pet food, water and other supplies
9. Portable stove and fuel
10. Household emergency plan with contact numbers
11. Car charger for mobile phone

EVACUATION CENTRES

- **Bray Park:** Les Hughes Sports Complex, Francis Rd
- **Bongaree:** Bribie Island Rec Hall, 156A First Ave
- **Burpengary:** Burpengary Community Hall, 101 Station Rd
- **Caboolture:** Caboolture Combined Services Club Hall, 21B Hayes St
- **Dayboro:** Dayboro Community Hall, 6 Bradley St
- **Deception Bay:** Deception Bay PCYC, 100 Maine Tce
- **Kallangur:** Kallangur Community Centre, 1480 Anzac Ave

- **Marayfield:** Grant Road Sports & Community Complex, 28 Grant Rd
- **Narangba:** Narangba Community Centre, 227 Mackie Rd
- **North Lakes:** North Lakes Community Centre, Lakefield Dr
- **Redcliffe:** Redcliffe Showgrounds, Scarborough Rd
- **Strathpine:** Strathpine Community Centre, 199 Gympie Rd
- **Woodford:** Woodford Memorial Community Hall, 103 Archer St

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- **Emergency services (ambulance, police, fire):** 000
- **State Emergency Service:** 132 500
- **Policelink (for non-urgent):** 131 444
- **Moreton Bay Regional Council:** 3205 0555
- **Health advice:** 13HEALTH (13 432 584)
- **Energex:** 13 62 62
- **Unitywater (24 hours):** 5431 8333
- **Animal emergencies:** 1300ANIMAL (1300 852 188)
- **Wildlife emergencies:** 1300 130 372
- **Marine rescue:** 3408 7596
- **Crime Stoppers:** 1800 333 000

SOURCE: Moreton Bay Regional Council

SNAPSHOT

Residents told to go on storm footing

AUTHORITIES are warning residents to get their homes ready for significant rainfall and storms that long-range forecasters predict will arrive in coming weeks.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Allan Sutherland said up to 200mm of rain was expected before the new year.

"When it is safe to do so, people should be taking care to clean up their yards, trim trees, unblock drains, gutters and check their roof for any leaks," he said.

Cr Sutherland said the council recommended residents take four steps to get storm ready.

"Know the risks of heavy rainfall and flooding around your property," he said.

"Be prepared with a household emergency plan about what you would do if a storm cut power, damaged your house or caused major flooding."

"Your emergency plan should include a kit of emergency phone numbers, a battery operated radio, torch, spare batteries, food, bottled-water and first-aid kit."

"Stay alert and tune your battery-operated radio to 101.5FM, 99.7FM or ABC 612AM for regular weather updates from the Bureau of Meteorology (also available at bom.gov.au)."

"Be ready to move furniture off the ground, position sandbags or evacuate."

Cr Sutherland said there were a number of resources at moretonbay.qld.gov.au/disaster to help families prepare for the storm season. He said residents should also register with council's MoretonAlert system - moretonbay.qld.gov.au/moretonalert - for flash flooding alerts via text, voice message or email.

Region's ready - mayor

FINAL TEST: A CYCLONE SCENARIO TESTED THE RESPONSE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND KEY AGENCIES

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AUTHORITIES are better prepared for this year's storm season with Moreton Bay Regional Council mayor Allan Sutherland giving them a 9/10 for readiness.

The final testing of a flash flood alert system is spearheading changes to the way authorities handle disasters following criticism of their response to January's floods.

Cr Sutherland said before this disaster he would have rated services at 6/10 for their preparation.

"I'm not going to say we'll never get caught out because no situation is the same and there is no one-size-fits-all solution but we're as prepared as we can be."

Cr Sutherland said MBRC had adopted the majority of recommendations from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry interim report including flood maps and a list of evacuation centres on council's website.

"Our social media capacity has been expanded with a new council Facebook page and Twitter account ready for activation to provide in-

formation to residents during significant disaster events," Cr Sutherland said.

"A new alert system called MoretonAlert is in the final stage of testing and has around 1000 residents in key areas registered to receive messages by SMS, landline telephone and other means."

Earlier this month, local government, emergency services and key agencies including Unitywater and Energex took part in a disaster management scenario of a cyclone.

Local Disaster Management Group chair Cr Brian

Battersby said all involved responded well, but the preparedness of authorities was only one part of the equation.

"Residents must take charge of their own safety," he said.

SES Moreton Bay local controller Henk van den Ende said the region's 280 SES volunteers, and more in training, were ready to act.

"(After January's floods), we identified some shortcomings and fixed up how we did a few things," he said.

"We have increased the number of members trained

in height safety (fixing roofs) and increased the number of trained members."

Redcliffe Fire Station station officer Scott Marles said the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service had improved its communications, revamped its training and added more equipment, including more swift water rescue gear, to its stocks.

"What we would like to see is for the community not to put themselves in to dangerous situations such as driving through floodwaters or letting children play near storm water drains," he said.

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