

Appendix 4 – Port Kennedy

Extreme Weather Contingency Plan – 2024 - 2025

Department of Transport and Main Roads — Maritime Safety Queensland, September 2024

Document history

Date	Version	Comments
September 2023	1	Original
November 2023	1.1	Minor amendment, inclusion of chartlet
September 2024	2	Reviewed for currency. Minor updates only to dates and webpage.

Port Kennedy

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

Extreme Weather Event

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

Yellow – Advice

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

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

Note: When conditions are deteriorating, every endeavour will be made to accommodate the working of cargo in the available time, allowing for tidal constraints.

Orange – Watch and Act

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

- Sail all ships (note: It may already have been necessary to have sailed some ships due to tidal conditions).
- In the event that a ship cannot sail, arrange linesmen, instruct master to take standard cyclone precautions.
- On water authorities prepare to depart.
- All small vessels are to move to their designated area and final preparations and tying off completed.
- Owners of recreational vessels should be moored in the designated areas with final preparations and tying off complete.

Red - Emergency Warning

Destructive Winds, Swell or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 6 Hours

Port Closed

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

Yellow – Advice

After The Event Has Passed, Recovery Underway

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

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

Mariners should maintain a listening watch on VHF channels 16 and 12 and follow advice/directions given by Thursday Island Port Control.

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

White – All clear

Port open to all traffic, business as usual

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

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

Communication

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

From the commencement of Yellow Alert, the Torres Shire Council Operations Room will become the Port Kennedy Emergency Control Centre (ECC). The ECC will monitor VHF channel 16 and telephone 4069 1336.

The ECC will relay messages from the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) and act as co-ordination and control centre.

Once in position, all vessels are to contact the ECC and advise them of the area in which they are moored and how many people will be remaining on board. If a vessel is to be left unattended, its owners are to advise the control centre of their contact telephone numbers.

To ensure an orderly evacuation, follow the schedule announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF channel 16.

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

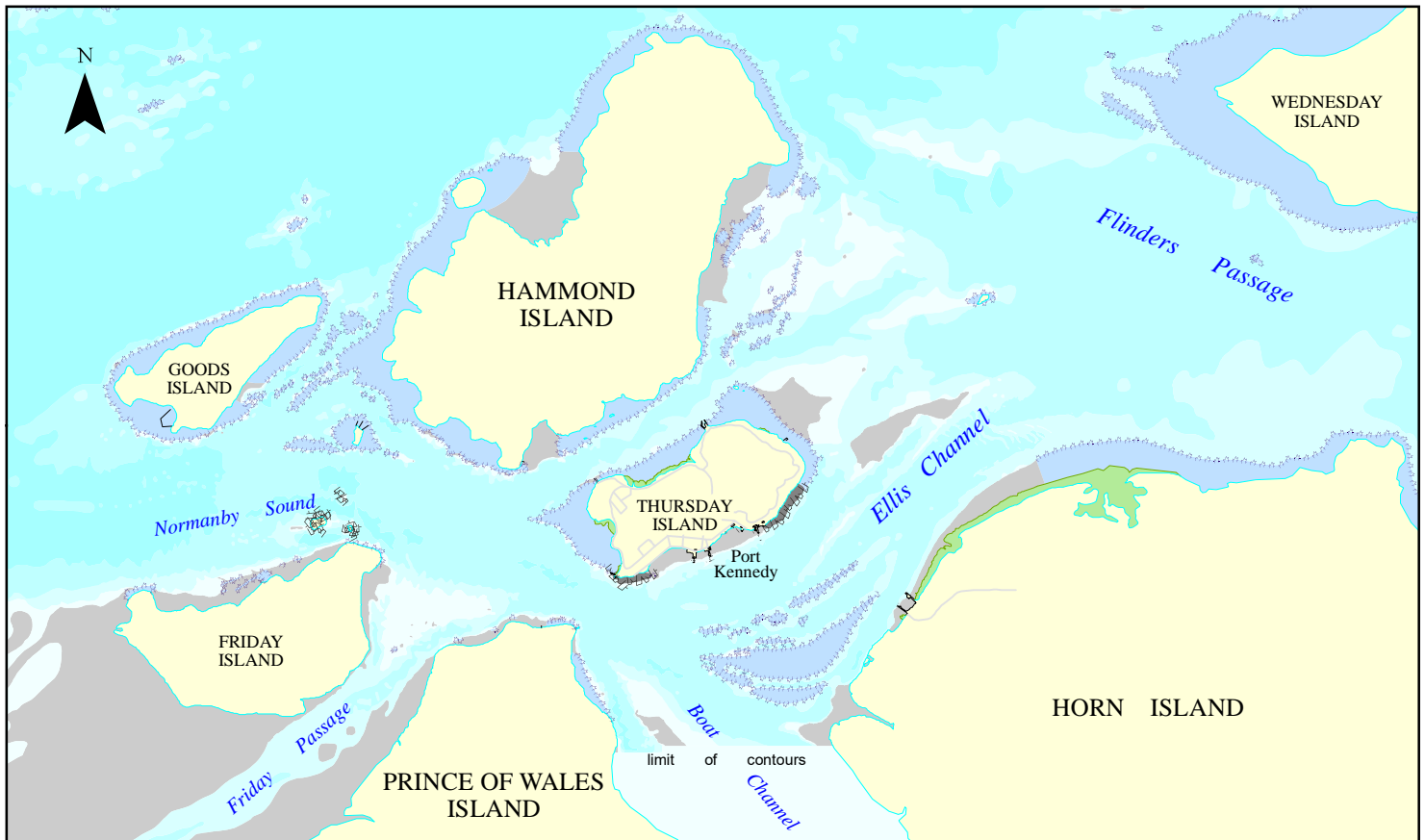
Key Contacts

Name	Contact Number
Regional Harbour Master	07 4052 7400
MSQ Thursday Island	07 40691351
Ports North	07 4069 1405
Torres Shire Council (ECC)	07 4069 1336
TI Port Control (Cairns VTS)	1300 551 899
Water Police - Cairns	07 4057 3577
Water Police – Thursday Island	07 4069 1520
Boating and Fisheries Patrol	07 4035 0700

Key Websites

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

MARITIME EXTREME WEATHER EVENT PLAN (CYCLONE) PORT OF PORT KENNEDY



OBJECTIVE:

To have the port area evacuated at least six hours before destructive winds commence, and to have all vessels safely anchored by that time.

All vessels, other than those being used for emergency purposes, are to evacuate and clear the port area. Owners should be aware that should they leave their vessel in the port area, they may be liable to prosecution and, additionally, be held accountable for any damage that their vessel may cause or incur.

VESSEL COMMUNICATIONS & CONTROL CENTRE:

From the commencement of Yellow Watch, the Torres Shire Council Operations Room will become the PORT KENNEDY EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE (ECC).

The ECC will monitor VHF ch 16 and telephone (07) 4069 1336.

The ECC will relay messages from the Regional Harbour Master and act as co-ordination and control centre.

Once in position, all vessels are to contact the ECC and advise them of the area in which they are moored and how many people will be remaining onboard.

If a vessel is to be left unattended, its owners are to advise the Control Centre of their contact telephone numbers.

To ensure an orderly evacuation, the following schedule is to be observed when announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF ch 16.

Yellow -



Advice

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

Vessels move to safe anchorage areas.

- It is suggested that larger vessels proceed to either Wednesday Island or alternatively Normanby Sound/Goods Island anchorage depending on the predicted track and direction of the cyclone.
- It is suggested that smaller vessels proceed to Horn Island or the Boat Channel between Horn Island and Prince of Wales Island depending on the predicted track and direction of the cyclone.
- All vessel owners/masters should select their anchorage while exercising due diligence in regard to good seamanship.
- The ECC will advise vessels when they should move during this phase.

Orange -



Watch and Act

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

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

Red -



Emergency Warning

Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within **6 hours**.

Port closed.

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

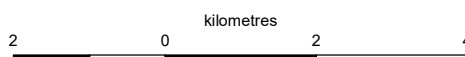
Map S10c-7-9

Map Datum: GDA2020

Map projection: UTM MGA Zone 54

Prepared 14 November 2023

Maritime Safety Queensland - Spatial Services



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