

Appendix 5 – Cape Flattery & Cooktown

Extreme Weather Event 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.

Cape Flattery & Cooktown

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

- Review 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) via Cape Flattery Port Control 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.

- All smaller vessels should prepare to move to designated cyclone mooring areas of the Endeavor River, within the mangrove area.

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 large merchant 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 should 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 completed.

Note: The anchoring of large vessels upstream is not recommended due to tidal surges that could inundate the area, which, with high winds, may well strand vessels inland of the river system, making any salvage extremely difficult.

Red - Emergency Warning

Destructive Winds, Swell or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 6 Hours

Port Closed

Vessels are not to leave their cyclone moorings 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 which actions need to be addressed. Do not assume that as the extreme weather event has passed it is safe to move your vessel.

Vessels 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 frequency 13 and follow advice/directions from Cape Flattery 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.

Mariners are to consult the latest Notices to Mariners for updated information on Port depths and conditions.

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 berth will be re-opened and operations resumed when structural assessments have been completed and wind and sea conditions are within operational limits.

Communication

Cape Flattery

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

From the commencement of Yellow Advice, the Cape Flattery Silica Mines main office will become the Cape Flattery Emergency Control Centre (ECC). The ECC will monitor VHF channel **16** and telephone 07 4043 1111.

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, the schedule is to be observed when announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF channel **13**.

Cape Flattery Port Control, will implement the extreme weather event contingency plan on behalf of the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) by acting as a central communications point and will be designated as the Maritime Control Centre for the duration and aftermath of the extreme weather event.

The vessel Maritime Control Centre call sign will be '**Cape Flattery Port Control**'.

VHF channels **13** will be continuously monitored 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.

Cooktown

From the commencement of Yellow Advice, the Cooktown Police Station will become the Cooktown Emergency Control Centre (ECC). The ECC will monitor VHF channel **16** and telephone 4069 5320.

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, the alert schedule is to be observed when announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF channel **16**.

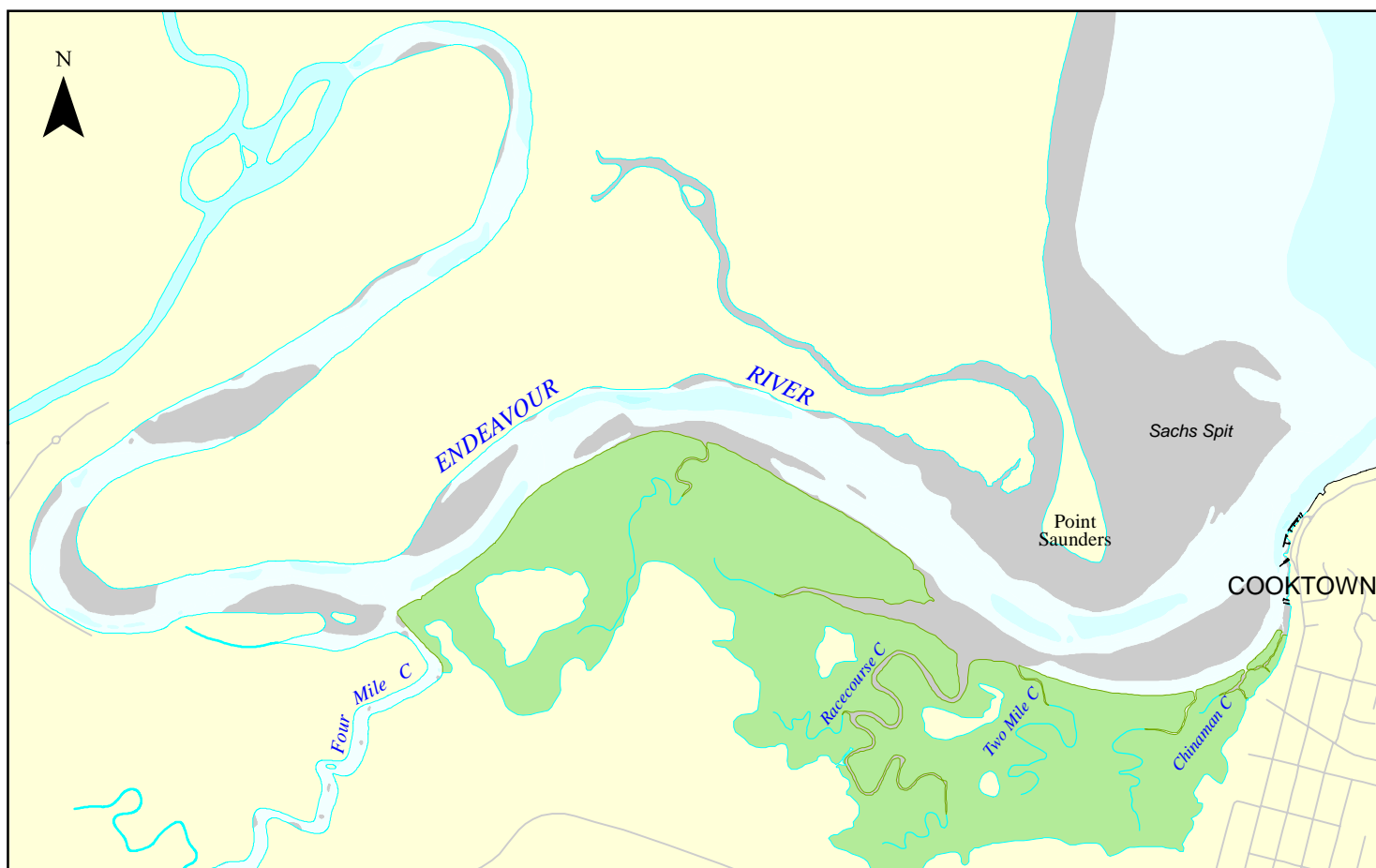
Key Contacts

Name	Contact Number
Regional Harbour Master	07 4052 7400
Cape Flattery Port Control	1300 551 899
Cape Flattery Silica Mine Emergency Control Centre	07 4043 1111
Ports North	07 4051 2558
Cooktown Police	07 4069 5688

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 COOKTOWN



OBJECTIVE:

To have the port area evacuated at least six hours before destructive winds commence, and to have all vessels safely moored in their designated areas of shelter 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:

CAIRNS VTS, at the Harbour Master's Office (Tingira Street) will be the Maritime Control Centre.

VHF Channel 13 will be continuously monitored.
The vessel Communications & Control Centre callsign will be "Cape Flattery Port Control".

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 cyclone mooring areas.
The Emergency Control Centre will advise vessels when they should move during this phase.
Vessels must not impede the progress of smaller craft to higher reaches of the creeks.

Orange - Watch and Act

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

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

Red - Emergency Warning

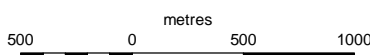
Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within **6 hours**.

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-4-8

Map Datum: GDA2020
Map projection: UTM MGA Zone 55
Prepared 14 November 2023
Maritime Safety Queensland - Spatial Services



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MARITIME EXTREME WEATHER EVENT PLAN (CYCLONE) PORT OF CAPE FLATTERY



OBJECTIVE:

To have the port area evacuated at least six hours before destructive winds commence, and to have all vessels safely moored in their designated areas of shelter 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:

CAIRNS VTS, at the Harbour Master's Office (Tingira Street) will be the Maritime Control Centre.

VHF Channel 13 will be continuously monitored.
The vessel Communications & Control Centre callsign will be "Cape Flattery Port Control".

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 sea or designated cyclone mooring areas. It is essential that vessels avoid blocking off access to upper reaches and remain tied off to one side until it is obvious that all vessels that may wish to pass have done so.

Orange - Watch and Act

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

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

Red - Emergency Warning

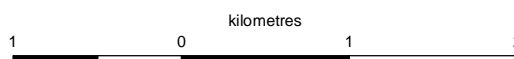
Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within **6 hours**.

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-6-8

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