

Appendix 7 – Cairns & Half Moon Bay

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 amendments, inclusion of chartlets.
September 2024	2	Reviewed for currency. Cairns chartlet updated. Dates updated.

Cairns & Half Moon Bay

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 Cairns VTS 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 such as the reef fleet and commercial fishing vessels should prepare to move to designated cyclone mooring areas.
- Owners of recreational vessels are to follow the directions given in the chartlets 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

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

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).
- Naval vessels will be directed by the Base Commander
- In the event that a ship cannot sail, arrange linesmen, instruct master to take standard cyclone precautions.
- On water authorities prepare to depart.
- All smaller vessels such as the reef fleet and commercial fishing vessels to move and be moored in the designated areas, whether it be at cyclone moorings or mangrove areas in the Appendix 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.

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

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.

Port Closed

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, 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 frequencies 16 and 12 and follow advice/directions given by Cairns VTS.
- Movements will be at the RHM's discretion and can be in stages including limited 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 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.

The Cairns Vessel Traffic Service, at the Regional Harbour Master Office Cairns, will be the Maritime Control Centre.

The Vessel Traffic Services Centre will implement the extreme weather event contingency plan on behalf of the Regional Harbour Master by acting as the central communications point and will be designated as the Maritime Control Centre for the duration and aftermath of the extreme weather event.

The Maritime Control Centre call sign will be Cairns VTS.

From the commencement of Yellow Advice, the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club will become the Half Moon Bay Emergency Control Centre (ECC). The ECC will monitor VHF channel **16** and telephone 4055 7711.

From the commencement of Yellow Advice, Cairns VTS will become the Maritime Emergency Control Centre and will monitor VHF channel **16** and **12**. VHF channels **16** and **12** will be continuously monitored before and during the extreme weather event, unless the centre is evacuated.

Maritime Safety Queensland may contact stakeholders via SMS and/or email regarding information to potential extreme weather events or extreme weather events.

Updates on whether broadcasts and conditions in your local vicinity may be broadcast by the local coastguard or marine rescue stations, initiated on VHF channel **16**.

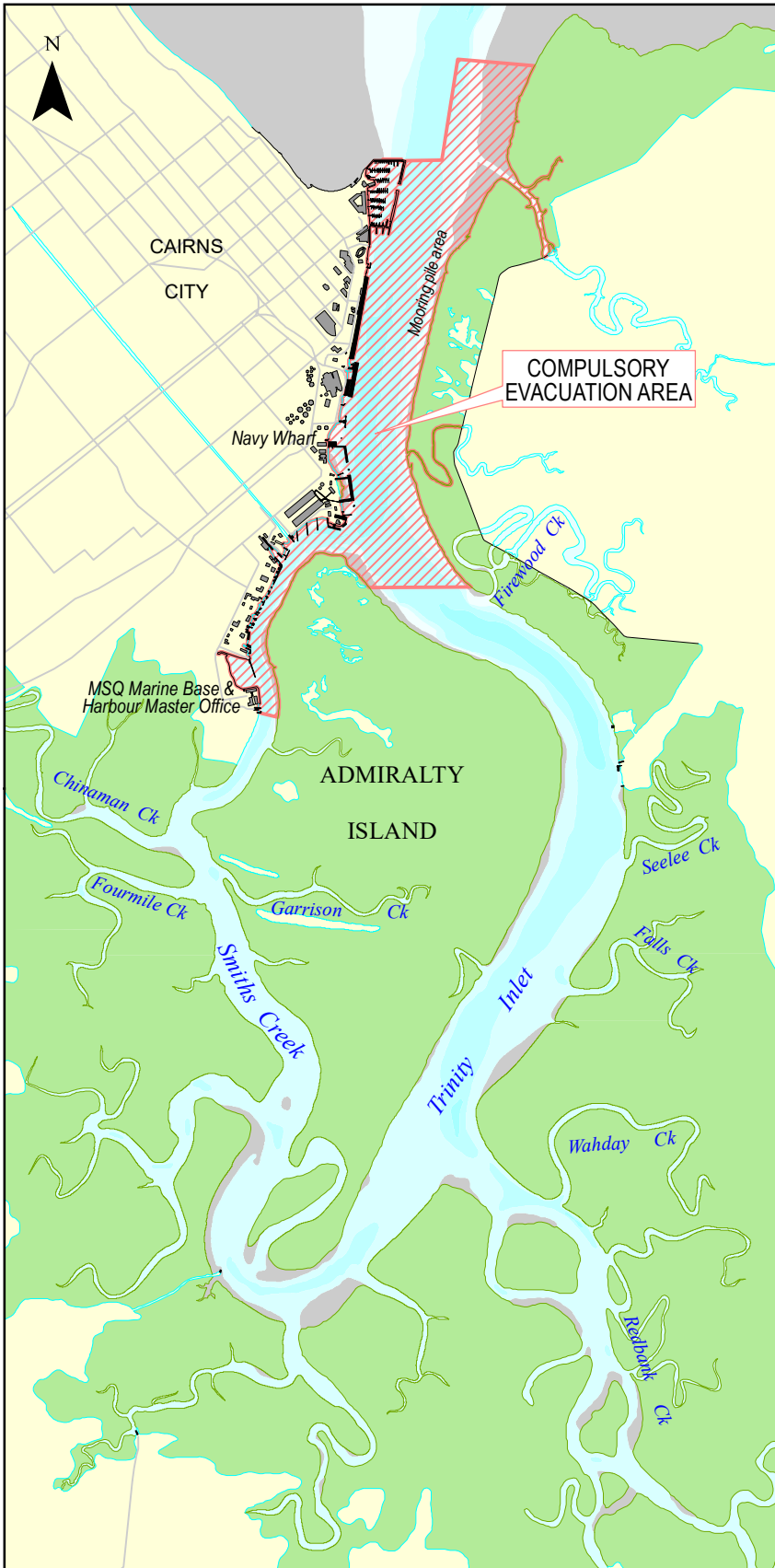
Key Contacts

Name	Contact Number
Regional Harbour Master	07 4052 7400
Cairns Vessel Traffic	1300 551 899
Marlin Marina	07 4052 3866
Ports North	07 4051 2558
Water Police	07 4057 3577
Boating & Fisheries Patrol	07 4035 0700
Yorkeys Knob Boat Club	07 4055 7711

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 CAIRNS



OBJECTIVE:

To have the port area evacuated at least six hours before destructive winds commence, and to have small vessels safely moored in their preferred areas of shelter by that time.

VESSEL COMMUNICATIONS & CONTROL CENTRE:

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

VHF Channels 12 & 16 will be continuously monitored. The vessel Communications & Control Centre callsign will be "Cairns VTS".

To ensure an orderly evacuation, the following schedule is to be observed when announced by the Regional Harbour Master (Cairns) over VHF ch16.

Yellow - Advice

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

Prepare to move and then move.

Small vessels and vessels with draughts less than 2 metres should move to the upper reaches of the creeks. Owners should moor their vessels safely and avoid blocking access across creeks with mooring lines.

Orange - Watch and Act

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

All large merchant vessels will be directed to proceed to sea.

Naval vessels will be directed by the Base Commander.

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

Red - Emergency Warning

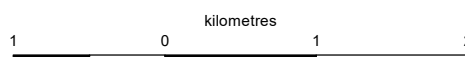
Destructive winds forecast to affect the area within **6 hours.**

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-1-13

Map Datum: GDA2020
Map projection: UTM MGA Zone 55
Prepared 4 September 2024
Maritime Safety Queensland - Spatial Services

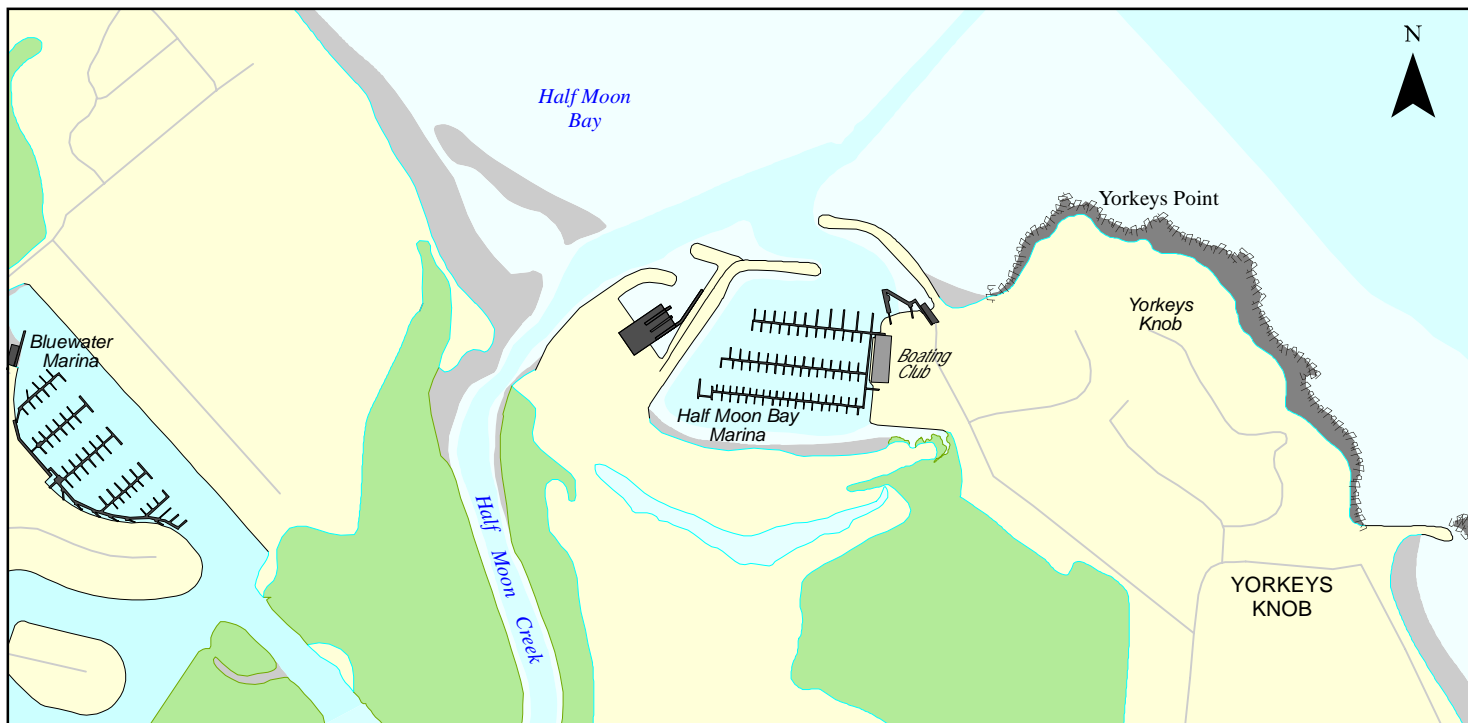


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MARITIME EXTREME WEATHER EVENT PLAN (CYCLONE) HALF MOON BAY



OBJECTIVE:

To have the 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.

Half Moon Bay Marina has been built to withstand a "50 year cyclone", that is, one with a degree of severity statistically expected to occur once every fifty years. It is of sound construction but it should not be expected to provide the same protection afforded by the mangrove lined creeks off Trinity Inlet.

However, that superior protection is some 10 miles distant from Half Moon Bay and the availability there must be weighted against the danger to property and life in evacuating small craft from the marina during the deteriorating weather conditions that usually precede a cyclone. Consequently, the following Cyclone Contingency Plan has been agreed for the marina. The procedures will be supervised by the Marina Manager who will report to the Regional Harbour Master at the completion of each stage.

VESSEL COMMUNICATIONS & CONTROL CENTRE:

From the commencement of Yellow Watch the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club Building will become the HALF MOON BAY EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE (ECC). The ECC will monitor VHF ch 16 and telephone (07) 4055 7711. 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 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.**

All vessels over 18 metres in length will vacate the marina and proceed to Trinity Inlet. Once there, those vessels may proceed to any of the creeks off Trinity Inlet. Vessels must not impede the progress of smaller craft to higher reaches of the creeks. All vessels in Berths C3 to C19 will relocate to other berths in the marina or, if none available, proceed to Trinity Inlet, as described above.

Orange - Watch and Act

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

All vessels to secure themselves in their berths to the satisfaction of the marina management.

Red - Emergency Warning

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

All personnel to evacuate boats in the marina and proceed to an area of shelter.

Marina closed.

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

Map S10c-2-7

Map Datum: GDA2020
Map projection: UTM MGA Zone 55
Prepared 14 November 2023

Maritime Safety Queensland - Spatial Services



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