



**TOWNSVILLE**  
**YACHT CLUB**

**Cyclone  
And  
Severe Weather  
Marina Plan**



The Cyclone & Severe Weather Marina Plan (CP) has been established to ensure that procedures prior to and following the event of a cyclone are conducted in a manner to assist in the protection of personnel and equipment within the Townsville Yacht Club (TYC) facility and marina. This plan also helps ensure that all efforts are coordinated with the relevant agencies and are executed in the most sound and safest manner possible.

If the relevant agencies' Counter-Disaster Plan is activated, the relevant agencies will inform the public as to the requirements under the plan. This will be done through radio, television and with the help of other support agencies such as Queensland Police and SES.

To streamline and standardise emergency actions within the local regional context, the responses to cyclone and severe weather conditions within the TYC facility and marina will be largely based on the protocol established for the Port of Townsville.

This CP forms part of the TYC Emergency Response Plan and is reviewed annually by the Club Manager and ratified by the board of directors.

**Tony Muller**

Commodore

Townsville Yacht Club

Plan Approved by TYC Board 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012

## 1. Warnings

The Priority stages for TYC will be the same as listed in the Port of Townsville Limited (POTL) Cyclone Plan and will be declared by the Club Manager based on advice from the Bureau of Meteorology, counter-disaster plan agencies and the Regional Harbour Master. Maritime Safety Queensland has an Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan which the Regional Harbour Master will implement.

Placards with the current level of alert status will be displayed at the club.

If required, the points of contacts in priority order are:

| <u>Title</u>                |                      | <u>BH</u> | <u>Mobile</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Club Manager.               | Mark Cruickshank     | 4772 1192 | 0448 266 210  |
| TYC Commodore.              | Tony Muller          |           | 0418 188559   |
| Marina Committee Chair.     | Murray Whitehead     |           | 0427 741 450  |
| Marina Committee            | Colin White          |           | 0438 724 847  |
| Live Aboard Representative. | Mark Fox (C/- Vixen) |           | 0409 005 426  |

## 2. Level of Alert

Port of Townsville Limited and TYC operates 3 levels of alert. These are normally indicated on the sign at the port entrance and the marina entrance to TYC.

The levels of alert are:

- **Condition Green-** Routine 01 November to 01 April each year.
- **Condition Yellow-** Indicates an intensifying risk of a cyclone or associated weather or storm.
- **Condition Orange -** This signals the requirement for final preparations and full evacuation of the port.
- **Condition Red-** Will be declared when a cyclone strike is imminent or the onset of extreme peripheral weather conditions associated with a high intensity cyclone. A red alert signals the requirement for immediate evacuation of the port and marina.

### Bureau of Meteorology Messages Classification

#### **Cyclone Watch**

A tropical low or a tropical cyclone exists but is unlikely to affect Townsville within the next 24 hours.

STAGE 1

TYC / POTL  
GREEN

|   |                |                   |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| <p><b>Cyclone Warning</b><br/>A tropical cyclone is expected to cause gale force winds within the next 24 hours.</p>  | <p>STAGE 2</p> | <p>YELLOW</p>     |
| <p><b>Cyclone Warning</b><br/>Increasing threat to Townsville destructive winds are likely to affect Townsville within the next 12 hours.</p>                       | <p>STAGE 3</p> | <p>YELLOW</p>     |
| <p><b>Cyclone Warning</b><br/>Impending threat to Townsville within the next 6 hours.</p>   | <p>STAGE 4</p> | <p>ORANGE/RED</p> |
| <p><b>Cyclone Warning</b><br/>Immediate threat to Townsville. Destructive winds have reached the outskirts of Townsville.</p>                                       | <p>STAGE 5</p> | <p>RED</p>        |
| <p><b>All Clear</b><br/>Declared by Bureau of Meteorology when destructive winds have passed. Stage 5 may be re-declared by Bureau of Meteorology if necessary.</p> | <p>STAGE 6</p> | <p>YELLOW</p>     |

The intensity of cyclones will be reported using the following categorisation system.

| CAT | Max Wind Gusts<br>(kmh) | Typical Effects  |
|-----|-------------------------|--|
| 1   | Less than 125           | Negligible house damage. Some damage to crops and foliage.           |
| 2   | 125 - 170               | Minor house damage. Significant damage to crops, signs and caravans. |
| 3   | 170 - 225               | Some roof and structural damage. Power failures likely.              |
| 4   | 225 - 280               | Significant roof and structural damage. Dangerous airborne debris.   |
| 5   | More than 280           | Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction                      |

### 3. Cyclone Actions

The following are specific actions to be conducted under each of the alert conditions.

#### **Condition green (Routine Readiness)**

##### **Club Manager Actions:**

- Monitor weather bulletins.
- Prepare evacuation plans in readiness

##### **All Persons**

- Follow advice for preparations as given by the Club Manager, Regional Harbour Master and relevant agencies as required.
- Review your contact details prior to November and ensure they are correct such that the club can contact you.
- Where possible inform the club manager of your contact details when travelling out of town and appoint a contactable local representative.
- Live aboards are to identify their cyclone refuge plan as they will not be allowed stay on their boats at condition red.
- Check durability of all synthetic ropes especially with regard to UV degradation by exposure to sunlight. If in doubt replace.
- Ready spare fenders and lines.
- Check bilge pumps and ensure they are serviceable.
- Check that drain openings are clear and that they can remain so.

#### **Condition Yellow**

##### **Club Manager Actions.**

- Regularly check, Print and display cyclone details (“Warnings”) on the notice boards.
- Track cyclone movement and update notices posted on notice boards.
- All vessels are to be secured appropriately and loose equipment stored effectively.
- Inadequately prepared boats may be secured at the direction of the Club Manager or his representative with all associated costs to be paid by the vessel owner.
- The Club Manager or Marina Committee Chair or their delegated representative will allocate berths and reposition vessels to ensure optimum safety for all vessels and the marina.
- People may be directed by a relevant agency to leave their boats and move onto land. If directed to do so, these directions must be followed. The control of ships and small craft

during cyclones and other severe weather conditions is the responsibility of the Regional Harbour Master.

- Follow directions of the Regional Harbour Master, Local Council and other relevant agencies with regard to evacuating persons off boats, for safe procedures adopt during the cyclone and for safe areas to reside during the cyclone.

### **All Persons**

- It is the responsibility of all members, visitors and occupants to maintain contact with the Club Management for advice, updates and to listen to radio and television updates.
- Follow directions and advice given by Club management, Regional Harbour Master and relevant agencies.
- Double mooring lines by running duplicate lines to alternate bollards / cleats. Run duplicate lines slack in order to take up in the event of failure or chafing of primary mooring lines. Double check ropes that are subject to stress.
- NOTE: Do not secure to any part of the marina that is not a designed mooring point. Inappropriate attachments that have the potential to affect the functioning of the marina or harm other vessels will be removed by marina management.
- Where appropriate, position the vessel in the water so that duplicate lines will prevent collision with wharf or walkway in the event of a failure of primary lines. Also position to avoid damage from adjacent vessels.
- Do not use chain to secure the vessel under any circumstances as “give” is required to reduce shock loads on the Marina and vessel attachment points to assist compensate for turbulent waters, wind and changing tides.
- Check cleats and mooring fittings. If in doubt about the strength of the boat cleat double up to solid fixtures such as winches and stays.
- Minimise wind loadings. Store gear below deck.
- Stow all loose gear including life buoys, life rings, floats, buckets, boat hooks, spinnaker poles and hatches etc below decks.
- Remove all furled sails and covers.
- Deflate and stow inflatables.
- Remove dinghies from marina.
- Disconnect shore power and water leads.
- Check communications on VHF channel 16.
- Ensure all self – draining openings are open and clear, and will remain so. Don't leave articles in the cockpit that could block the drains

- If you remain on board the vessel advise a responsible person at the club (Club manager, Office or authorized person) of your whereabouts.
- If you are a live aboard and leaving the vessel, please inform the club manager, office or authorised person of your contact details.
- Comply with the Club Managers instructions.
- Vessels are **not** to be moved to alternate places in the marina without the express permission or direction of the Club Manager or his representative.
- **“Do not” place ropes or chains around or through piles.**

### **Condition Orange / Red**

- Under no circumstances are individuals to remain on board once condition orange or red has been declared.
- The Club Manager or authorised person will carry out an inspection of the marina and club to ensure that no persons are aboard their vessels or in the club.
- NOTE: Any vessel securing lines that have the potential to influence the safety or functioning of the marina will be removed
- If any electric cords or water connections are connected to a vessel they will be disconnected by the Club Manager or authorized person and the club will not be responsible for any damage.
- The Club Manager or the authorized person has the authority to strip any sails, covers or loose objects or materials from vessels in the marina to minimise risk of damage to other vessels and the club will not be responsible for any loss or damage sustained by the vessels owner in this event.

### **All Clear**

#### **Club Manager Actions.**

- Use information from BoM and relevant agencies in preference to own visual assessment –BEWARE of the “eye’ of the cyclone.
- Obtain the latest cyclone advice if possible.
- Be wary of unstable areas and objects and place signage near these and/or fence them off.
- Determine immediate status of the site by assessing damage. Is it safe? Professional advice may be required for certain structures. If in doubt, do not allow anyone to go into that area.
- A damage report (including NO DAMAGE) will be submitted to the Commodore & Regional Harbour Master. If a disaster state of emergency is declared a damage report is also to be sent to the Disaster District Control Centre.
- Contact SES if immediate assistance is required to stabilise the site. Eg weather proof building etc.
- Monitor bulletins on radio and television

**All Persons.**

- Follow the advice from Club Management.
- Use information from the BoM and relevant agencies in preference to your own visual assessment-BEWARE of the 'eye' of the cyclone.
- Obtain the latest cyclone advice if possible.
- Be wary of unstable areas and objects (eg debris, equipment) and potential for electrical hazards after a severe event.
- Monitor bulletins on Radio and television.

Please also refer to the Maritime Safety Queensland website for further information on vessel preparation and the Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan used by the Regional Harbour Master <http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Extreme-weather-plans.aspx>

The Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) Centre will implement the extreme weather event contingency plan on behalf of the Regional Harbour Master by acting as the central communications point for the duration and aftermath of the extreme weather event

The Vessel Maritime Control Centre call sign is **Townsville VTS**.

VHF channels **16, 12, 11** and **14** will be continuously monitored before and during the extreme weather event. Extreme weather watches, warnings and any directions will be issued on these channels.

Actions such as port evacuation or closure will be coordinated by the Townsville VTS.

**Other Key contacts**

|                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Regional Harbour Master (Townsville) | 07 4726 3400                 |
| Townsville VTS                       | 1300 721 263 or 1300 721 293 |
| Townsville Water Police              | 07 4760 7812                 |
| Port of Townsville                   | 07 4781 1600                 |

**Key websites**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Detailed weather updates: | <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a>         |
| MSQ website:              | <a href="http://www.msq.qld.gov.au">www.msq.qld.gov.au</a> |