

# Recovery plan established for coming cyclone season

Townsville City Council has launched into action ahead of the cyclone season with a comprehensive recovery plan aimed at helping the community get back on its feet in the event of a disaster.

The Townsville Local Community Recovery Plan outlines council's short and long term roles and responsibilities, and forms part of the Local Disaster Management Plan.

Local Disaster Management Group deputy chairman, Cr Dale Last, said council would take a key role in restoring services so the community could get back to normal as quickly as possible.

"This new recovery plan is further evidence of how seriously we take the threat of cyclones in this part of the world, particularly in light of forecasts about changing weather patterns," Cr Last said.

"We're acutely aware that while preparations for cyclones and other natural disasters are vital, it's equally important that we prepare for the aftermath of that event.

"The emotional, social, economic and physical toll on individuals and families after a natural disaster can be overwhelming, but it's something we can work through if we think ahead and have the right processes in place to support the community.

"The economic ramifications that

often follow a disaster can hit particularly hard, but experience tells us we can minimise that impact if we can get services back up and running quickly."

Cr Last said council's responsibilities would include conducting post-impact damage assessments, prioritising resources for recovery operations, and co-ordinating local recovery operations with a range of service providers.

Council will also co-ordinate arrangements for appeals and donations, as well as clean up activities and emergency transport, while also assisting in the evacuation and relocation of evacuees. Under the plan, the District Disaster Management Group will also be provided with information on any assistance needed.

Cr Last said while the recovery plan would swing into action when required, residents should also have their own plans in place.

"When you live in the North, you can't afford to become complacent about cyclones," Cr Last said.

"That's why everyone needs to think about what steps they can take now to make the recovery process easier and less stressful if a cyclone was to occur."

The plan is consistent with the community recovery plan established by the District Disaster Management Group and is part of the state-wide disaster management system.

It was prepared under the Emergency Management Australia Local Grants Scheme with funding from the council, and the Federal and Queensland Governments.



# Prepare your survival kit ahead of cyclone season



## If a cyclone hits Townsville and you lose access to running water, power and electricity, will you be prepared?

If you have a fully kitted out evacuation kit, the chances are you will be. And remember, don't leave it to the last minute when supermarket lines tend to be long and stocks low.

This cyclone season, make sure you have a kit that includes:

**BATTERY OPERATED RADIO** » This is critical and the only way to receive information in power outages. Local radio stations provide regular cyclone updates.

**DRINKING WATER** » In a cyclone, your water supply may be contaminated. Make sure you have enough water to last your family for several days.

**NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS** » Store at least three days of food, including food in cans or jars where refrigeration or cooking isn't needed. And remember the can-opener!

**COOKING FACILITIES** » Gas barbecues and ovens or camp stoves are ideal for when the power goes out. Make sure you have enough gas and matches.

**FIRST AID KIT** » Check your kit for out of date or perished items.

**MEDICAL SUPPLIES** » Check your stocks for any prescription medicines you might need, as well as contact lenses and prescription glasses.

**BATTERY POWERED LIGHTS** » Torches and lanterns are ideal.

**PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS** » Include toothbrushes and paste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, sanitary products and toilet paper.

**TOOLS AND UTENSILS** » Include plates, cups, a sharp knife, needle and thread, wrench, pliers, and a screw driver.

**CLOTHING AND BEDDING** » Include a change of clothes, shoes, hats, sunglasses, rain gear, towels and blankets or sleeping bags.

**IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS** » Keep a copy of documents such as wills, insurance policies, bank account numbers and passports.

# Homes in demand for V8s

Townsville homes are in high demand from visitors planning their trip to the region for the inaugural V8 Supercar Townsville 400 event in July.

The Townsville Home Stay Program – launched in October – has a growing list of potential tenants looking to secure their accommodation for the North's biggest event, with many requests coming from the corporate sector.

The home stay program is giving Townsville home owners the chance to reap significant rewards

by offering to hire out their homes, or rooms in their homes, as alternative accommodation.

The program is based on the highly successful model of the Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000 every October.

Home owners can hire out their homes from a minimum of \$230 per night and there are written guarantees that residents' homes will be returned as they were left.

The Townsville 400 will be the biggest event ever staged in North

Queensland and will become one of our signature annual events.

Visitors from throughout Australia will converge on the city for the three days of racing.

Tickets to the event went on sale exclusively to North Queenslanders on November 16.

North Queenslanders snapped up 17,500 tickets during a 3 day exclusive ticket release.

To find out more about Townsville Home Stay, visit [www.townsvillehomestay.com.au](http://www.townsvillehomestay.com.au)



Maria Chippendale from Townsville Home Stay, Cr Tony Parsons and V8 Supercars Townsville project manager Kim Faithfull.