



HAMILTON ISLAND | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

CYCLONE & NATURAL DISASTER COMMUNITY AWARENESS **2023**



HAMILTON ISLAND
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Living in the Whitsundays, it is important that we all take responsibility for being prepared and informed of our procedures around what to do in the event of a natural disaster. As we approach the cyclone season, I urge you to familiarise yourself with the procedures included in this booklet for your safety and that of the wider Hamilton Island community.

In the event of a cyclone, it is important that you adequately prepare your home, accommodation, or vessel in accordance with the procedures outlined in this booklet. If you have concerns about the safety of your home or accommodation, decide early and make alternate arrangements with friends or relatives. Hamilton Island is at risk of being impacted by storm tides if there is a cyclone in the Whitsunday region. This booklet will assist you with identifying your zone should a storm tide evacuation be required.

Thank you for taking the time to review and familiarise yourself with Hamilton Island's preparation requirements, evacuation procedures and the information outlined in this booklet.

Pete Brulisauer
Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Island

INTRODUCTION

At Hamilton Island, we enjoy a wonderful climate and lifestyle, which is the envy of many people worldwide.

However, cyclones are an inevitable part of life in Queensland and history has shown that we cannot afford to become complacent about the dangers that they present. It is vital that people living in areas prone to cyclones take action now to prepare their homes and their families so that damage can be minimised.

A few hours spent making your residence secure, putting aside supplies and familiarising yourself with Hamilton Island's Cyclone Emergency Management Plan, could mean the difference between life and death.

Cyclones are destructive and inevitable. Every year between November and April, the coastal regions of Queensland are at risk of being hit by cyclones. A cyclone is a violent storm characterised by high winds rotating around a calm centre (the 'eye'). Winds can be in excess of 280 km/h. These strong winds can cause extensive damage to property and turn debris into dangerous missiles. Cyclones can also bring flooding rains, which cause further damage to property, and increase the risk of drowning.

Many cyclones also bring about storm surge, which is a rapid rise in sea level that moves inland very quickly, and can greatly affect Hamilton Island. Storm surge can damage buildings, cut off evacuation routes, be the cause of injuries, and sometimes death.

While most cyclone related deaths occur because of drowning, many lives have been lost due to collapsing buildings or flying debris, which can become lethal in high winds.

As a result of a significant earthquake in 2016, community advice on the actions to take during and immediately after an event is included as an Annex.

BEING PREPARED STARTS WITH YOU

Preparing your family and your home for a cyclone is your responsibility.

Every person who lives in the cyclone-prone areas of Queensland must recognise this and make it a priority between the months of November and April.

While local, state and federal governments can spend millions of dollars every year on disaster mitigation, response and recovery, these efforts can be worthless if families and individuals do not take the proper precautions themselves.

This document explains in detail the preparations that you will need to make during cyclone season in order to minimise the damage to your home and maintain the safety of your family.

BEFORE THE CYCLONE SEASON

Important things that you can do now to prepare your family and your home include:

- Compile a list of emergency phone numbers and keep it somewhere that is visible to all family members. Keep another copy with your Emergency Kit.
- Nominate an interstate family member or friend to be a point of contact in case you and family / household members become separated during the cyclone.
- Identify the strongest part of your residence (usually the smallest room) and ensure everyone knows where this is in case you need to seek shelter in your home.
- Ensure at least one person in your household knows where Hamilton Island's closest first aid station is situated. Mark its location on the island map on Page 14.
- Clear property of loose items which could become projectiles in a strong wind.
- Be fully aware of the information within this document.
- Check that your insurance is up to date and complete.
- Discuss this plan with all members of your household.

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Every residence should have a fully stocked waterproof Emergency Kit, stored safely and readily accessible. Consider using a large plastic bucket with a sealable lid for your kit.

The Emergency Kit content list is on Page 11.

APPROACH OF A CYCLONE

The Bureau of Meteorology or 'BoM' issues official *watches* and *warnings*. These are communicated to the community by radio, TV, social media, internet, and the Hamilton Island Emergency Control Centre.

Cyclone Watch - issued when gales or stronger winds associated with a cyclone are expected to hit within 48 hours but not within 24 hours.

Cyclone Warning - issued when gales or stronger winds are expected to hit within **24 hours**.

There are 3 phases of warning: BLUE, YELLOW, and RED. See page 8.

There are 5 categories of cyclones. See page 10.

UPON A CYCLONE WARNING

- Place all outdoor furniture and loose articles inside. The security of these items becomes the responsibility of the individual tenant.
- Fill water containers, close doors, draw curtains, open some windows on the downwind side, charge/fuel your buggy or vehicle and place it in the allocated area.
- Use only torches or battery operated lighting. **DO NOT USE CANDLES** in case of a gas leak.
- Listen for official advice from the Emergency Control Centre. The Emergency Control Centre is located at the Reef View Hotel (see island map on Page 14), official advices will be broadcast via in house HIE TV where available, and on Hamilton Island Facebook and Smartphone App.
- If told to take shelter, do so, and remain there until advised it is safe to move around again.
- If you are being relocated from your accommodation or the Marina to the Convention Centre (see island map on Page 14) during Warning Phase Yellow, you will only be allowed to take handbag or similar small carry bag. It is suggested that you have your personal papers (e.g. bank details, passports, photographs) medication if taken, essential toiletries and maybe a book.
- Wear warm protective clothing.
- Buses will be used to transport residents being relocated. Prior to the arrival of transport a Fire or Security Officer will drive through each accommodation area to be evacuated using a loud hailer to advise residents of the proposed relocation.
- Do NOT wander around outside your accommodation.
- Do NOT panic.
- Be aware of locations of the FIRST AID STATIONS, the MEDICAL CENTRE in the Reef View Hotel Chart Room and the EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE (ECC). Contact phone numbers are listed on Page 13 with locations marked on the island map on Page 14.

DURING A CYCLONE

Stay in shelter.

Beware the calm of the EYE. The EYE of a cyclone is the centre of the cyclone and is an area characterised by light winds, fine weather and often clear skies. When the EYE has passed over the destructive winds will resume immediately. You **MUST NOT LEAVE** your shelter during the EYE, remain indoors until advised that the cyclone has passed.

AFTER THE CYCLONE

Act on official advice.

DO NOT wander around in effected areas. Beware of any gas leaks or water near electric power outlets. DO NOT drink tap water until an official OK has been given by authorities.

Should the island lose power and/or digital telecommunications, resident information will be provided on HIE Staff Accommodation notice board.

CYCLONE WARNING STAGES

1. CYCLONE WATCH (ALERT):

This advice will be issued upon notification from the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre that a cyclone or potential cyclone threat exists in the North of Queensland, but is unlikely to affect Hamilton Island within 24 hours, although it may do so **within 48 hours**.

2. CYCLONE WARNING BLUE

Is issued when a cyclone is **within 24 hours** estimated travelling time of Hamilton Island.

3. CYCLONE WARNING YELLOW

Is issued whilst a cyclone is **within 12 hours** estimated travelling time of Hamilton Island.

4. CYCLONE WARNING RED

Is issued when it is forecast that the full cyclonic conditions are **imminent**.

5. CYCLONE WARNING YELLOW

Will follow and **cancel** the **RED** Warning and will be issued once the cyclone has passed. This condition remains in force until the cyclone has travelled to a point of **12 hours travelling distance** from Hamilton Island.

6. CYCLONE WARNING BLUE

Will follow and **cancel** the **YELLOW** Warning, and will be issued when the cyclone has passed beyond a 12 hour travelling distance from Hamilton Island, but remains within the North Queensland areas or adjacent mainland, and is **within 24 hours estimated travelling time** of Hamilton Island.

7. CYCLONE WARNING CANCELLED:

Will follow and **cancel** the **BLUE** Warning when it is considered that **no further danger** from cyclonic conditions exists.

NOTE:

The timeframes for the various warning stages may be amended by the Hamilton Island Emergency Control Centre based on numerous factors i.e. Cyclone's travel speed and intensity, resource availability, forecast closures of commercial shipping and air craft movements.

STORM TIDE / STORM SURGE

A storm surge is a rise above the normal water level along a shore resulting from strong onshore winds and/or reduced atmospheric pressure. The combination of storm surge and normal (atmospheric) tide is known as a 'storm tide'. The worst impacts occur when the storm surge arrives on top of a high tide and when this happens, the storm tide can reach areas that might otherwise have been safe. On top of this are pounding waves generated by the powerful winds. Residents need to plan well ahead of time by:

- Knowing their Evacuation Zone (Storm Tide). Please refer to pages 15 and 16.
- Being ready to evacuate.

When a cyclone threat develops, keep listening to official warnings issued by the BoM and Hamilton Island Emergency Control Centre. They will advise if high tides and coastal storm tide is expected. The Hamilton Island Emergency Control Centre will advise of the evacuation of any storm tide colour zones.

Evacuation Zone (Storm Tide) Legend		
RED	Extreme Risk Evacuations of the Red Zone may occur with any cyclone depending on tide, intensity and location.	Residents in the Red Zone have the highest risk of inundation or isolation from a cyclone storm tide. The Red Zone includes low-lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 1.25 metres above highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
ORANGE	Major Risk There is a 0.1 per cent chance of this occurring in any year.	Residents in the Orange Zone have a high risk of inundation from a cyclone storm tide. The Orange Zone includes low lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 2.25 metres above highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
YELLOW	Moderate Risk There is a 0.01 per cent chance of this occurring in any year.	Residents in the Yellow Zone have a medium risk of inundation from a cyclone storm tide. The Yellow Zone includes low lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 4.25 metres above highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
BLUE	Minor Risk There is a 0.001 per cent chance of this occurring in any year.	Residents in the Blue Zone have a low risk of inundation from a cyclone storm tide. The Blue Zone includes low lying coastal areas and areas that may experience storm tide affects up to approximately 6.25 metres above highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).
WHITE	Extremely Minor Risk or No Risk	Residents in the White Zone have a very low risk or no risk inundation from a cyclone storm tide. The White Zone includes areas that are at least approximately 6.25 metres above highest Astronomical Tide (King Tide).

STANDARD EMERGENCY WARNING SIGNAL (SEWS)

When disasters loom or a major emergency happens, Queenslanders will be alerted by the sound of the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS).

SEWS is a wailing siren sound used throughout Australia for various emergency events of major significance, such as cyclones, flooding and severe storms. When you hear the signal on radio or television, pay careful attention to the message that follows and act immediately on the advice given.

CYCLONE INFORMATION

The Bureau of Meteorology or 'BoM' issues a cyclone warning when a cyclone is expected to hit within **24 hours**. Warnings identify communities likely to be hit, the name of the cyclone, its position, intensity, severity and movement. Communities under threat will be advised to take certain steps.

There are five categories used to identify the strength of a cyclone:

<u>Category 1</u> - wind gusts less than 125 km/hr	Negligible house damage, damage to some trees, craft may drag moorings
<u>Category 2</u> - wind gusts 125 to 169 km/hr	Minor house damage, significant damage to signs and trees, small craft may break moorings
<u>Category 3</u> - wind gusts 170 to 224 km/hr	Some roof and structural damage, power failures possible
<u>Category 4</u> - wind gusts 225 to 279 km/hr	Significant roofing loss and structural damage, dangerous airborne debris
<u>Category 5</u> - wind gusts more than 280 km/hr	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction

INFORMATION WEBSITES

Queensland Government - Get Ready

www.getready.qld.gov.au

Queensland Disaster Management Services

www.disaster.qld.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology / 'BoM'

www.bom.gov.au

Department of Home Affairs Emergency Management

www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/emergency-management

Geoscience Australia

<https://earthquakes.ga.gov.au>

Date: ____/____/____

Initials: _____

CHECKLIST: ARE YOU PREPARED?

Complete this checklist in November/ December at the beginning of the cyclone season.

Store a copy with your Emergency Kit.

- ☐ Have you trimmed overhanging branches?
- ☐ Have you cleared your gutters?
- ☐ Have you removed all loose items from your property?
- ☐ Is your roof and guttering secured?
- ☐ Have you prepared a waterproof **Emergency Kit** that includes the following:
 - ☐ Portable radio (tested)
 - ☐ Torches (tested)
 - ☐ Spare batteries
 - ☐ First aid kit
 - ☐ Essential medications
 - ☐ Non-perishable food
 - ☐ Sturdy gloves
 - ☐ Waterproof plastic bags
 - ☐ Candles and matches (though we do not recommend their use in case of a gas leak)
 - ☐ Important documents in sealed bags
- ☐ Is your buggy charged with items removed in the event of an evacuation?
- ☐ Are all your mobile phones charged with emergency phone numbers stored?
- ☐ Do you have an emergency supply of water?
- ☐ Do you have an Evacuation Plan, including island map and emergency phone numbers?
- ☐ Have you checked your insurance policy?
- ☐ Are your neighbours safe?

Date: ____/____/____

Initials: _____

PREPARING YOUR VESSEL

Vessels on trailers

- ☐ Remove;
 - ☐ Safety equipment
 - ☐ Radios
 - ☐ Chart plotters / sounders
 - ☐ Batteries
 - ☐ LPG Cylinders
 - ☐ Bimini and vessel covers
 - ☐ Any loose objects in and around your vessel that could become airborne in strong winds
- ☐ Strap boat to trailer
- ☐ Strap any covers in place
- ☐ Marina staff will secure the trailer to concrete blocks provided (with chain running through goosenecks of trailer)
- ☐ Small boats half filled with water - place wedges into springs to distribute weight on the axle

Vessels in Marina

- ☐ Know the Marina's cyclone plan
- ☐ Remove furling sails. Boom sails that cannot be removed need to be appropriately secured
- ☐ Strip bimini tops, BBQ's, deck furniture and any other object that could blow away
- ☐ Double all lines
- ☐ Cover all tie lines to prevent chafing
- ☐ Install fenders to protect boat rubbing against dock
- ☐ Ensure batteries are sufficient to run bilge pumps throughout storm
- ☐ Put duct tape on windows and hatches
- ☐ Disconnect shore power
- ☐ Close fuel valves

Initials:

Property Name: _____ Lot #: _____ Landline phone: 07 _____

Property address / Location: _____

Nearest cross street / Access road: _____

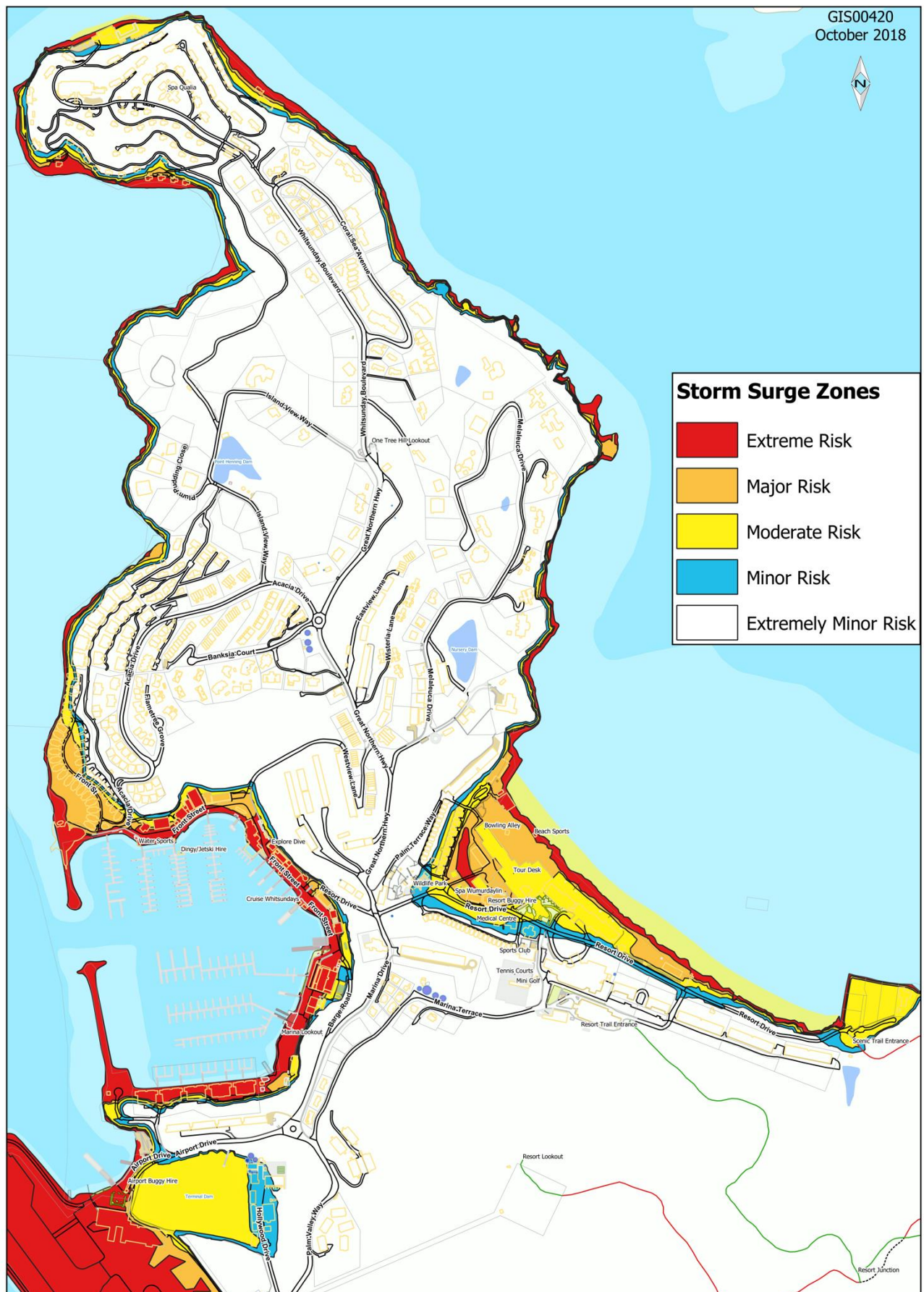
Spare set of keys held by (name and phone) _____

Police, Fire and Ambulance	000
Medical Centre	(07) 4804 5688
Emergency Control Centre	(07) 4946 8891
HI Switchboard	(07) 4946 9999
Island Primary School	(07) 4946 9522
Island Kindergarten	(07) 4948 9371
Marina Office	(07) 4946 8353
Interstate Family Contact	

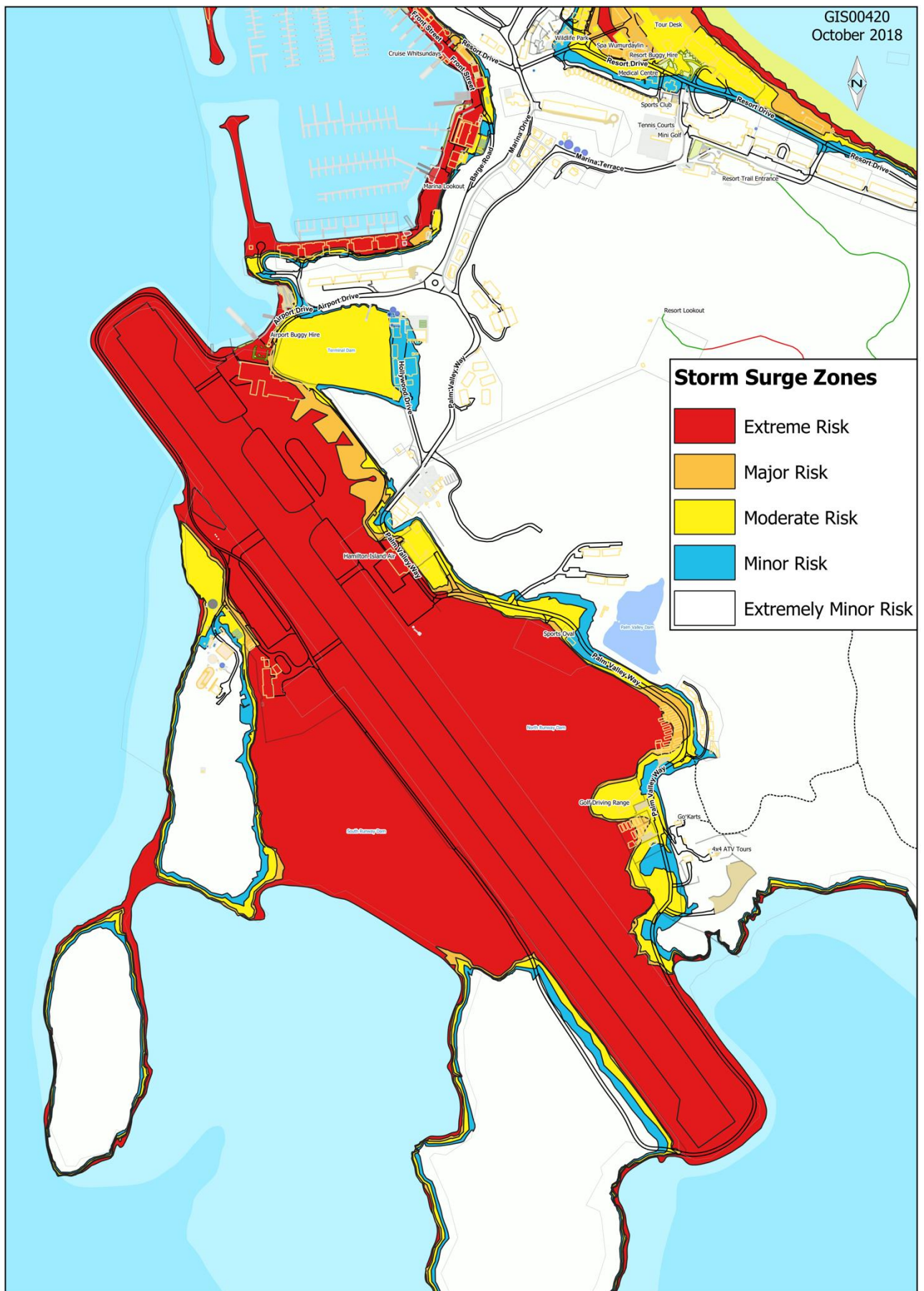
ISLAND MAP Mark your accommodation on this map



EVACUATION MAP NORTH – STORM TIDE



EVACUATION MAP SOUTH – STORM TIDE



EARTHQUAKE – ANNEX

PERSONAL PROTECTION DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

Indoors

Drop, cover, and hold on. **Drop** to the floor; take **cover** under a sturdy desk or table, and **hold on** to it firmly. Be prepared to move with it until the shaking stops. If you are not near a desk or table, drop to the floor against the interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances, and kitchen cabinets with heavy objects or glass. **Do not go outside!**

- **In bed:** If you are in bed, hold on and stay there, protecting your head with a pillow. You are less likely to be injured staying where you are. Broken glass on the floor has caused injury to those who have rolled to the floor or tried to get to doorways.
- **In a high-rise:** Drop, cover, and hold on. Avoid windows and other hazards. Do not use elevators. Do not be surprised if sprinkler systems or fire alarms activate.
- **In a convention centre / meeting room:** Stay at your seat and protect your head and neck with your arms. Don't try to leave until the shaking is over. Then walk out slowly watching for anything that could fall in the aftershocks.

Outdoors

Move to a clear area if you can safely do so. Avoid trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards.

- **Driving:** Pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking is over.

TSUNAMI WATCH

COUNT how long the earthquake lasts. If the shaking lasts longer than 60 seconds evacuate to a safe area (high ground) as soon as you can safely walk. Counting is also a good idea - it will help to keep people calm.

For a large local earthquake, feeling strong ground shaking may be the only warning that a tsunami is on its way.

- **If at the beach**, move to higher ground immediately if the shaking lasts longer than 30 seconds.
- **If the earthquake is very strong or lasts longer than 60 seconds**, immediately gather your family members / work colleagues / guests and CALMLY WALK to a safe area – the nearest high ground.
- **If evacuation is impossible**, go to the upper floor of a sturdy building. This should only be a last resort.

Do not wait for an official warning.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE if you *are not* in a low lying area.

Unnecessary evacuation will put you at risk and hamper the evacuation of people who really need to get away from danger.

Once evacuated to higher ground, stay there until advised by Emergency Services that it is safe to return.

AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE/AFTERSHOCK

- Watch for hazards and tend to injuries.
- Turn off electricity, gas and water. Don't light matches. Check for fuel leaks and damaged wiring and pipes.
- Check on your guests and work colleagues.
- Check for injuries. Apply first-aid. Don't move the seriously injured unless in immediate danger.
- Check for broken water, sewerage, gas or electrical mains or lines.
- Don't use the phone immediately (to avoid congestion) unless there is a serious injury or fire.
- Check for cracks and damage in the roof and walls.
- Expect aftershocks, so evacuate if the building is damaged.
- Heed warnings on damage, service disruptions and evacuation provided on in house HIE TV, Hamilton Island Facebook and Smartphone App
- Don't waste food or water because the supply may be interrupted.
- Avoid driving unless for an emergency (keep the streets clear for emergency services).
- Don't go sightseeing or enter damaged buildings.
- Stay calm and help others if possible.

