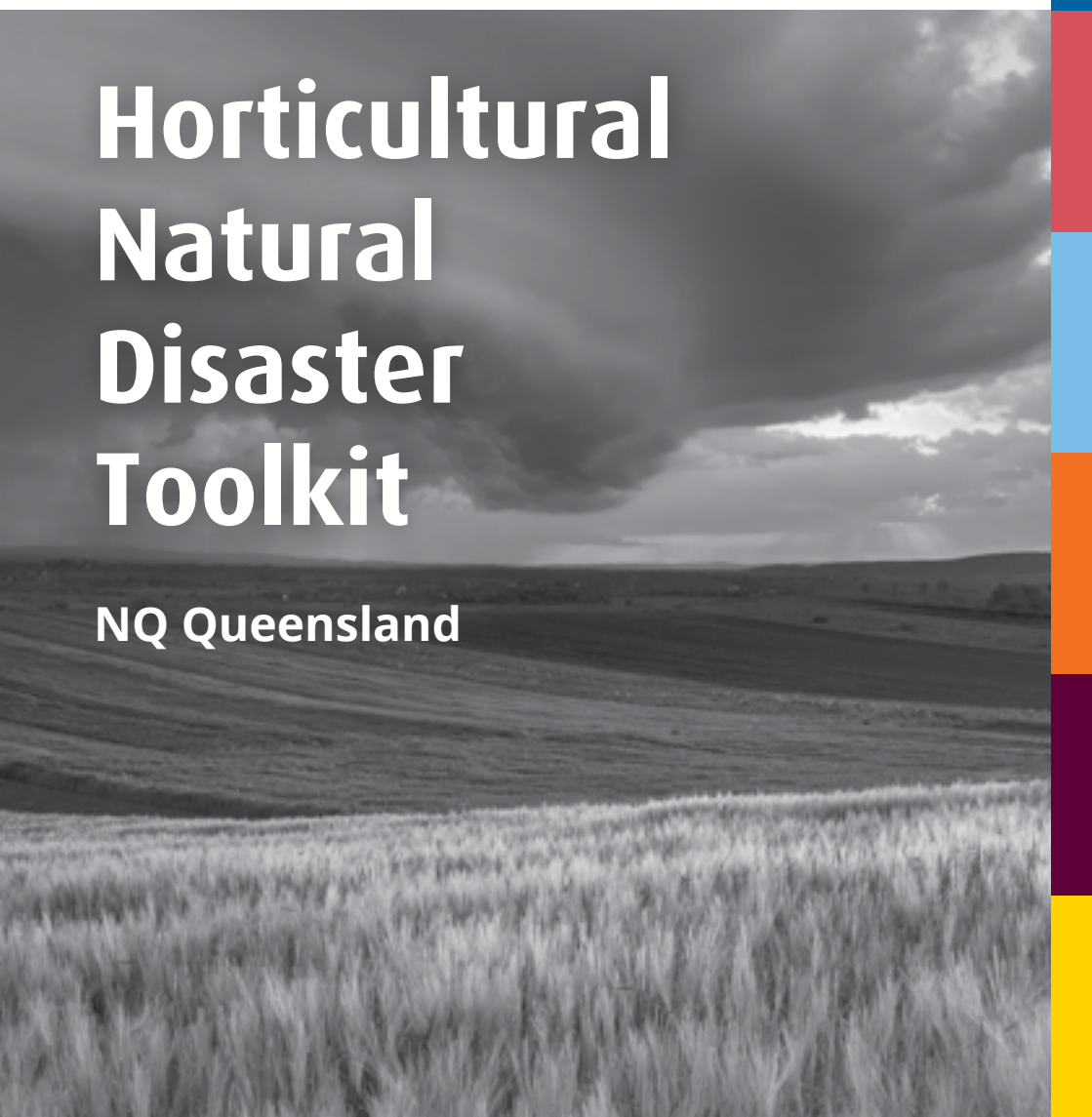




# Horticultural Natural Disaster Toolkit

**NQ Queensland**





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PHONE LIST

Emergency (Fire, Police, Ambulance)	000
State Emergency Service (SES)	132 500
Policelink (non-urgent Police matters)	131 444
Local Police Station	
Ergon - emergency	13 16 70
Ergon - power outage	13 22 96
Your local Disaster Coordination Centre	
Your local Regional Council	
Telstra	13 22 00
24 hour Statewide Road Report	13 19 40
Australian Red Cross	1800 733 276

TUNE IN

ABC Atherton	720AM	ABC Laura	106.1FM
ABC Babinda	95.7AM	ABC Longland	540AM
ABC Cairns	801AM	ABC Mission Beach	89.3AM
ABC Cairns	106.7FM	ABC Mossman	639AM
ABC Cairns NQ	95.5FM	ABC Mt Garnet	95.7FM
ABC Georgetown	106.1FM	ABC Mt Molloy	95.7FM
ABC Coen	105.9FM	ABC Normanton	105.7FM
ABC Cooktown	105.7FM	ABC Thursday Island (Torres Strait)	1062FM
ABC Croydon	105.9FM	ABC Townsville	630AM
ABC Dimbulah	91.7FM	ABC Tully	95.5FM
ABC Julia Creek	567 AM	ABC Weipa	1044AM
ABC Karumba	106.1FM		
ABC Lakeland	106.1FM		

ONLINE

Weather - <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/meteye/>  
 Traffic - <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>

## pre-event checklist

### To be completed at the beginning of storm season, or when an event is imminent.

- I have assessed our **climate risks**, considering updated climate projections and seasonal forecasts. See template on page 20.
- I have registered for **weather alerts and warnings** (Weatherzone app, local council and local SES Facebook pages).
- My details are **registered with my industry body**. To contact Growcom please email: [growcom@growcom.com.au](mailto:growcom@growcom.com.au) You can also follow Growcom Australia on Facebook for updates.
- I have a list of **emergency contacts** available, including my local council's disaster/emergency centre. See previous page.
- I know my **neighbour** and have their contact details, so we can check in before and after an event. To be added to contacts list on previous page.
- Essential business information and records are backed up** to a cloud, external hard drive or USB. Personal photos and other important documents should also be backed up.
- We have an **emergency plan** that has been discussed with employees. If I am off I farm have designated someone else to lead. The plan includes allowances for all staff to secure their own homes. You can access translated information sheets on natural disasters here: <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/disaster-recovery-information-languages>
- I know my **rights and obligations as an employer** during a natural disaster. For more information: [www.growcom.com.au/disaster-risk-mgmt](http://www.growcom.com.au/disaster-risk-mgmt)
- Emergency kits** have been prepared for work and home. See page 8 for a list of kit essentials.
- A **generator / alternative power source and chainsaw** are available and in working order.
- We have **emergency fuel stocks** and plenty of chainsaw oil.
- We have **tarp/plastic sheeting** available if needed.
- I have identified effective **pruning and management strategies** to protect crops from high winds and flooding. If a storm is coming, I have mitigated risk.
- We have **cleaned up** around the farm to minimise damage. If a bad storm/cyclone is predicted it might be worth taking some "before" photos around the farm. Some growers have also suggested that if you think sheds may be damaged, it is preferable to leave heavy machinery in the paddock or another sheltered area.
- There is enough **food stocks** to last us for at least one week. More for flood prone and remote areas. Including for animals. Sufficient stored water, you can fill the bath with water prior to storm event.
- We have **cash available** to use in case of long, wide-spread power outages.
- Inventory** of stock has been done to ensure quick insurance claims.
- Our **insurance** has been reviewed recently, and a copy of this information is included in our emergency kit.



# pre-event checklist

## Additional pre-event checklist items

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# ✓ emergency kit checklist

## EMERGENCY KIT - HOME

- First Aid kit
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Light (torches, lanterns, extra batteries)
- Communications (phone, chargers, battery operated radio)
- Camera
- Raincoat/warm clothing/ spare clothing
- Duct tape
- Knife
- Garbage bags
- Personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, safety glasses)
- Snacks and water bottle (on top of other food and water stores)
- Original or certified copies of important personal documents (marriage certificate, birth certificates etc.)
- Copies of your insurance policies
- Emergency Contact List – see page 3
- Recovery Contact List – see page 9
- Sunscreen/insect repellent
- Spare keys
- Cash

## EMERGENCY KIT - OFFICE

- Laptop/charger
- Critical data, records and documentation needs to be saved to external hard drives/USB/cloud. These may include insurance, customer records, agreements/contracts, deeds, payroll records, stock inventory, legal documents etc.
- Emergency Plan
- Business contacts list

# recovery contacts

## PHONE LIST

Growcom	3620 3844
Insurance	
Grower's Association	
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	13 25 23
Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority	Freecall 1800 623 946
Rural Financial Counselling Service	1800 900 090
Telephone/Internet Provider	
Bank	
Employees	
Supplier	
Customer/Agent	
Accountant	
Legal	
Queensland Farmers' Federation	farmerdisastersupport.org.au
Disaster Recovery for Crop Farming	business.qld.gov.au/ industries/farms- fishing-forestry/ agriculture/rural- disaster-recovery/ disaster-recovery

# ✓ post-event checklist



## DAY 1

1. **Safety** is paramount! Stay indoors until event has passed, listen to radio for warnings and updates. Save battery power on phones. Remember if it's flooded, FORGET IT!



2. **Assessment** Wear covered shoes and appropriate clothing. Bring a camera and take plenty of photos. Check on:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any animals that have not been indoors   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheds                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Damaged powerlines (Ergon – emergency 13 16 70, Ergon – power outage 13 22 96)<br>Set up generator if required | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Access to drinking water and toilets   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trees down              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings  | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood water and erosion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment (tractors, plant and machinery, cold rooms)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Gas leaks               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical leaks          |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Damaged stock           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Road access on/off farm |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crops and fields        |

## Damage assessment notes

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## post-event checklist

3. **Contact** your neighbour to make sure they are ok. This also gives you an opportunity to share your experience (a vital part of recovery). Contact staff who are not on farm to check in and arrange coming back to the farm. Allow them plenty of time to ensure their home and families are ok.
4. Contact your insurance company, you should now have an idea of damage and photos to share.
5. Contact Growcom (3620 3844 or [www.growcom.com.au/projects/disaster-risk-mgmt](http://www.growcom.com.au/projects/disaster-risk-mgmt)) and DAF (3404 6999) to fill out a damage assessment form. You may also like to contact other industry groups to update them. These groups represent and speak on behalf of growers during the aftermath of disasters. Grower information can also be used in making assessments regarding disaster assistance and categories. Any media enquiries can be forwarded to industry groups.
6. Contact nurseries/agents/customers/transport companies and other business stakeholders to update them on your situation.
7. Spend some time to **prioritise** what needs to be done around the farm and form a list of jobs, consider things that can go wrong. Communicate this with any staff/family who are there.

### Priorities

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# post-event checklist

## DAY 2+

### 8. **Clean up** Some key things to remember:

- Identify asbestos, dangerous materials and chemicals
- Always remember Personal Protective Equipment
- Make sure anyone using equipment is experienced (e.g. Chainsaws)
- If there are disaster grants available, check conditions and requirements to qualify for this (e.g. Can you claim full time staff wages?)
- Fatigue is a huge issue post natural disasters, make sure staff, family and yourself have enough rest
- Drink plenty of water and limit alcohol intake
- Read about your Rights and Obligations as an Employer during disasters: [www.growcom.com.au/projects/disaster-risk-mgmt](http://www.growcom.com.au/projects/disaster-risk-mgmt)
- Volunteers are still covered by *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011* so be vigilant and ensure workers are too.
- Establish a sign in/sign out sheet for visitors/volunteers/workers. Records wages and hours related to clean up.
- *Remember it's a stressful time for everyone and everybody responds differently.*

### 9. Reassess the **market**. Consider any changes that may result from the event. Plan.

- Who has been impacted?
- How will this affect supply and demands? Now and over the upcoming season?

- How will this affect prices?
- What do your agents/customers say?
- Consider weather forecasts.
- Consider what your competition might do.
- Historical disaster impacts on markets.

### 10. Reassess your **financial position**. This is an opportunity to discuss with your advisors, banks, insurance company, tax office, accountant or Rural Financial Counselling Service (Call 1800 686 175). Plan for dealing with any losses, and explore ways of reducing up-front costs etc.

### 11. Apply for **disaster assistance**, whether that be the upfront grants or longer-term disaster loans. These are done through Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA) (Ph 1800 623 946 and [www.qrida.qld.gov.au](http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au)). You can seek assistance from industry (Growcom and Queensland Farmers Federation) if you have any issues or need assistance.

### 12. Monitor your **crop health**. Drain water from crops as soon as you can. Lack of oxygen for prolonged periods can eventually lead to plant death. Be wary of Phytophthora root rot development in avocado, macadamia, pineapple and stone fruit crops. Flooding can cause significant nitrogen loss, so keep a lookout for signs such as yellowing of lower leaves. Monitor for any emergence of pests and diseases post event. Remove dead or dying limbs to prevent disease from taking hold. For more information visit <https://bit.ly/2Xiek9f>

### 13. Finally, **socialise!** Call your friends and family, have a BBQ with your neighbours, do not be afraid to ask for help, get off your own farm and help out a friend for an afternoon. Spend time with your family. This step is crucial for your recovery.



# ! dealing with stress

It is recommended that you relay this information to your staff, and make sure they are aware of the support services available. Sometimes local industry groups and councils can provide or have access to additional support.

**Common reactions** experienced following a major traumatic event include:

- feelings of fear, sadness or anger
- feeling overwhelmed
- feeling numb, detached or withdrawn
- difficulty with focusing attention and concentration
- difficulty planning ahead
- tearfulness
- unwanted and recurring memories or bad dreams related to the event
- sleep problems
- constant questioning – “What if I had done x, y or z, instead?” and “What will happen now?”
- ‘replaying’ the event and inventing different outcomes in order to be prepared should it happen again.

These reactions can be quite strong and are often at their worst in the first week. They are not signs of weakness. In most cases, they fade over the following weeks, although the person may experience them from time to time for a much longer period.

## **Warning signs**

If you or someone you know experiences any of the following symptoms at any time, seek professional help:

- If the distress feels extreme or interferes with the person’s ability to participate in day-to-day activities
- Feeling overwhelming fear for no obvious reason

- Panic symptoms: increased heart rate, breathlessness, shakiness, dizziness and a sudden urge to go to the toilet
- Avoiding things that bring back memories of what happened to the point where day-to-day tasks cannot be carried out
- Excessive guilt about things that were or were not said or done
- Loss of hope or interest in the future
- Thoughts of ending one’s life or self-harming.

As a general rule, it is a good idea to seek help if you think that you are not coping. You should speak to a health professional if:

- your problems seem too severe
- the emotional reactions are lasting too long
- you are finding it difficult to engage in day-to-day activities or get along with family and friends.

Most people who have experienced a disaster will go through times when they find things difficult or challenging and it is important to understand the benefits of professional assistance. Do not think you need to be struggling or suffering severely to access help. You may find it useful to talk to someone who is not a friend or family member. Many people find that one or more visits to a counsellor, chaplain, GP or psychologist greatly assists their recovery.

Making the decision to access professional assistance if you need it is a wise choice that can often help you to regain emotional strength and resilience.

(Taken from LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AFTER A DISASTER which can be found in full at <https://www.redcross.org.au/getmedia/e5dd400b-d18c-4e6f-ae9c-fbe55b25a6f4/LookingAfterYourselfandYourFamilyAfterDisaster.pdf.aspx>)

## ! dealing with stress

### PHONE LIST

Beyondblue Support Service	1300 22 4636
Lifeline	13 11 14
MensLine Australia	1300 78 99 78
Kids Helpline	1800 55 1800
Relationships Australia	1300 364 277
Suicide Call Back Service	1300 659 467
Rural Financial Counselling Service	1800 686 175
Centacare North Queensland	1300 672 273

## climate risk assessment

The objective of a Climate Risk Assessment is to identify future climate change risks that may affect your farm/s and assess potential impacts of these risks. This template has been put together by Growcom and is a simplified version of more complex templates. For more information on Climate Change Risk Assessments please contact Growcom.

Risk Assessments should be revisited regularly to ensure the information is up to date and should be considered when planning for your farm's future.



# climate risk assessment

Hazard	Current impacts/risk	Current management strategies	Future risk	Adaption options
e.g. Heat	Heat waves impacting picking staff over summer	Night picking, regular compulsory breaks	Increased temperatures and more frequent heat waves.	Hiring climate adapted staff, staff training on heat management, shorter work days, air-conditioned break rooms  (Suggestions: New breeds and varieties • Storage infrastructure and buildings • General farming practices for crops • Responses to pests and diseases • Water management • Soil management • Ecosystem services and agrienvironment management • Knowledge transfer • Financial risk management)
Heat				
Seasonal changes (earlier summers and later, warmer winters)				

# climate risk assessment

Hazard	Current impacts/risk	Current management strategies	Future risk	Adaption options
Droughts, water shortage				
Flooding (storms and cyclones)				
Winds				

# climate risk assessment

Hazard	Current impacts/risk	Current management strategies	Future risk	Adaption options
Cyclones				
Coastal impacts from tidal and river water				
Salinity				

 climate risk assessment

Hazard	Current impacts/risk	Current management strategies	Future risk	Adaption options
Bushfires				

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Short term priority (up to 12 months)	Long term priority (12 months +)
<i>E.g. Staff training on managing heat stress to be included in inductions</i>	<i>Explore options for seasonal worker program employing staff from Pacific Island communities that are adapted to working in hot and humid conditions</i>

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Short term priority (up to 12 months)	Long term priority (12 months +)





07 3620 3844

Primary Producers House  
Level 3, 183 North Quay  
Brisbane Qld 4000

PO Box 202  
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

[www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)