Horticultural Natural Disaster Toolkit

NQ Queensland
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

Emergency Contacts
Pre-Event Checklist
Emergency Kit Checklist
Recovery Contacts List
Post Event Checklist
Dealing with Stress
Climate Risk Assessment Template

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ONLINE

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

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.
Additional pre-event checklist items
emergency kit checklist

- 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
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHONE LIST</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growcom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grower’s Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture and Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Financial Counselling Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone/Internet Provider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer/Agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accountant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queensland Farmers’ Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster Recovery for Crop Farming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

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

**Damage assessment notes**

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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) 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.
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
   - 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?

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). 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](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-fbe5b25a6f4/LookingAfterYourselfandYourFamilyAfterDisaster.pdf.aspx)
dealing with stress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHONE LIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beyondblue Support Service</td>
<td>1300 22 4636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifeline</td>
<td>13 11 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>MensLine Australia</td>
<td>1300 78 99 78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids Helpline</td>
<td>1800 55 1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relationships Australia</td>
<td>1300 364 277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suicide Call Back Service</td>
<td>1300 659 467</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Financial Counselling Service</td>
<td>1800 686 175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centacare North Queensland</td>
<td>1300 672 273</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

climatic 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Current impacts/risk</th>
<th>Current management strategies</th>
<th>Future risk</th>
<th>Adaption options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g. Heat</td>
<td>Heat waves impacting picking staff over summer</td>
<td>Night picking, regular compulsory breaks</td>
<td>Increased temperatures and more frequent heat waves.</td>
<td>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)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heat</td>
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<td>Seasonal changes (earlier summers and later, warmer winters)</td>
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<th>Adaptation Options</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Droughts, water shortage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flooding (storms and cyclones)</td>
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<td>Winds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclones</td>
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<td>Coastal impacts from tidal and river water</td>
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<td>Salinity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bushfires</td>
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RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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