

Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services
The Honourable Neil Roberts
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IPSWICH, LOCKYER VALLEY AND DARLING DOWNS RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE FOR STORM SEASON

Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts has urged residents living in Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley and on the Darling Downs to prepare now for the approaching storm season.

Speaking at the Queensland Tropical Cyclone Consultative Committee (QTCCC) workshop in Gatton today, Mr Roberts said state and local governments were working hard to prepare for the season but members of the public also needed to do their own planning.

"The interim advice received from the Bureau of Meteorology is that Queenslanders can expect to see above-average rainfall and storm activity this season as well as a slight increase in the number of Tropical Cyclones expected to form," Mr Roberts said.

"Thankfully, we are not seeing the same serious indicators of widespread disasters as we did last year. However we are nevertheless at risk.

"A significant level of work and preparation is being undertaken at both the local level and within state disaster management agencies, however there's also a responsibility on individuals to prepare as well."

Mr Roberts said the QTCCC workshops being held across the state were an important part of pre-season preparation.

The workshops are a joint initiative of Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ), the Bureau of Meteorology, the Department of Environment and Resource Management and ABC Local Radio Queensland.

Mr Roberts said the workshops gave people involved in disaster management at a local level an opportunity to hear the latest information about being prepared for natural disasters.

"The workshops, like the one in Gatton today, encourage communities to take time before the onset of the traditional storm season to prepare plans, especially focussing on when and how to evacuate if necessary," he said.

"Planning for emergencies can help communities prepare for, survive and minimise the impact of natural disasters.

"Strategies for evacuation and notification will be a high priority in these workshops as we continue to understand the impact preparedness has on outcomes."

"The severe weather experienced in Queensland last summer, particularly the tragic and devastating flooding in Toowoomba, the Lockyer Valley and Ipswich reminds us that we cannot afford to be complacent about the dangers presented by seasonal weather events."

For more information about preparing for storm and cyclone season, visit

www.disaster.qld.gov.au.

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