

# McKinnon Creek Detention Basin Emergency Flood Information Guide



Council owns and operates the McKinnon Creek Detention Basin, located within the triangular area bounded by Del Manso Crescent, Accatino Street, and Canecutter Road in Edmonton (see location map below). This basin helps reduce flooding impacts on properties downstream during heavy rainfall.

The purpose of this Emergency Flood Information Guide (the Guide) is to provide steps so people who are at risk of being affected by flooding impacts, can be prepared, and know what to do.

## What does the detention basin do?

The McKinnon Creek Detention Basin can temporarily hold approximately 132 megalitres of water when full. The detention basin is designed to temporarily store water during heavy rainfall and release it through an outlet structure (drainage pipes) to help reduce the intensity of heavy water flows downstream.

This Detention Basin is classed as a 'referable dam' and therefore regulated by the Queensland Government's Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers. As the owner of this dam, Council has a legislative requirement to inform people at risk who live downstream, so they can be prepared and know what to do in a dam-related emergency.

## What could happen in a dam-related emergency?

A dam-related emergency is an event that results in an uncontrolled volume of water flowing downstream and impacting properties, people, and the environment located within the 'Hazard Zone'. The level of flooding downstream could be impacted by a range of aspects including volume and duration of rainfall and existing water levels. Online maps outlining the Hazard Zone are available on Council's website.

Though the likelihood of a dam-related emergency is low, Council has developed the McKinnon Creek Detention Basin Emergency Action Plan (EAP) which explains the roles, responsibilities, and communication procedures used in these circumstances. The EAP identifies areas and properties most at risk and details the process for notifying 'Population at Risk' of a dam-related emergency. The EAP is available on Council's website.



## What warning systems are in place?

### National Emergency Alert System

The National Emergency Alert System (NEAS) is Australia's national telephone warning system. It may be used by emergency services during potential or actual emergencies to send voice messages to landlines and SMS text messages to mobile phones within a defined area. Council will use the NEAS via the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) – Cairns Region to State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) to ensure those potentially affected by a flood related emergency are notified. These alerts are official communications from the LDMG via the SDCC.

### Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System (AWS) is the national system of information and warnings for hazards which provides consistent warning levels and corresponding call-to-action statements. These warnings, written in easy-to-understand language, will inform the community about what impacts to expect and what actions to take in the event of a dam-related emergency.

There are three warning levels:



**Advice: (Yellow)**  
An incident has started.  
There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



**Watch and Act: (Orange)**  
There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



**Emergency Warning: (Red)**  
An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

More information on the Australian Warning System, the levels of warning and calls to action is available in the EAP or at [www.australianwarningsystem.com.au](http://www.australianwarningsystem.com.au)

## Be prepared and know what to do

We all have an important role to play in being prepared to act during an emergency and ensuring our community is safe. Discussing and sharing your plan with your family, household members, or business associates is essential for everyone's safety.

### STEP 1

#### Know where to go



Identify if your property is in the Hazard Zone and **plan your evacuation route** to a safer location outside this zone and away from rivers and creeks (you can search for your property on Council's online maps).



During a real flooding emergency, surrounding roads may also be impacted. It's good practice to plan a second route. **Never drive through flood water.**

### STEP 2

#### Be prepared



It's important that everyone in your household knows what to do and where to go in an emergency. **Create a Household Emergency Plan** using the removable template on page 5 of this guide. Cut along the dotted line, fill it in, and display it in a high-traffic area such as your refrigerator for visibility.



**Have a household emergency kit ready** for the wet season. This kit contains essential supplies to help your household manage if you are without power, water or access to shops for several days. Use the checklist on page 6 to make sure your kit is complete.

### STEP 3

#### Stay informed



It is your responsibility to **monitor the weather** during a rainfall event as conditions can change quickly. For the latest weather warnings, advice and information, visit the Cairns Disaster Dashboard website.

The Cairns Disaster Dashboard also provides steps to limit damage to your property during the wet season, as well as other useful information.

**If you receive an official emergency notification from the Local Disaster Management Group - Cairns Region, you must adhere to the warnings.**

***In an emergency everyone has a responsibility for their own safety.***

# Our household emergency plan

## Household members

Name	Phone number

## Hazard zones (Storm tide, flood, bushfire, hillslope)

## Where will we go if we leave?

## How will we get there?

## Emergency meeting place

## Essential medications

## Pet details

Name	Registration #

## Our emergency kit is located

### Emergency contact

### Phone number

Police/ambulance/fire	000
SES	13 25 00
Disaster Coordination centre	1300 396 102
Ergon Energy	13 16 70
Main Roads	13 19 40
Doctor	
School/Childcare	
Workplace	
Friends	
Neighbours	
Vet	

## Insurance details

### Policy number


### Phone number

Home insurance	
Contents insurance	
Car insurance	

# Our household Emergency Kit

In an emergency you and your household need to be self-sufficient for 3 days. Packing a household emergency kit will ensure you have the essentials you need if disaster strikes.



Collect the items below and keep them in a sturdy, easily transportable bag or box. Tick them off as you go: 



Water containers



Non-perishable food



Battery powered radio



Torch



Candles and a lighter



First aid kit



Emergency phone



Personal documents



Portable stove and fuel



Cooking equipment



Medication and scripts



Tent/tarp and blankets



Cash



Toiletries



Pocket knife



Clothes and strong shoes



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is the McKinnon Creek Detention Basin structure sturdy?

Yes, Council undertakes regular monitoring of the detention basin and carries out maintenance to ensure it is structurally sound. This is part of Council's legislative responsibility as a dam owner.

### What is the Hazard Zone?

The Hazard Zone illustrates the potentially affected high-risk areas in the unlikely event of a dam-related emergency of the McKinnon Creek Detention Basin.

### What could happen in a dam-related emergency?

A dam-related emergency can occur for a range of reasons, such as water flowing over the top of the dam embankment during heavy rain, structural or engineering problems, damage to the embankment, or failure of key components like spillways. Any of these issues can lead to an uncontrolled release of water downstream.

### What are the impacts?

Potential impacts include damage to property, people and/or the environment caused by flood water inundation.

### How much notice will I have in a real-life dam-related emergency?

Residents will be alerted to take suitable actions to prepare for, and respond to, a potential or actual emergency including to evacuate to higher ground when a dam-related emergency is imminent or has occurred. On receiving this notification, the safest thing to do is to take immediate action and if required, move to higher ground away from the Hazard Zone.

### How will I be alerted?

Various methods of communication are used to disseminate this information including email, website, mobile phone messaging and social media platforms e.g., Facebook. The primary platform for public notification prior to an emergency event is the Cairns Disaster Dashboard. This dashboard provides existing local contact and content including information about weather, safe locations, key road closures, and predicted impacts on critical infrastructure and services.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police Fire Ambulance Emergencies only	<b>000</b>
State Emergency Service (SES)	<b>13 25 00</b>
Ergon Energy For power emergencies and urgent hazardous situations	<b>13 16 70</b>
Road and Traffic Conditions (TMR)	<b>13 19 40</b>
Health and Hospital Information (QH)	<b>13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)</b>
Water Supply Emergencies (CRC)	<b>1300 69 22 47</b>
Non-emergency Situations	Police: <b>13 14 44</b> Ambulance: <b>13 12 33</b>
Cairns Regional Council website	<b><a href="http://cairns.qld.gov.au">cairns.qld.gov.au</a></b>
Cairns Disaster Dashboard	<b><a href="http://disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au">disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au</a></b>



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