3650 Extra Cyclone Shelter Spaces This Cyclone Season

The Territory Government is providing an extra 3,650 extra places in cyclone shelters across the Territory as part of preparations for this year’s forecast big cyclone season.

Construction Minister Gerry McCarthy said upgrades to Marrara Indoor Stadium are complete and final preparations were underway on additional cyclone shelter places across the Territory including provisions for first aid, communications, Police, toilets and shelter management.

“The Territory Government is investing $3 million across the Territory to deliver more cyclone spaces across the Territory to boost community safety,” Mr McCarthy said.

“As our population continues to grow it is vital we deliver increased places for families in shelters for severe cyclones, such as those predicted by the Bureau of Metereology for this wet season.

“This $3 million investment will deliver an extra 3,650 cyclone shelter places for Territorians who do not have access to coded homes if a cyclone hits.

“We’re urging all families not to be complacent this wet season and be prepared in case of the ‘worst case scenario’ - data from the Bureau of Meteorology show that we’re facing cyclone conditions similar to that when severe tropical cyclone Thelma threatened to hit in 1998.”

Extra cyclone shelter places include:

- Marrara stadium - 1500 places - construction complete
- Rosebery School - 600 places - construction underway to be complete January
- Berry Springs School - 440 places - construction underway to be complete December
- Maningrida 370 places - construction underway to be complete December
- Yirrkala - 300 places - construction complete
- Galiwinku 440 - construction underway to be complete February

Cyclone shelter upgrades totalling $2.8 million have been delivered in recent years to Casuarina Senior College, Nightcliff High School and Taminmin High School.

“The Henderson Government has provided $1.2 million for 1500 new cyclone shelter places at Marrara stadium including new roofing and window protection,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Upgrades to existing shelters brings the total number of shelters spaces in Darwin to 14,800.”

The Marrara Stadium $1.2 million upgrade includes:
Demolish all existing roof decking, and replace with cyclone resistant roofing.
Demolish existing wall cladding & S&I 17MM structural ply and re colour bond.
Upgrade to structural areas around entry areas as required.
Upgrade roller shutter doors with wind locks.
Put in debris screens/protection around window door areas.

“I encourage all Territorians to have an emergency plan for their household and visit the Emergency Services website for guidelines for preparing for the wet season.”

Tips on how to get set for the wet:

- Prepare an emergency plan for your household;
- Tie down any loose objects around your home;
- Prepare an emergency kit for your family;
- Clear guttering to prevent flooding inside your house;
- Fill your vehicles' fuel tanks;
- Ensure all members of your family know where the strongest part of your household is;
- Tune to your local radio/TV for further information and warnings; and
- Store your photos and valuables in a safe, airtight waterproof container.

Emergency kit should include:

- Torch with spare batteries, candles and waterproof matches;
- Portable radio with spare batteries (be sure to check all batteries every 3 months);
- First Aid Kit with any essential medications that may not be found in a basic kit;
- A changes of clothes for each member of the household (wind and waterproof, hats, strong protective closed in shoes);
- Blankets or sleeping bags;
- Toilet paper and essential toiletries;
- Special needs for infants, the aged and people with disabilities;
- Portable stove with fuel;
- Pet supplies (food and toiletry requirements);
- Food and water for each person for at least 72 hours;
- Strong plastic bags; and
- Spare money including coins.

For more information about preparing an emergency plan for your household visit

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