Acting Chief Minister and Minister for Emergency Services Delia Lawrie has encouraged Top End residents to ensure they are ready for the cyclone season.

Ms Lawrie was speaking after the Bureau of Meteorology declared a Cyclone Watch for the region from Daly River Mouth to Goulburn Island, including Darwin and the Tiwi Islands, and a cyclone warning for the area from Western Australia’s Mitchell Plateau to the Daly River Mouth.

“Today’s weather warnings and the steady rain of the last week are timely reminder for us all to make sure we are ready for the cyclone season,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The Top End is affected by about three cyclones a year, and while Darwin itself has not been directly affected in a number of years its important we all take the time to be prepared.

Ms Lawrie said there were simple steps people can take to help protect their family and property, including:

- Securing loose items around your property, and trimming trees and branches
- Preparing an emergency cyclone kit, including a radio, batteries, torch, canned food, first aid kit and essential medicines; and
- Knowing where you will shelter your pets and animals.

“It’s also important to know where you and your family will shelter, whether at home or in a public shelter, and how you will get there,” said Ms Lawrie.

“Above all, follow the advice of emergency services personnel.

“Taking the time now to get your plans ready and your yard cleaned up is the best way to help protect your family during the cyclone season.”

For further information on preparing your family and home for cyclones, contact the NT Emergency Services on 8922 3630.

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