Statement - Preparations underway for Tropical Cyclone Lam

17 February 2015

Emergency preparations are underway in the region set to be effected by Tropical Cyclone Lam with schools and non-essential government offices now closed until further notice.

After advice from the Territory Emergency Management Council and the Bureau of Meteorology, I have decided that staff who are not listed as key government employees in their agency’s cyclone plan and who do not have emergency management roles will be permitted to be absent from work tomorrow.

Anyone who is unsure of their role should contact their immediate supervisor. We also ask that all NT Government staff ensure their managers have their current contact details.

Schools in the immediate vicinity of the expected path of the cyclone are closed until further notice.

Principals of all affected government school have provided students with advisory letters to take home informing parents and carers of the closures.

The schools are:

• Yirrkala School
• Yirrkala Homelands School
• Nhulunbuy High School
• Nhulunbuy Primary School
• Nhulunbuy Christian School
• Baniyala Garrangali School

We are closely monitoring weather patterns and School Principals are on standby should there be a need for any further school closures in the wider region.

People in the Watch and Warning areas are advised to put together their emergency kit, clear yards and balconies and start home shelter preparations.
As part of your preparations, fill bath tubs and any containers with water before the cyclone arrives. People are warned not to use chemical or fuel containers to store drinking water.

Locals on the ground should NOT proceed to public emergency shelters until advised to do so by emergency services.

If you do not have accommodation constructed to the building code or are unsure of your present accommodation you should determine now where to shelter. This may include arranging to shelter with family, friends, or in public emergency shelters or strong buildings that are available in your community.

If your cyclone plan includes seeking shelter away from the region, the roads are open and in good conditions for 4WD vehicles.

Check that your friends, family and neighbours have heard and understood the messages, particularly new arrivals or those who may not fully understand English.

If you’ve got friends, family or neighbours away – see if there is something you can do to help them with any cyclone preparations, including checking on pet’s welfare.

Gove District Hospital has well established emergency plans in place for adverse events such as cyclones.

Patients will be contacted if any outpatient appointments needed to be rescheduled.

Authorities are continuing to monitor the situation and will provide regular updates.

For further advice on personal preparations visit [www.SecureNT.nt.gov.au](http://www.SecureNT.nt.gov.au)

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