

2026/2027 QUEENSLAND SEVERE WEATHER SEASON PREPAREDNESS

SERIAL #	#001
ISSUED	29/09/2026 @ 1500
EFFECTIVE	1 November 2026 to 30 April 2027
ISSUED BY	State Operations and Communications Centre 07 5631 7400 socc@lifesaving.com.au
ADVISORY TARGET	
- SLSQ State Council, Board, Committees, Panels and Executive - SLSQ Regional Managers and Lifesaving Coordinators - Branch Presidents - Branch Directors of Lifesaving - Surf Life Saving Club Presidents - Surf Life Saving Club Captains - Australian Lifeguard Service Head of Lifeguards, Chief Lifeguard SSC and Lifeguard Supervisors - Surf Life Saving Emergency Response Groups - Operations Support Duty Officers, Drone Operators and RWC Area Captains - Flood Response Operators and Flood Boat Operators - Liaison Officers - Member Wellbeing Services	
SITUATION	
- The severe weather season in Queensland is from November to April each year and may comprise of several different types of hazard events such as cyclones, flash flooding and widespread riverine flooding. - The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) is anticipating El Nino conditions for the season ahead, which may include significant and intense storm events, coupled with periods of pro-longed heat conditions.	
MISSION	
To prepare Surf Life Saving Queensland services to support anticipated flood response and community assistance activities in line with the SLSQ Disaster Management Plan (SLSQDMPLAN) and SLSQ's role under the Interim Queensland State Disaster Management Plan.	
EXECUTION	
- Pre-severe weather season readiness checks of: - o equipment and caches - o member awards and currencies - o service and member availability for deployment and callout rosters - Undertake checking and testing of business continuity plans at a service level - Ensuring SLS service facilities in higher risk areas are prepared for relevant hazards - Inclusion of pre-severe weather season readiness in any service based operational meetings and briefings	

- SLSQ State and Regional Staff to engage through relevant Disaster Management Groups in preparedness activities.

ADMINISTRATION & LOGISTICS

- Review local service-based plans and relevant disaster management plans at a local, district and regional level
- Undertake thorough review of the SLSQ Disaster Management Plan (SLSQDMPLAN)
 - o <https://lifesaving.com.au/about/disaster-management-plan>
- Re-familiarise with Lifesaving Patrol Operations Manual (POM) section POM 0019 'Adverse weather conditions and disaster management' or Lifeguard Operations Manual section LGOM 14 'Adverse Weather Conditions', which includes:
 - o LS04 Cyclone Emergency Procedures
 - o LS16/21 Tsunami Emergency Procedures (*currently under review*)
- If there is any conflict between the SLSQDMPLAN, Regional SLSQ DMPLANS and the POM, the SLSQDMPLAN takes primacy.
- Encourage members to undertake their own review and also complete e-learning modules via the members training portal related to
 - o SLSQ DMPLAN Overview
 - o Flood awareness
 - o GWN Communications

COMMAND, CONTROL & COMMUNICATIONS

- All activities during declared disaster events will be in accordance with the interim Queensland State Disaster Management Plan (QSDMP) which also identifies lead agencies/authorities based on hazard type:
 - o <https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/plans>
 - o Note, SLSQs role has been updated over the course of 2025/26 and the interim QSDMP reissued.
- Command and coordination arrangements within SLSQ when disaster events occur are outlined in the SLSQDMPLAN.
- All coordination will be supported through Disaster Coordination Centre liaisons and the SOCC with the GWN serving as a key interoperability capability for frontline operations.

SAFETY

- All personnel must adhere to SLSQ Policy and Procedures.
- All incidents and near misses must be reported via SOCC.
- Follow safety directions of your service leader and working within your training and personal limitations at all times during preparedness.
- While dynamic risk assessment should occur across all activities, re-familiarise yourself with specific risks associated with your capability ahead of activation (e.g. flood response operations).
- Fatigue management is a priority for all personnel and rostering should managed accordingly.
- Team leader briefing and debriefing should routinely occur during all related activities.



PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY
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ROLE	ROLE
Manager, Emergency Management Coordination	State Commander

--- COMMANDER'S INTENT ENDS ---