



SLSQ Policy

Title: Cyclone Emergency	Division: Lifesaving
Policy No: LS04	Version: 2
Effective Date: 30.04.2025	Approved Date: 30.04.2025
Revision Date: 30.04.2028	Approved by: SLSQ Board

Introduction

Many of Surf Life Saving Queensland's volunteers and lifeguards work in an environment that is prone to the occurrence of tropical cyclones. These occur in parts of Northern Queensland, generally from the Mackay region and northwards.

Purpose

The content of this Cyclone Policy details the requirements of Surf Life Saving Queensland volunteers & staff, in the event of a cyclone & addresses their safety & wellbeing whilst involved in a Cyclone event. It provides direction to all SLSQ Clubs & Branches regarding legislative requirements, as well as agreements with other Emergency Services and SLSQ's capabilities.

Scope

This policy applies to all Surf Life Saving Queensland Clubs, Lifeguards & Staff that are located from the Mackay region and northwards or involved in the Emergency Response efforts regarding a Cyclone.

Definitions:

Tropical Cyclone – Tropical cyclones are low pressure systems that form over warm tropical waters. They are a warm-cored, non-frontal low-pressure system of synoptic scale developing over warm waters, that has a wind speed of at least 63 km/h and persists for at least 6 hours, typically forming when either the atmospheric conditions are favourable or/and the sea surface temperature is above 26.5°C.



Policy Statement

Our commitment to developing a **Safety UR First** culture throughout all SLSQ operations, your safety is our priority. There is no expectation that workers or Lifesavers are placed at unnecessary risk in undertaking their role.

To meet our commitment to Cyclone safety, we endeavor to reduce the risk by:

- Ensuring and maintaining appropriate training
- Supporting research to understand how to improve the cyclone procedure
- Identifying, monitoring and complying with applicable health and safety laws, codes, standards and other regulatory obligations
- Provide suitable training, information, guidance and technology
- Identifying hazards, assessing risks and implementing risk control measures on a continual basis
- Broadly consulting and communicating with experts and relevant stakeholders, on matters where SLSQ propose changes that directly impact operations
- Monitoring effective implementation of this policy

Review

It is the Lifesaving departments responsibility to review this policy, every two years, unless changes need to be made prior. The review should be initiated by the Lifesaving Coordinator, gaining input & feedback from all Regional Lifesaving Coordinators, then going to the LSC for review & endorsement. Once the LSC provide a recommendation on it & endorse the policy, it will be sent to the SLSQ Board for review and endorsement.

Related Instruments

[LSP004 – Cyclone Procedure](#)

[Lifeguard Operations Manual](#)

[Lifesaving Patrol Operations Manual](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Whimpey".

Dave Whimpey

Chief Executive Officer

Surf Lifesaving Queensland