



# STORM TIDE / SURGE

## What is it?

A storm tide is the rise of the ocean water level, combined with the tide at the time and strong onshore winds and/or reduced atmospheric pressure.

This combination of effects, especially if it occurs on a high tide or king tide, can force sea water and pounding waves into areas that would normally be well above sea level and sometimes several kilometres inland if the land is low lying. The more intense the cyclone is, the higher the storm tide risk is.

## What are the local risks?

The Mackay region has a very high risk of being impacted by cyclones, including storm tide, during the “cyclone season”, which officially runs from November 1 to May. The Mackay region has several low-lying areas at significant risk from storm tide.

## What should I do?

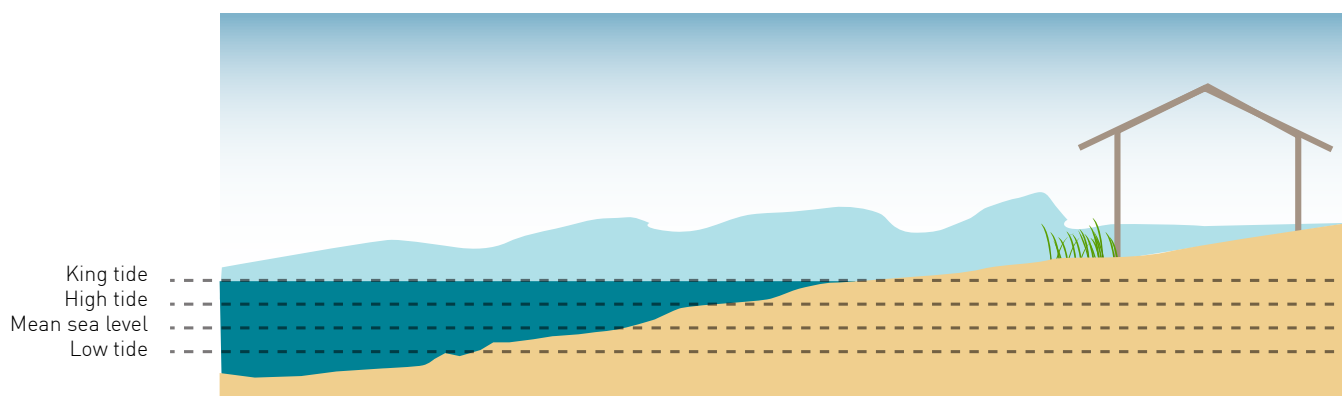
You need to plan well ahead of time.

- Know your Evacuation Zone (Storm Tide).
- Be ready to evacuate and have an Evacuation Kit.
- Consider and identify your evacuation and shelter options.

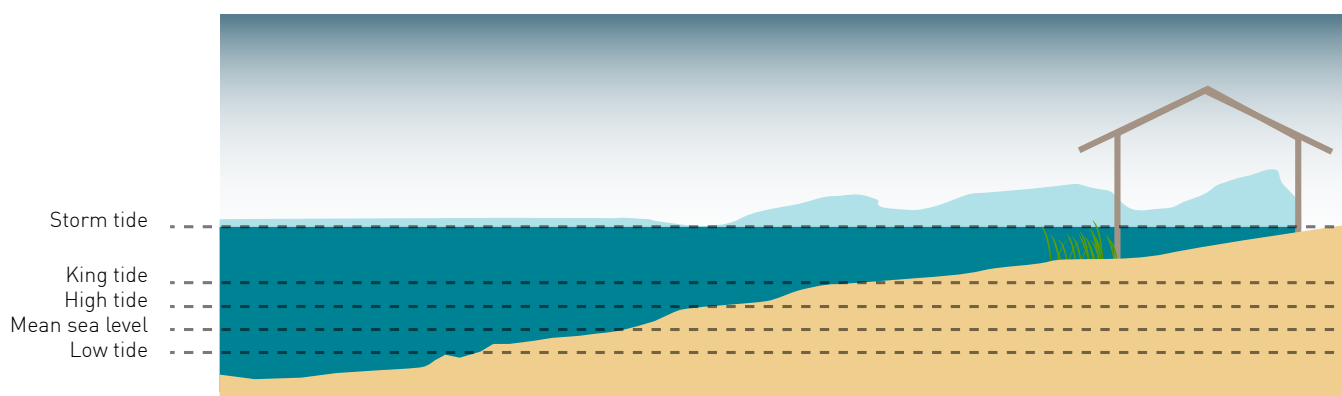
When a cyclone threat develops, keep listening to official warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. These will advise if high tides and coastal flooding are expected.

Listen to official warnings from the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), which will advise of the evacuation of any storm tide colour zones.

## KING TIDE



## CYCLONE STORM TIDE



**King tide** (Highest Astronomical Tide)

**Mean sea level** (Equals 0 Australian Height Datum)

**Low tide** (Lowest Astronomical Tide)



### USEFUL LINKS:

Mackay Regional Council Emergency Dashboard  
(including Evacuation Maps)

[mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency](https://mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency)

Bureau of Meteorology

[bom.gov.au](https://bom.gov.au)