

MEDIA RELEASE

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Get Ready Week a timely reminder to prepare for natural disasters

Preparation is important in many aspects of life, but even more so when it comes to preparing for extreme weather and natural disasters.

Before any potential summer season surprises occur, Gladstone Regional Council is encouraging residents to think about how they can prepare ahead of the summer months by participating in Get Ready Week 2020, running from 12-18 October.

In the past decade, Queensland has been impacted by more than 80 significant natural disaster events, resulting in tragic loss of life and more than \$15.7 billion in damage to public infrastructure.

As the most vulnerable state in Australia to natural disasters, it's incredibly important that we take steps to prepare.

Gladstone Region Acting Mayor Kahn Goodluck said recent history has shown us that Queenslanders can face catastrophic bushfires one month and unprecedented flooding the next.

"When it comes to extreme weather events in Queensland, it's not a matter of 'if' but 'when'," Councillor Goodluck said.

"Having a 'What-if' plan could be the difference between staying safe or putting yourself and your family in danger.

"There are plenty of online resources available about disaster preparation and weather events on the Get Ready Queensland website."

Cr Goodluck said Council's RegionWatch website is also a valuable resource where community members can access live updates from multiple sources.

"RegionWatch highlights road conditions, roadworks, Bureau of Meteorology weather warnings, power outages, flood cameras, school closures from the Department of Education and emergency bulletins from Council's disaster management system," he said.

For more information on how you can be prepared, go to www.getready.qld.gov.au.

Visit <http://regionwatch.gladstone.qld.gov.au> to access Council's RegionWatch website.

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