

MEDIA STATEMENT

22 January 2024

Boaties urged to prepare for Tropical Low

- Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is urging Queensland boaties to secure their vessels as a Tropical Low approach the Queensland coast.
- The Tropical Low is forecast to bring strong winds, storm tides and potential flooding.
- The Tropical Low's path remains unpredictable, so boaties along the entire Queensland coast are strongly advised to check the Bureau of Meteorology's website.
- Boaties should re-assess any plans to head out on the water in impacted areas, as their local situation could change quickly.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) is urging Queensland boaties to secure their vessels as a Tropical Low approaches its east coast.

While there is a high degree of uncertainty about the Tropical Low's course, the Bureau of Meteorology predicts its destructive winds will start impacting the Queensland coast from Tuesday 23 January.

There is also the danger of storm tides and heavy rain which has the potential to cause flooding in river catchments.

Boat owners should ensure their moored boats have well-maintained lines and connection points that can ride out strong winds and high tides.

Boaties are also strongly advised to re-think any plans to head out on the water until weather conditions have stabilised and navigational safety can be assured.

Winds and seas under the influence of a Tropical Low should always be avoided.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads will issue any necessary navigational advice on its Facebook and X accounts.

Further up-to-date information on the maritime impacts of the Tropical Low can be found online here: [Dashboard \(msq.qld.gov.au\)](https://msq.qld.gov.au)

Quotes attributable to Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon:

"It is very important that Queenslanders are not caught out by the approaching Tropical Low.

"Boat owners should respect the Tropical Low's destructive potential and take steps now to safely secure their vessels.

"If not properly secured, vessels can break away from their moorings and cause damage to other vessels, property or the environment.

"They can even endanger lives.

"I also caution boaties in the affected areas to re-think any plans to get out on the water over the coming days.

"Check weather forecasts to ascertain how the Tropical Low will affect your local area.

"Visibility could be poor, while rising sea and wind conditions and floating debris could add further dangers to navigation.

"If in doubt, don't go out. Stay ashore until the relevant authorities say it is safe to go out again."