

# PUBLIC SHELTER OPTIONS IN A DISASTER

PLAN. PREPARE. ACT.

Residents are encouraged to have an evacuation plan in place and either shelter at home or evacuate to a safer place (with family or friends) outside of an evacuation zone.

Public shelters have limited capacity, so this option should only be used as a last resort. Priority is generally given to residents in storm tide evacuation zones or wind vulnerable accommodation.

Remember to consider your pets in a disaster.

## What are the shelter options available in a disaster?

Generally, public cyclone shelters and places of refuge are opened to keep residents safe during a disaster. After a disaster, evacuation centres will be available for residents who cannot return home. Shelter options are subject to change, depending on the nature and severity of the event. Residents will be advised through local radio and Council's Emergency Management and Disaster Dashboard when the shelters will be opened. The location of the shelters will be included in this advice.

## What do I bring?

All personal belongings should be kept in one small bag/backpack. This should include items such as medications, non-perishable food and a water bottle.



## Facilities available

The places of refuge and public cyclone shelters only provide basic necessities such as toilets and hand washing facilities, first aid and limited emergency potable water.

Important information: If evacuating to a public cyclone shelter, you will be allocated a chair and will be sitting the whole time. Sleeping areas will not be available.

Evacuation centres will be provided with food, bedding supplies, toilets and hand washing facilities. Clothing, welfare, recovery services and general comforts will be provided where necessary.

## Animals

Pets, except for assistance animals, will only be permitted at designated shelters and evacuation centres. Your pet will remain your responsibility when sheltering with them at a designated shelter or evacuation centre. For further information about caring for your pets during a disaster, please review Council's Preparing for a Disaster with Pets factsheet on Council's website.

