

*A strong voice for our future*

**BRITTANY LAUGA MP**

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**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL  
AND ASSISTANT MINISTER  
FOR EDUCATION**



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Get ready family day prepare for storm and cyclone season

Central Queenslanders are urged to get to the Emu Park markets on Sunday to start preparing for disaster season, including bushfires, storms, floods and cyclones.

The Member for Keppel and Assistant Education Minister Brittany Lauga said residents are invited to the free, fun family day at Bell Park to learn how they can get ready for the upcoming season and join in the action with demonstrations and displays.

She said from 9am to 1pm the event, hosted by the Livingstone Shire Council, aims to help the community better understand the risk of storms, coastal hazards, tsunamis, storm surges, cyclones, and bushfires.

“Get Ready Queensland Week (10-16 October) was launched in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology’s Severe Weather Outlook.

“Queensland has been hit by almost 90 significant natural disasters and weather events in the past decade leaving a recovery and reconstruction bill of more than \$16.8 billion.

“Our emergency services staff do an amazing job helping us out in our times of need so it’s important we show them they can count on us,” Ms Lauga said.

She said research shows 57% of Queenslanders have an emergency plan, which is up from around 18 per cent eight years ago but there is plenty of room for improvement.

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“Just last season alone Queensland was hit by 11 natural disaster events across 50 local government areas including a hailstorm, bushfires, floods and cyclones.

“Get Ready Queensland Week is about raising awareness to start preparing your families, pets, households and even your neighbours for severe weather, and the Get Ready Queensland website has all the information to guide you,” said Ms Lauga.

Bureau of Meteorology Senior Meteorologist Laura Boekel said Queenslanders should keep up to date with the latest warnings and forecasts on the Bureau's website and the BOM Weather smartphone app.

“We want people to ‘know your weather, know your risk’ – and that means understanding not just what kind of severe weather can impact the area you live in, but the hazards associated with it and what you need to do to avoid getting hurt,” Ms Boekel said.

“The 2021-2022 Severe Weather Outlook released by the Bureau this week indicates that climate drivers including the current La Niña Watch, warm waters in the north, the sea surface temperature pattern across the tropical Pacific Ocean, along with a negative Indian Ocean Dipole, point towards more rainfall and an average to slightly above average cyclone season.

“There are on average four cyclones every season in the Eastern cyclone zone of Australia.”

For more information on Get Ready Queensland visit: [www.getready.qld.gov.au](http://www.getready.qld.gov.au)

For more information on Get Ready Day, please visit <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/events/event/311/get-ready-day>

To learn more about the Disaster Dashboard, go to <https://disaster.livingstone.qld.gov.au/>

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