

MEDIA STATEMENT

6 May 2022

Boaties warned to prepare for more severe weather

Queensland boaties and waterside residents have been warned to secure their vessels and property as much of the state again braces for severe weather.

Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon said the boating community needed to be prepared as the Bureau of Meteorology was predicting heavy rainfall through the next week.

"We saw what happened in South East Queensland during the February-March floods when many vessels and pontoons broke away from their moorings to cause damage downstream," Mr Dillon said.

"We really don't want a repeat of that, so owners of boats at moorings would be well advised to ensure their lines are well maintained and can ride out strong winds and high tides.

"They should strive to ensure their vessels can't break free to damage others, become a navigation hazard or threaten nearby properties.

"Wherever possible that also applies to private waterside infrastructure such as pontoons and walkways."

Mr Dillon said any boaties planning an outing over the coming week would be wise to reconsider.

"In some coastal areas, and particularly the south east, catchments are still saturated," he said.

"It won't need much rain to bring on stronger stream flows and currents, rising water levels and the associated dangers of floating or submerged debris.

"If that's not enough, boaties can also expect poor visibility."

Mr Dillon said any boaties determined to head out needed to plan their trip carefully and have all of the required safety equipment.

"Poor trip planning and failure to carry the required safety equipment, including lifejackets, are two of boating's 'fatal five' in Queensland" he said.

"Check the weather before you leave and while you are out on the water.

"Let your local volunteer rescue group know your plans, when you are due back, and leave contact details.

"And don't wait for an emergency. Wear your lifejacket when you leave shore and make sure your passengers do the same."

Boaties should check the weather at the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) website.

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