1. Each year, prior to, and during the summer storm and cyclone season, Queensland Government agencies and non-government organisations work proactively to ensure they are prepared to support the community and continue to deliver government services in times of natural disasters.
2. Ahead of the 2020-21 storm and cyclone season, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has advised that Queensland may experience heavier than usual rainfall, potential riverine flooding, and possibly more cyclones than average, due to the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (the oscillation between the El Niño phase and the La Niña phase) being in a La Niña.
3. On 27 October 2020, the BoM noted that the current La Niña is likely to continue until the end of summer 2020-21 and is not expected to be as strong as Australia's last significant La Niña event in 2010-2012.
4. Queensland Government agencies are well versed in responding to cyclones, storms and flood; however, the 2020-21 season presents a unique set of challenges. Queensland’s Disaster Management Arrangements have been activated since 22 March 2020, for the COVID-19 Pandemic, at local, district and state level.
5. As a result of this unprecedented and ongoing event, Queensland agencies have undertaken extensive planning and are well prepared for the storm and cyclone season with current business continuity planning and disaster management plans in place and mitigation systems and activities updated and activated across all levels of government and the community.
6. Cabinet noted the proactive exercises and activities undertaken by Queensland Government agencies to prepare for the impacts of potential concurrent events for the 2020‑21 summer storm and cyclone season.
7. Cabinet noted the status of disaster readiness of Queensland Government agencies to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from the impacts of natural disaster events for the 2020-2021 summer storm and cyclone season.
8. *Attachments*
* Nil.