

Follow these key steps to determine your best sheltering option in a cyclone event:

1. What is your risk?

- **Consider the location of your home.** Council has identified areas that may need to evacuate if a storm tide or localised flooding threatens. Find out if you live in an evacuation zone by visiting www.carpentaria.qld.gov.au/roads-and-weather and follow the links to evacuation. If you do live in an evacuation zone, you need to plan and prepare now so you can quickly evacuate and shelter in a safer place.
- **Consider the construction and condition of your home.** Do you live in an older home (built before 1982) that is not in good condition, or do you live in a caravan or temporary dwelling? If you do, you need to plan and prepare now so you can quickly evacuate and shelter in a safer place when the need arises.
- **Consider your needs.** If you live alone or if you have special care needs you need to plan and prepare now so you can quickly evacuate and shelter in a safer place when the need arises.

2. Consider your shelter options

Shelter in Place

If you live in a well constructed home, your best option is to plan and prepare to shelter in place in your home with your family, friends and pets. It is important you identify the strongest, most protected part of your home to shelter in. This is usually the smallest room in the house with the least number of windows and external walls.

Evacuate to shelter in a safer place

If you are potentially at risk (according to the risk profiles listed above), your best option is to pre-arrange your evacuation so you can shelter in a safer place, such as:

- With friends or family that live in a safer location:
 - i. Friends or family who live outside the evacuation zone and in a well maintained structure / home, or
 - ii. Friends or family who live in another community outside the cyclone warning area,
- In commercial accommodation (such as a motel) in another community outside the warning area.

If evacuation is not required and your home is well constructed and maintained, then your best option is to shelter in place with family and friends, in your own home.

3. Place-of Refuge

- Place of Refuge must be considered as the last option for residents after they have exhausted all other shelter options, or if are unable to leave the warning area. Facilities are intended as a short term (up to 18hrs) shelter option and have very basic amenities.
- You and your family will be much more comfortable sheltering at home, or at a family members' or friends' home.
- Residents with no other sheltering option will be advised when/if the local Places of Refuge are activated, via local radio <include details> and on councils' website. The location of these centres will be included in this advice.

4. Further considerations when planning for your evacuation so you can shelter in a safer place

- Plan to leave early, well before strong winds start to impact your area
- Allow time to secure and protect your property
- You may need to sustain yourself and your family for a few days, so ensure you have prepared supplies to take in your evacuation kit
- Check in advance (with family or friends you'll be sheltering with) whether you can take your pets with you and pack supplies for your pets in your evacuation kit.