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27 March 2017

## Avocados Australia Cyclone Debbie Disaster Support

Tropical Cyclone Debbie has become a severe category 3 system today, expected to intensify further to category 4 on approach to the north Queensland coast. It's tipped to hit the coast between Ayr and Cape Hillsborough, north of Mackay, before 10:00am tomorrow (Tuesday). The Bureau of Meteorology hasn't ruled out the chance it will turn into a category five cyclone and has warned it will be the worst storm since Cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Avocados Australia urges all growers in the affected areas to

- prepare where there's still time to reduce the impact on your orchards, farm and business and ensure the safety of family, staff, livestock and pets. Good preparation also means that efforts to coordinate disaster recovery can be fast tracked.
- take photographs of all major infrastructure, equipment and crops for insurance purposes. It is a good idea to send these offsite via email or upload to the cloud as a backup.
- Stay safe and listen to emergency alerts if advice is given (including evacuation alerts) ahead of worsening weather conditions. Authorities are urging people in affected areas to cancel all travel where possible and stay at home or in emergency shelters as winds increase.

### Avocados Australia Crisis Management Plan:

Avocados Australia has a crisis management plan for extreme weather events such as this and stakeholders are encouraged to contact us (07 3846 6566) or your regional director regarding your situation at any time.

### Useful links to prepare and stay informed:

- [The Queensland Government Disasters and Alerts website](#) acts as a one-stop-shop for information on Cyclone Debbie with links to all disaster and alert agencies, checklists to prepare, government department Twitter alerts (Main Roads, Power & Water, Public Transport, Health, education and Local Councils) and BOM news.
- [Get Ready Queensland's Cyclone webpage](#) contains more useful information and checklists to prepare.
- The latest [BOM Queensland tropical cyclone forecast track map and information](#).
- Listen to [ABC Local Radio](#) for updates and read [ABC news update for residents](#).
- The Queensland Farmers Federation have created a [Farmer Disaster Support Update](#) webpage aimed at primary producers for news and information relating to Cyclone Debbie.



**Natural Disaster Recovery Assistance data required after the cyclone:**

Following the cyclone, Growcom will be gathering data about the impact on the horticulture industry to enable government to activate Natural Disaster Recovery Assistance. The more information we can provide, the better the likelihood that growers will receive support.

After the cyclone, we request that you fill in the [damage estimate form](#) or call us on 07 3846 6566.

We very much hope that none of our growers are affected by this weather event and everyone remains safe and well.

If you need to contact Avocados Australia after hours please call our CEO John Tyas on 0438 132 477.

This email was sent by Avocados Australia, Level 1 / 8/63 Annerley Rd, Woolloongabba, Australia 4102 to [co@avocado.org.au](mailto:co@avocado.org.au)

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