



Cyclone Yasi

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

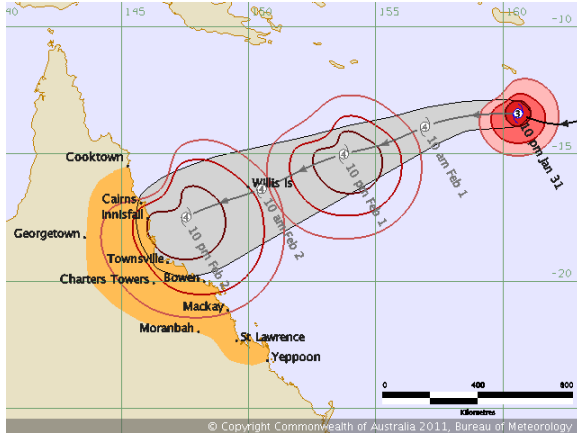
Cairns Private Hospital : Cairns Day Surgery : The Cairns Clinic

Yasi: The Forecasts

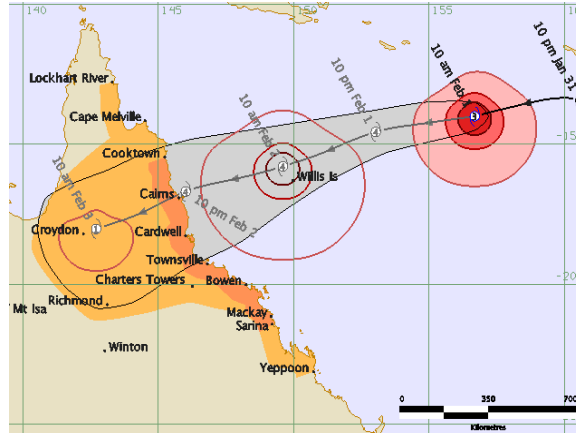
- Over a period of 5 days we watched & waited as Yasi approached the coast
- Cyclone Yasi was a category 5 cyclone forecast to be the largest cell to ever cross Australian shores
- Tracking was constantly changing
 - To hit around midnight Wed 2nd Feb
 - Winds in excess of 300km/hr
 - Potential storm surge of up to 9 metres

Tracking

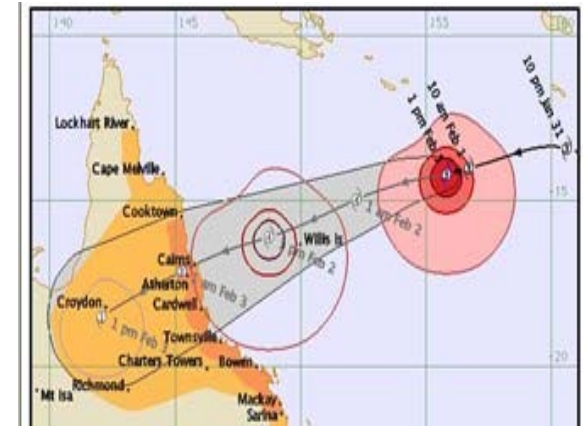
10pm Monday 31st Jan



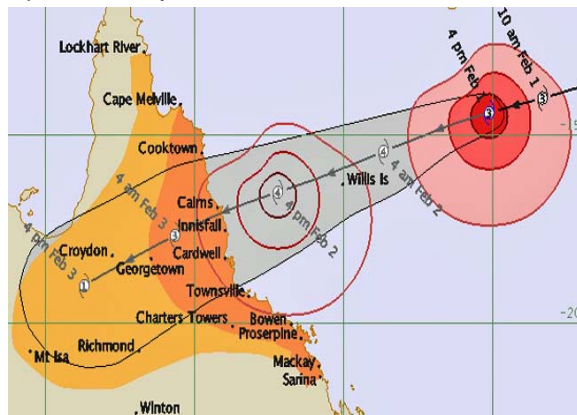
10am Tuesday 1st Feb



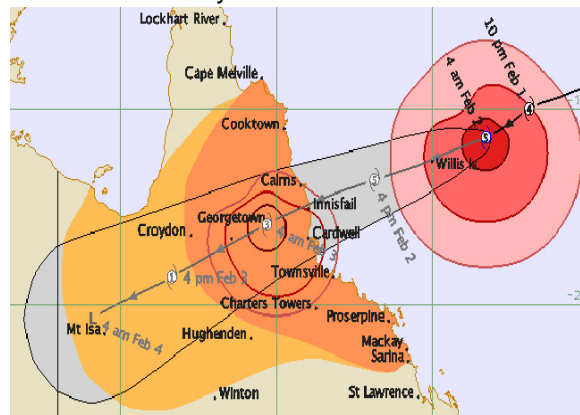
1pm Tuesday 1st Feb



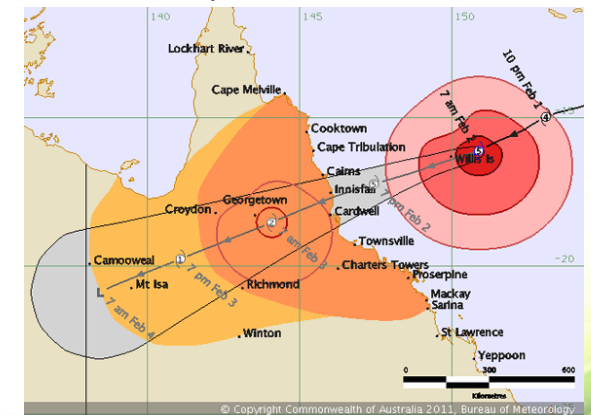
4pm Tuesday 1st Feb



4am Wednesday 2nd Feb



7am Wednesday 2nd Feb



Would you be nervous?

Compare Yasi's potential with the reality of Katrina



CYCLONE YASI

Category 5

LANDFALL: Expected to hit between Cairns and Cardwell at 10pm.

SIZE: 500km wide

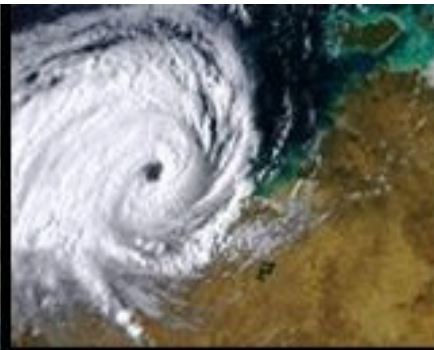
EYE: 100km wide

WIND GUSTS: 320km/h expected

STORM SURGE: Up to 9m expected

RAINFALL: Up to 1000mm expected

DAMAGE: Potentially large as it is heading towards built-up areas



CYCLONE TRACY

Category: 4

LANDFALL: Darwin in the early hours of December 25, 1974.

SIZE: 50km wide

EYE: 12km wide

WIND GUSTS: 217km/h recorded as the measuring system failed. Estimated up to 300km/h.

STORM SURGE: 1.6m in the city harbour, 4m at Casuarina Beach

RAINFALL: 195mm on Darwin in under eight hours

DAMAGE: 65 people killed, including 16 lost at sea, and 25,000 homes destroyed.



CYCLONE LARRY

Category: 4 (briefly Category 5)

LANDFALL: near Innisfail on the morning of March 20, 2006

SIZE: 100km wide

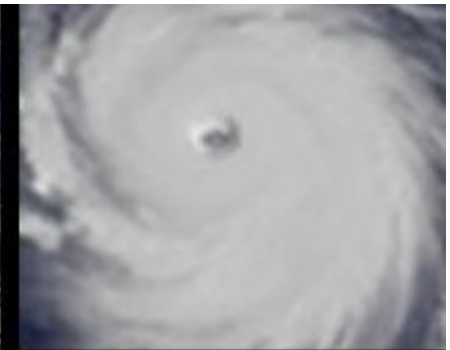
EYE: 25km wide

WIND GUSTS: 294km/h

STORM SURGE: 2.3m (Inundation to 4.9m in areas without gauges)

RAINFALL: 500mm in 72hrs near Tully

DAMAGE: Severe damage to infrastructure and crops and a damage bill of \$500 million-plus



HURRICANE KATRINA

Category: 5

LANDFALL: Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi, August 2005.

SIZE: 640km wide

EYE: 51km wide

WIND GUSTS: 280km/h

STORM SURGE: Up to 8.5m

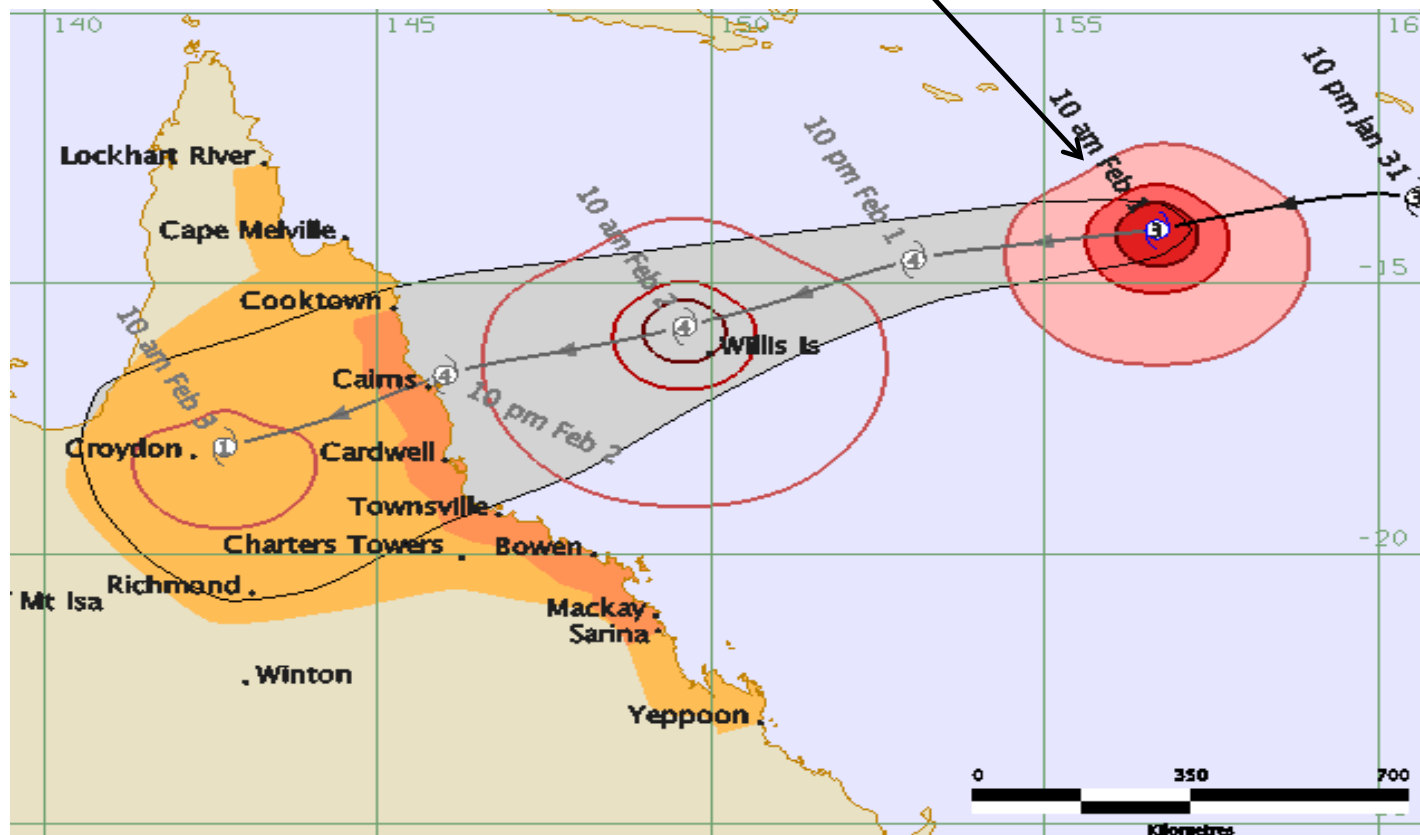
RAINFALL: 300mm over eastern Louisiana.

DAMAGE: 1833 people killed, more than \$100 billion damage.

Decisions, decisions....

Evacuation Tuesday night - if we decided to go

- So decision time was Tuesday morning some 38 hours before expected landfall
- At decision time, Yasi was still approximately 400km off the coast



Decisions made

Facilities shut down

- CPH, CDS & TCC
 - Power supply doubts
 - Storm surge potential
 - No CBH backup (ICU, NICU etc)



Evacuation to Brisbane

- Coordinated by Qld Govt agencies
- Excellent work done by CPH team!

Worst case scenario readiness

- Relocation of vital equipment
- Minimal sand bagging undertaken
- Decision to by-pass generator power

The Evacuation

People caring for people



Over 250 patients evacuated to Brisbane
47 from Cairns Private Hospital



Cairns Private

- Pt's evacuated 11pm to 1am (Tues-Wed)
- Last patient discharged 9:30am Wed
- Facility locked up 1:00pm Wed
- First admissions accepted 3:00pm Friday

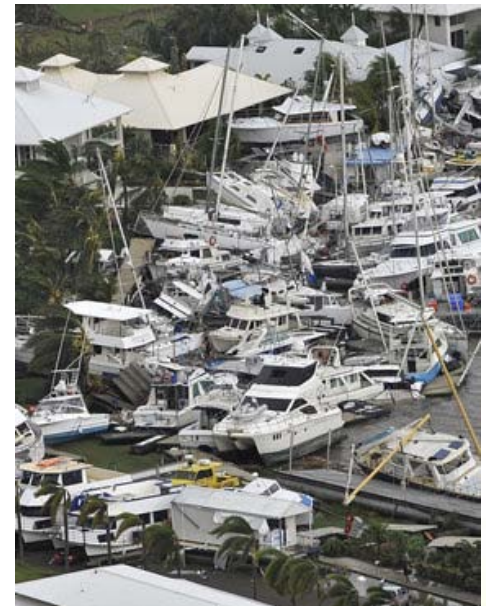


- Cairns Day Surgery
 - No operating Wednesday to Friday
 - Risks of patients back into the community
 - 3 IVF cases did proceed Wednesday morning
 - Back to normal operation from Mon 7th Feb
- The Cairns Clinic
 - All patients discharged home by Wednesday morning
 - First admissions accepted 3:30pm Friday



Communication

- Generally well done (early decisions helped)
- Difficulties with power & phones out
- Alternate options
 - Internet and/or social media
 - Radio networks
 - Set times & places to meet
- Print out of staff contact number
 - Which is left in known place(s) for easy access
- Stay in touch with evacuated patients
 - Directly and with the hospital they went to



Communication

- Walkie-talkies within hospital
 - PABX was down
- Keep H/O up to date
 - Insurance
- Keep abreast of media reports
 - Premier was announcing the evacuations yet we didn't have definitive notice of this proceeding
- Communication – you can't do enough!
 - Patients, staff and doctors
 - Directly where possible
 - Pre, during & post event



Medical Records

- Take time out to brief the ‘helpers’ before starting the move
- Med Records Dept to take charge of charts of those being evacuated (not the wards)

Stores

- All items moved upward from bottom 2 shelves
- Have identified alternate storage space identified in advance

IT

- Be prepared for a potential long down time
- Pre arrange for IT resource to be on site post event

Maternity

- If considering service shut down start contacting expectant mums early
 - If being evac'd dads unlikely to be allowed to travel with mum

Theatre

- Without air con your sterilised gear may need re-sterilising
 - All of ours did!
- Consider where everything can be moved to minimise this risk
 - Our folks had always said this too big a job
 - **They will never say this again!**
- Carefully consider when theatres can re-start
 - We jumped the gun & could have forewarned better

Pharmacy

- Relocation plan in place
- Refrigerated drugs plan
 - Particularly if you won't have or may lose generator power
- Pre arrange for a re-stock order
 - Printout drug lists (wards & OT) in advance



General

- Mark up clearly/boldly any equipment you send with evacuees
- Ensure all managers ensure all vital equipment being charged in advance in essential power supply points
- Don't assume you'll have enough boxes laying around to move everything (e.g. records etc)

General

- Checklist of areas that need to be assessed for relocation
- Do you have a courier you could use in emergencies
 - We struggled to find a courier on the weekend with air con and a big enough van to move items that needed sterilising at CBH
- When planning re-open, consider external services relied on
 - Associated higher level health services (e.g. ICU)
 - External providers (suppliers, linen etc)
- Insurance
 - Start information & data collection early & make collection detailed

ALL STARS ROLL CALL

People caring for people



Amazing efforts by all of our great Cairns team!!!

- ✓ Safely evacuated all patients (to Brisbane or home)
- ✓ Secured facility against cyclone & storm surge threats
- ✓ Re-opened CPH & TCC within 40 hours & CDS on Monday

Special Recognition

- ✓ Mr Paul Ramsay, Chris Rex & so many others were in constant contact with us
- ✓ Qld Health, QAS, Defence, & SES
- ✓ The wonderful folks from Greenslopes & North West who cared for and comforted the evacuated patients

ALL TRULY STARS!!!

The Nth Qld Spirit

People caring for people



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