

# **Disasters: Vulnerability, Mitigation and Planning**

## **Secondary Data Project:**

### **Factors affecting preparedness for Cyclone Larry.**



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## **1.0 Introduction**

The aim of this report is to examine the cyclone preparedness levels within a sample of the community who experienced Cyclone Larry in Johnstone shire (Innisfail) in 2006. Issues such as standards of preparedness, actions taken to prepare and previous cyclone experience will be examined, with the intention of revealing what (if any) effects these factors had behind the overall preparedness of this community.

Tropical Cyclone Larry crossed the North Queensland coast near Innisfail between 6.20am and 7.20am on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, 2006 (see appendix 1) when it had developed into an estimated category five cyclone (Bureau of Meteorology 2006). Given the intensity of this cyclone it was surprising that individuals in the area were relatively unharmed g ( )Tj0.00079 near In

The more recent, most damaging cyclones to impact on the North Queensland coast prior to Cyclone Larry were:

Aivu in 1989 - category 3 impact near Ayr (south of Townsville)

Winifred in 1986 - category 3 impact near Innisfail

Althea in 1971 - category 4 impact just north of Townsville

(Emergency Management Australia 2006).

Cyclone Winifred was the most recent cyclone to strike in the Innisfail area and although it was weaker than Larry at a category three, it destroyed up to fifty homes, damaged many large buildings, destroyed crops and three people died (Arvier 2006). Even though Cyclone Larry caused more destruction to properties and the environment, relatively few people were injured and there were no deaths.

In a report by Enders (2001) measuring community preparedness in emergencies, the author outlines factors relating to previous experience of emergencies that can have an

the purpose of this report, not all questions covered within the survey will be analysed, instead the issue of cyclone preparedness (trends, time taken & adequacy of these preparations) is the main area of focus.

Questions 3, 21 – 23 and question 39 (see appendix 2) from the original report (King & Goudie 2006) that relate to preparedness and previous experience of cyclones are the issues covered within this report.

The following analysis intends to reveal any major trends contained within the data, and to assess what levels of preparedness were undertaken by different respondents.

## **4.0 Results**

### **4.1 Table 1. Preparations Prior to Cyclone Season**

39	
17	11.6%
6	4.1%
52	35.6%

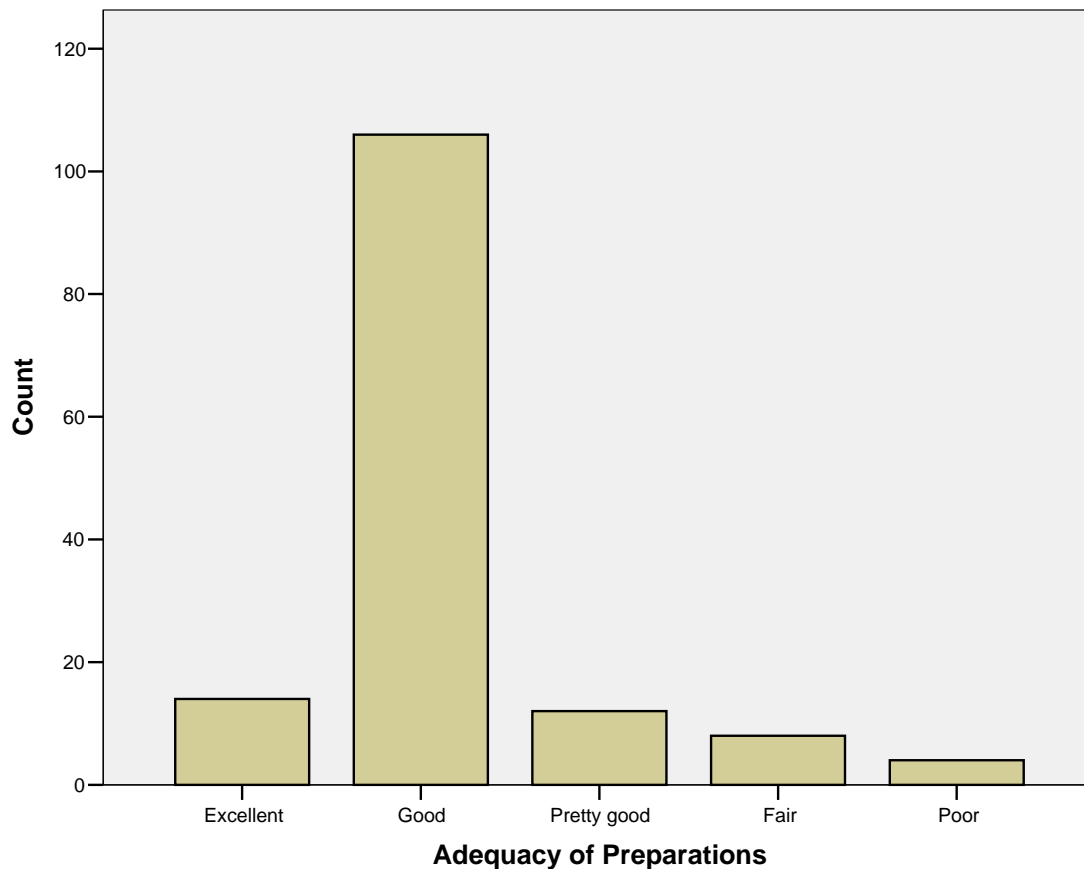
#### 4.2 Figure 1. Time of Beginning Preparations for Cyclone Larry







### 4.3 Figure 2. Adequacy of household's preparations



Most respondents indicated that they prepared for Cyclone Larry to a level which was 'Good'. Very few indicated that their preparations were poor, while only a slight variance between the number of households who felt their preparations were excellent, fair & pretty good.

### 4.4 Table 3. Previous Experience of a Cyclone

		Count	Percent
Previously experienced a cyclone	Winifred	97	66.0%
	Other Cyclone	22	15.0%
	No previous experience	28	19.0%

A total of 81% of respondents to the survey had previously experienced a cyclone (see table 3 above), with the largest proportion having experienced Cyclone Winifred in 1986.

## 5.0 Discussion



usefulness is only apparent when a disaster strikes....disaster preparedness programmes were something that actually helped in times

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