



MEDIA RELEASE

Johnathan Thurston helps Far North Queensland students get cyclone-ready

Students from Pormpuraaw State School on the remote west coast of Cape York received a virtual visit from rugby league great Johnathan Thurston today to talk about disaster preparedness.

Johnathan Thurston, in his role as Get Ready Queensland Ambassador, said he was thrilled to talk to the students about the extreme weather Queenslanders face and how it impacts them and their families.

“I was due to visit the kids up at Pormpuraaw earlier this year but unfortunately I couldn’t make it due to COVID-19 restrictions,” Mr Thurston said.

“Instead we worked on some videos together that addressed questions the kids had about staying safe during the cyclone season. It was great to watch these videos online together today.

“I’m proud to be the Get Ready Queensland Ambassador and to be able to spend more time with young people across the state, especially young people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to get them thinking about how they can prepare for severe weather.

“The Get Ready Queensland program is great – it has all the resources children and their families need to protect themselves in a flood, cyclone, severe storm and bushfire,” he said.

Students from Rocklea State School in Brisbane joined in the video conversation, which included tips and advice about how to look after pets during a cyclone, what kids can do to prepare for storm and cyclone season and how to stay connected if the power goes out.

The video conference was part of today’s launch for Get Ready Queensland Week, which encourages all Queenslanders to think about how they can prepare for the upcoming summer storm and cyclone season.

The video link with Pormpuraaw State School was made possible with support from the team at the National Broadband Network (NBN).

Head of NBN Local Queensland Kylie Lindsay said one of the greatest issues people face during a disaster was their reliance on technology.

“Queensland is no stranger to severe weather events which can cause major blackouts and disruptions to phone and internet connections, so knowing how to stay connected during a disaster without these systems is part of being disaster resilient,” Ms Lindsay said.

“Our number one tip for students this Get Ready Queensland Week is to have a battery-operated radio on standby so that they can tune in to their local radio station for weather updates and warnings in the event of a power or internet disruption.”

Last month, Get Ready Queensland launched a schools colouring competition, with the winning school to receive their own visit from Johnathan Thurston.

The Get Ready schools competition is open to all Queensland primary and secondary schools and is particularly suited to students in Years 3 and 4.

Get Ready Queensland Week also saw the start of a state-wide public awareness campaign, featuring Johnathan Thurston. The advertising campaign will run until 15 November.

For more information on Get Ready Queensland, including the schools competition and advertising campaign, visit www.getready.qld.gov.au.

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