

December 21, 2011

## **Motorists urged to drive safely this wet season**

Mayor Gail Sellers is urging motorists to take care on the region's roads as we enter a wet season where higher than average rainfall is forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology.

"We only have to look at history, such as last summer's torrential rain and flooding, to know just how vulnerable we can be in natural disaster situations," Cr Sellers said.

"Most of the area to the north, west and south of the region were isolated and our road network suffered severe damage as a result of the flooding rain."

Cr Sellers said it was important for motorists to realise the risks of travelling the region's roads during rain and flooding.

"Motorists should not attempt to travel on flooded roads and causeways or enter into flood water under any circumstances because the risks are extremely high," she said.

"Debris, glass and other matter are stirred up during flooding and can strike, knock over or drag down vehicles and those people who enter water to check the depth or road surface conditions," she said.

"Flood water of a depth of as little as 20cm is enough to wash vehicles off some causeways, especially those with a strong current, like many of the causeways in the southern part of the Gladstone Region."

The Mayor advised residents to check their motor vehicle is sound and their car's tyres have sufficient tread before embarking on a journey over the Christmas break.

"Wet roads are slippery, so having sufficient tread on your car's tyres is essential to reducing the likelihood of sliding under braking," she said.

"Also, remember it takes longer to stop in wet conditions on our roads so please ensure when driving that you leave three seconds between you and the car in front so you have ample space to stop in an emergency situation."

She said Council provided Road Condition Reports on its website during the wet season and urged residents to report flooding and dangerous roads conditions via Council's 24-hour Call Centre on 4979 1134.

## media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"We provide this service as a courtesy and endeavour to ensure the information is as up-to-date as possible, but there are situations where we cannot get information from inaccessible areas. Changes in conditions can occur rapidly or aren't always reported, so please seek out advice from other sources as well."

Road information can also be found at:

- The RACQ website ([http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps\\_and\\_Directions/road\\_conditions](http://www.racq.com.au/travel/Maps_and_Directions/road_conditions));
- By phoning the RACQ 24-hour road reports hotline (1300 130 595);
- The Queensland Police Service's Facebook site (<http://www.facebook.com/QueenslandPolice>); or
- The Queensland Government's Travel and Traffic Information website (<http://highload.131940.qld.gov.au/>) or by phoning their information hotline on 13 19 40.

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Community Relations Section on 4976 6911.**