



Media Release

Darwin City Council

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Day 2 Big Wet - *Guardian* on Duty!

Darwin City Council is now online with new computer software and systems in place to better respond to community needs in the event of a cyclone. Day 2 of the wet-season and Darwin City Council is already planning for a cyclone. This weekend marks the start of the annual clean-up to minimise the threat of debris and flying missiles due to cyclonic winds that are prevalent in the wet season.

Today, Darwin City Council officers ran a “**Simulated Exercise for Category 3 Cyclone Klaus**”. This exercise was to test the new **Guardian** software package now online. With typically up to 40 calls an hour from the public requesting assistance in a cyclonic event, this system allows up-to-the-minute tracking of the situation and monitoring of responses to incidents.

The introduction of this program together with systems in place to deal with emergencies will increase efficiencies in response time, the allocation of resources and co-ordination with other government agencies.

NT Emergency Services Director, Peter Davies applauded the introduction of the package and the exercise today as another step in better dealing with cyclonic events. NTES constantly urges all members of the community to plan for a cyclone.

The Guardian System was developed in North Queensland by people in local government specifically for local government. Darwin City Council is the first to come online with the system. The system is suited to any public emergency situation (not only cyclones) and is being introduced right across Australia.

The Guardian software is now an integral part of the Darwin City Council's Counter Disaster Management Plan. Today's exercise not only tested the functionality of the Guardian system but also provided participants with experience in executing their part in the Plan. The Plan was tested allowing strengths and weaknesses to be assessed to improve future performance.

This exercise is a part of Darwin City Council commitment to provide the highest levels of service and safety to the people of Darwin.

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