

# WOOLWORTHS LIMITED

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PRESS RELEASE

## Cyclone Yasi update – 3 February 2011

Normal operations at Woolworths and BIG W stores in northern Queensland has been significantly disrupted due to Cyclone Yasi.

This morning managers contacted all Woolworths group staff in affected areas and so far none have reported any injuries. Many homes, however, have been damaged.

Woolworths teams are on the ground and have begun assessing the condition of stores. Indications are several stores have been affected by power and water outages. Woolworths Mission Beach has sustained some roof damage.

While our aim is to reopen stores as soon as we can we will only do so when staff are available, where applicable utilities have been reconnected and authorities have deemed it is safe to begin trading.

### Stores

- ***Supermarkets (and adjacent Woolworths petrol stations):***  
All stores as far north as Proserpine are open. Woolworths Weipa is also open. Woolworths and Food for Less stores in Mt Isa and Cloncurry are currently open but may close if it is deemed unsafe to keep trading as Yasi approaches. 24 Woolworths supermarkets in the cyclone affected area, including all stores in Cairns and Townsville, are likely to remain closed today.
- ***BIG W stores:***  
Stores in Mackay and Whitsunday (Cannonvale) are now open. Atherton, Cairns and all Townsville stores remain closed.
- ***Other Woolworths group stores:*** Most other Woolworths group outlets – including remaining Woolworths Petrol stations, Dick Smith, BWS, Dan Murphy's and hotels – remain closed north of Proserpine.

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## **Logistics**

In the days before the cyclone Woolworths made extra deliveries of emergency essentials such as bottled water, batteries and non perishable foods to areas likely to be affected by Cyclone Yasi.

All stores up to and including Proserpine are today receiving their normal deliveries.

Delivery trucks are moving further north ready to restock stores north of Proserpine once main roads are reopened and power has been restored. For these deliveries we are prioritising essentials.

In addition, a ship containing essential supplies is awaiting approval to dock at a suitable port in northern Queensland.

## **Supply**

It is clear that many areas growing tropical fruits, such as bananas, were badly hit. We have begun talking with our suppliers to assess the damage to crops. At this stage it is too early to tell how extensive this damage has been to farmers who supply Woolworths and Safeway supermarkets.

## **Further updates**

Updated details on store closures can found at [woolworths.com.au](http://woolworths.com.au).

– Ends –

**CONTACT DETAILS:** For further information please contact the Woolworths Limited Press Office on (02) 8885 1033 or 0429 566 196.

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