

Tsunami warning systems

Speed read

- Australia has a 24/7 Australian Tsunami Warning System (ATWS). The ATWS is an end-to-end tsunami warning and emergency response system.
- The Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre (JATWC) monitors all Australian tsunami risk and assists in the monitoring of international tsunami risk.
- Tsunami warnings are issued to the public through multiple channels.

Key points

- The JATWC provides tsunami alerts within 30 minutes of a significant undersea earthquake.
- The JATWC continuously monitors for earthquakes and tsunamis, using Australian and global networks of seismometers, coastal tide gauges and deep ocean tsunameters.

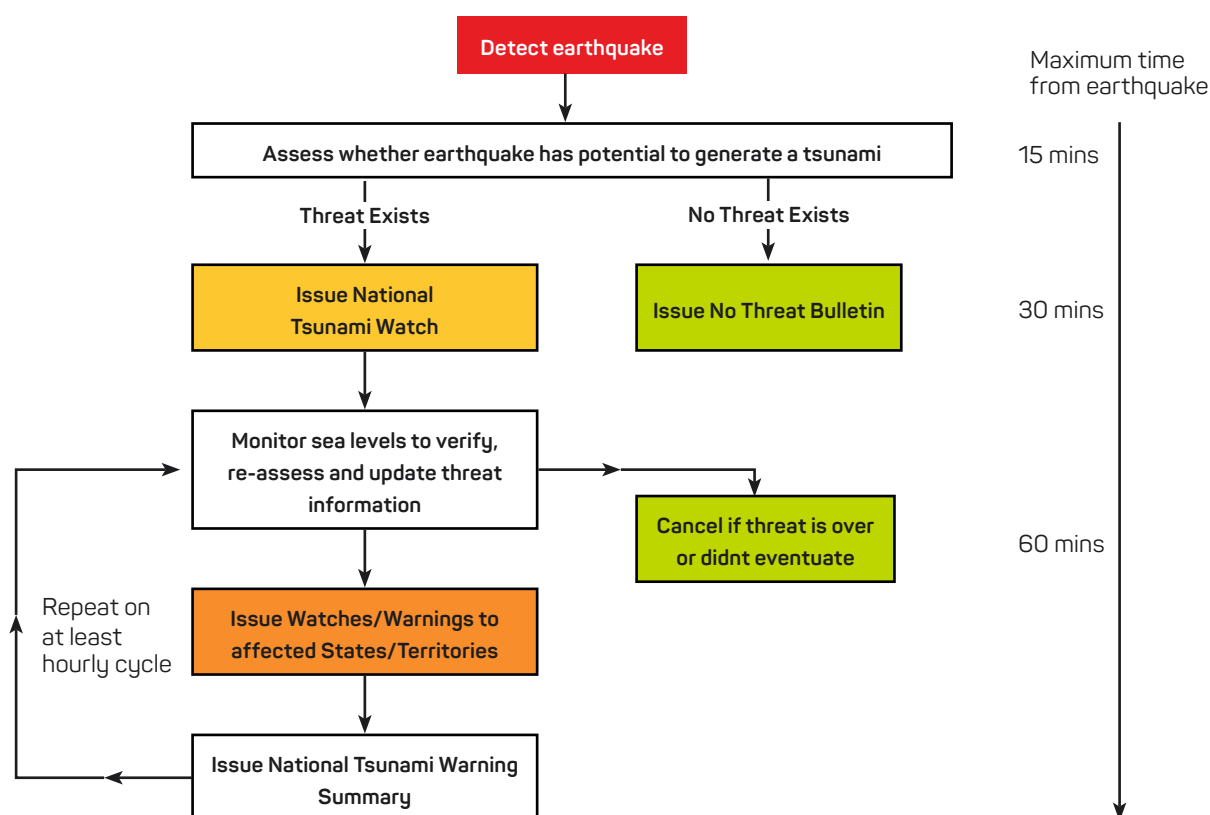


Figure 1. Tsunami warnings and schedule.

Source: JATWC. Image courtesy of Bureau of Meteorology.

Quick Guide

- The JATWC issues 3 types of tsunami messages to the public: no threat bulletins, watches (a tsunami threat may exist but is not yet confirmed), and warnings (a tsunami threat exists).
- There are 3 levels of public tsunami warnings: no threat, marine and immediate foreshore threat, and land inundation threat.
- Tsunami warnings and public safety messages are sent to the public through multiple channels. These include radio and TV, as well as digital and social media.
- In the case of a land inundation threat, the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS siren) will be broadcast.

Take action

- Find out more about Australia's tsunami warning procedures from [Geoscience Australia](#) and the [Bureau of Meteorology](#).
- Find out what communication channels are available for you to receive tsunami warnings and public safety messages.
- Review the key public warning messages in Table 4, page 32 of the [Tsunami Emergency Planning in Australia Handbook](#).

More information

- [Tsunami Emergency Planning in Australia Handbook](#) (AIDR 2025), Chapter 5
- [Australian Tsunami Advisory Group](#)
- [Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre](#)
- [Emergency Planning Handbook](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Evacuation Planning Handbook](#), Chapter 4 (AIDR 2023)
- [Public Information and Warnings Handbook](#) (AIDR 2021)
- [Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience Handbook](#) (AIDR 2020)