

## RESEARCH PAPER

### Vulnerability assessment of bridges subjected to extreme cyclonic events

(Title contains 9 words)

Running headline: Vulnerability assessment of bridges subjected to extreme cyclonic events  
(64 characters)

By

Thilini Pathirana<sup>a</sup> & Weena Lokuge<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Centre for Future Materials (CFM),

<sup>a</sup>School of Civil Engineering and Surveying, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences, University of Southern Queensland (USQ),  
Springfield, Queensland 4300, Australia

Submitted to

**Natural Hazards**

Corresponding Author:

**Dr Weena Lokuge**

Centre for Future Materials (CFM),

School of Civil Engineering and Surveying, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences,  
University of Southern Queensland (USQ),  
Springfield, Queensland 4300, Australia

Tel: +61 7 3470 4477

E-mail: [weena.lokuge@usq.edu.au](mailto:weena.lokuge@usq.edu.au)

**Manuscript summary:**

Total pages 17 (including cover page)

Number of figures 8

Number of tables 11

# Vulnerability assessment of bridges subjected to extreme cyclone events

## Abstract:

Over the past few years Queensland in Australia has suffered from a number of severe tropical cyclones, the most recent one being Marcia, that took place in 2015. Damage bill of Cyclone Marcia exceeded \$50 million which included cost of repairing a number of damaged road structures. Failure of road structures such as bridges isolates communities from accessing essential services and commodities. This necessitated a methodical approach to evaluate the failure of bridges to improve their resilience and provide base knowledge for developing emergency maintenance response. Although there are several methods available to evaluate the vulnerability of bridges, fault tree analysis (FTA) was selected in this study by considering its positive attributes over the other methods. FTA was used to estimate the probabilities of failure of main components (superstructure and substructure) and elements of timber and concrete bridges. Secondary data (level 1 and level 2 bridge inspection reports from Transport Main Roads in Rockhampton) before and after the Cyclone Marcia were used in conjunction with expert advice to construct fault trees for both timber and concrete bridges. Potential failure mechanisms were observed and the degree of susceptibility of main components of timber and concrete bridges to cyclonic events were evaluated. This research was based on selected bridges under specific cyclone in one region, which is a limitation of the study. Few other case study bridges subjected to cyclonic events can be used to strengthen the understanding of the complete dynamics of the bridge failure under these extreme events.

**Keywords:** cyclone, bridge failure, fault tree analysis, vulnerability, preventive maintenance

22

## 23 **1. Introduction**

24 Over the past century, severe tropical cyclones caused devastating damage on properties, livestock, forests,  
25 buildings and infrastructure and most importantly disrupted the livelihoods of the communities that have been  
26 exposed to the event. In some occasions the damage to the community was in terms of deaths and injuries and  
27 illnesses by restraining access to clean water and food. Queensland in Australia has a road network of more than  
28 30000 km and 6500 road structures (Kuhlicke 2010; Setunge et al. 2014) which experienced the impacts of  
29 numerous disaster events over the past few decades. In 2011, Cyclone Yasi (category 5) caused significant  
30 damages to buildings and road infrastructure in North Queensland which accounted for 5% of the total damage  
31 cost. Cyclones also cause significant impacts on road infrastructure, isolating the affected areas from ground  
32 assistance. During the evacuation support activities for disaster response and recovery, road structures play an  
33 important role in establishing the communication with the affected community.

34 Devastating impacts of past cyclones have imposed tighter regulations on building codes and technological  
35 advancements and warning systems associated with cyclones, including the use of satellite imagery and  
36 meteorological modelling have shown marked improvements in recent years. Bridges in Australia are designed  
37 based on different guidelines/ standards depending on the time the design was undertaken (Setunge et al. 2014).  
38 Bridges constructed in Australia after 2004 generally complies with AS5100 (2004), which is mainly written for  
39 rural constructions (Pritchard 2013). Pritchard (2013) suggested that AS5100 (Standards Australia 2004) should  
40 be amended to include potential loads that may be applied in natural disasters such as floating objects and bridge  
41 design should consider the context and connectivity and post disaster functionality. Ataei et al. (2010) suggested  
42 that probabilistic models of structural vulnerability are required to predict any damages to bridge infrastructure  
43 under cyclonic event.

## 44 **2 Impact of cyclones on bridges**

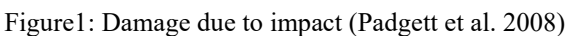
45 The annual economic loss in the USA due to natural hazards is estimated to be at an average of \$1 billion a  
46 week (Chen 2004). Inspection reports and damage estimations of Hurricane Katrina show **an economic loss of**  
47 **\$125 billion (Yadav and Barve, 2019) with an** overall damage bill on repairing and replacing bridges alone goes  
48 over \$1 billion (Padgett et al. 2008). In a cyclonic event, bridges are mostly damaged by the storm surge that  
49 arises from the severe weather **condition (Chorzepa et al. 2016)**. In most occasions bridges have failed due to  
50 unseating or drifting of the superstructure which depends on the connection type between decks and bents (Chen  
51 et al. 2009; Meng and Jin 2007; Padgett et al. 2008). Padgett et al. (2008) studied bridge damage mechanisms

52 using observations of 44 bridges during Hurricane Katrina. Their study revealed that predominant causes for  
53 bridge damage are uplift forces and impact from debris and objects near the bridge, induced by the storm surges,  
54 and partially by high winds, scour, and malfunction of electrical and mechanical equipment due to water  
55 inundation. In a hurricane or cyclone, bridges are mainly damaged by debris/impact, scouring and surge induced  
56 loadings (Padgett et al. 2008).

### 57 **2.1 Damage due to debris/ impact**

58 Impact damage is quite common for bridges associated with large water ways. It is generally caused by floating  
59 objects such as debris, boats Pitchard (2013) or any other items that are transported due to flooding resulted  
60 from the intensive rainfall caused by cyclones (Figure 1). Post disaster inspections revealed that in most  
61 occasions, impact damage contributed to the superstructure as well as substructure failure of a bridge (Padgett et  
62 al. 2008).

63

64  Figure 1: Damage due to impact (Padgett et al. 2008)

### 65 **2.2 Damage caused by catastrophic winds**

66 Suspension bridges are mostly vulnerable for wind damage because they should be able to withstand the huge  
67 drag forces caused by wind. Additionally those bridges are prone to many other effects such as aeroelastic  
68 effects, oscillation and galloping (Chen 2004). In Australia there are very few suspension bridges. During  
69 Cyclone Marcia in 2015, a timber bridge at Mt Morgan was found to be damaged by strong winds.

### 70 **2.3 Damage due to surge induced loadings**

71 Bridges with spans of the same or lower elevation than peak surge levels experience severe structural failure  
72 during cyclonic events (Irish and Cañizares 2009). In storm surges, the superstructures are moved away from the  
73 supporting substructure due to the damage in the anchorages from surface waves (Chen et al. 2009; Douglass et  
74 al. 2006; Lehrman et al. 2012). Robertson et al. (2007) described the phenomena behind the damage to  
75 anchorages as the contribution of the reduced self-weight of the deck for the uplift force.

### 76 **2.4 Damage due to scouring**

77 Observations reveal that damage due to scour may come together with other cyclone induced damage modes or  
78 it may not be the case all the time (Padgett et al. 2008). Damage to a bridge due to scouring is normally  
79 associated with the erosion of abutment and the approaches or relieving slab (Figure 2).

80

81  Figure 2: Damage caused by scouring (Padgett et al. 2008)

82 Erosion around the foundations or abutments leads to their failure when the depth of foundation is so small that  
83 they lose the stability and pier or abutment may start moving in the vertical direction. It is reported in the  
84 literature that the major contribution for bearing failure comes from the severe lateral forces (Davis-McDaniel et  
85 al. 2013; LeBeau and Wadia-Fascetti 2007).

86 In Australia a few studies have been conducted to assess the resilience of buildings and road infrastructure under  
87 natural disaster events (Lebbe et al. 2014; Lokuge and Setunge 2013). Information on the probabilistic response  
88 of road bridges during cyclones appears to be sparse in scientific literature. This study endeavors to understand  
89 the response of timber and concrete bridges to cyclone Marcia and comprehend their potential response to any  
90 tropical cyclones with high magnitude that might occur in the future.

### 91 **3 Case study- Damaged timber and concrete bridges during cyclone Marcia**

92 Cyclone Marcia was expected to reach category 5, however when it reached the landslide, it has reduced to  
93 category 2/3 (James Cook University Cyclone Testing Station 2015). Despite lowering its intensity, the damage  
94 bill of Cyclone Marcia approached to \$53.4 million after a weeks' time, at least 1000 houses suffered structural  
95 damage from the disaster, and 385 properties have been deemed uninhabitable. It destroyed numerous properties  
96 in Yeppoon and road infrastructure including bridges in Monto, Gladstone Biloela Road and in Mount Morgan  
97 (Figure 3).

98

99 **Figure 3: Damaged bridges during Cyclone Marcia**

100 Bridges Inspection System (BIS) is used by the Queensland Transport and Main Road (TMR) to keep all the  
101 records of the bridges. In this case study, pre-disaster and post-disaster inspection data for the damaged bridges  
102 were obtained from TMR in Rockhampton, Queensland. Level 1 (Routine Maintenance Inspections) and level 2  
103 (Bridge Condition Inspections) inspection reports were used to gather the information required for the analysis.  
104 Purpose of Level 1 inspection report is to understand whether the bridge is safe to be used immediately after the  
105 extreme event and identify any emergency maintenance needs (Bridge Inspection Manual 2004). Level 1  
106 inspection was carried out immediately after the Cyclone Marcia for all the damaged bridges. Purpose of the  
107 level 2 inspection report is to evaluate the condition of the road structure to assess its suitability for public use.  
108 This will identify any future maintenance needs, evaluate the suitability of the past rehabilitation methods,  
109 predict the chances for condition change and estimate financial requirements. Level 2 inspections are conducted  
110 by a trained personnel who has extensive experience in the inspection, construction, design, maintenance and

111 repair of road structures and be guided by a qualified professional engineer in decision making related to  
112 interpreting visual defects. A brief description of the Condition States (CS) adopted by TMR are as follows:

- 113 • CS1: Good (free of defects with little or no evident deterioration)
- 114 • CS2: Fair (free of defects contributing to the structural performance, integrity and durability)
- 115 • CS3: Poor (defects affecting the strength, durability and serviceability requiring monitoring or further  
116 assessment by a structural engineer)
- 117 • CS4: Very poor (Structural integrity may be compromised and immediate intervention including an  
118 inspection by a structural engineer)
- 119 • CS5: Unsafe (Structural integrity is severely compromised and the structure must be taken out of  
120 service)

121 Level 1 Inspection reports were available for 41 pre stressed concrete bridges and 18 timber bridges. Level 2  
122 inspection reports were available for 6 concrete bridges and 8 timber bridges. Data were analysed separately for  
123 level 1 and level 2 inspection reports before and after the cyclone Marcia. Microsoft Excel was used to analyse  
124 the nature of damage for each element of the bridges individually.

#### 125 **4 Fault tree analysis (FTA)**

126 Fault tree analysis (FTA) is a technique adopted to determine the root cause and the probability of failure of a  
127 structure due to an undesired event (Ericson 2005). It can be used for risk assessment based on the likelihood  
128 and consequence ratings of various events of fault tree. FTA is also a systematic analysis and often used in  
129 evaluating large complex dynamic systems to identify and prevent potential problems. The bridge can be  
130 considered in its entirety, including element interactions, redundancy, deterioration mechanisms such as  
131 corrosion and fatigue, and environmental factors (LeBeau and Wadia-Fascetti 2007). FTA has been used before  
132 in predicting the probability of failure of aged timber bridges (Lokuge et al. 2016, Lokuge et al. 2019). These  
133 studies are based on the damage due to general deterioration and not due to any natural hazards.

134 The use of qualitative as well as quantitative analysis is common in fault tree method (Davis-McDaniel et al.  
135 2013). Qualitative analysis illustrates the possible contribution from each structural element to the failure of the  
136 bridge of interest. Construction of fault tree diagram requires a sound understanding of the specific bridge stock.  
137 In the quantitative analysis of FTA, comprehensive set of data is needed to establish the probabilities of  
138 occurrence of the basic events that may follow the failure path for bridge failure eventually (Davis-McDaniel et  
139 al. 2013). In the FTA, bridge failure is related to Condition State 5 of the TMR inspection. FTA uses an  
140 illustration to integrate the possible causes for the failure of the bridge (reaching CS5). It is discussed in the past

141 that inspection reports for the damaged bridges are a good source for the FTA (Davis-McDaniel et al. 2013)  
142 quantitative analysis. The use of FTA in establishing the chance of a bridge failure (closure or reaching CSS)  
143 during an extreme natural hazard is very well documented (FHWA 2011). It is also used as a prognostic tool in  
144 the design stage of a bridge which troubleshoots all possible events that could cause a bridge to collapse  
145 (LeBeau and Wadia-Fascetti 2007).

146 In FTA, either one or several input events may be combined together to form the output event through a logic  
147 gate (Setunge et al. 2015). These input events are connected to the output event using logic gates such as AND  
148 or OR (Davis-McDaniel et al. 2013). In order to use an AND gate, all the input events must contribute at the  
149 same time for output event to occur while OR gate can be used if any one of the input events contribute for the  
150 output event (Setunge et al. 2015). In this analysis, a general fault tree diagram was developed for pre stressed  
151 concrete bridges and timber bridges.

#### 152 4.1 Development of Fault Tree Diagram for concrete/timber bridge failure due to cyclone

153 Bridges can deteriorate before the end of service life, if the design does not give the structure resilience to the  
154 environment to which it is exposed. However, deterioration of a structure does not necessarily imply structural  
155 collapse but could lead to loss of structural serviceability, such as poor durability and poor appearance with  
156 cracking, spalling, splitting, etc. Risk assessment is important in decision making in relation to identifying  
157 different rehabilitation options to manage aging bridges.

158 Considering the basic events described in the previous section, using the analysis of bridge inspection data, and  
159 referring to the models used by previous researchers (Davis-McDaniel et al. 2013; Johnson 1999; Zhu 2008), a  
160 fault tree diagram was developed for concrete and timber bridge failure during cyclone Marcia (Figure 4).

161 Figure 4: Fault tree diagram for bridge failure during a cyclone

162

163 Bridge failure (closure or reaching Condition State 5) can occur due to either superstructure failure or  
164 substructure failure. Girder or deck/slab failure are the main reasons for the superstructure to have less  
165 functionality. Debris/impact loading or the surge-induced loadings are the reasons for deck/slab or girder  
166 damage during a cyclonic event. On the other hand, possible reasons for substructure damage/ failure are debris/  
167 impact loading, surge-induced loading as well as scour. These events are connected using OR gates to the main  
168 event (bridge failure) because any of these event will contribute to the main event as shown in Figure 4. In  
169 order to use this FTD for the purpose of finding the probability of failure of bridges, it is important to find the

170 probabilities of occurrence for each event. The main purpose of this study is to find the basic event probabilities  
171 for superstructure and substructure failure of a bridge.

## 172 4.2 Probability calculation based on the case study

173 In order to estimate and assign probabilities for basic events, level 1 and level 2 bridge inspection reports from  
174 TMR were used. Focus of this study is to understand the damage caused by a cyclonic event to timber and  
175 concrete bridges by using the inspection reports before and after the event. The severity of the damage will  
176 depend on the location of the bridge and all the bridges considered in this research are from the same region.  
177 Modelling the behaviour of bridges under flood/ cyclonic loads is out of the scope of this study hence the effect  
178 of flood height or the wind speed were not considered in the process.

### 179 4.2.1 Assigning probabilities for condition states

180 Qualitative ratings were extracted from the TMR Bridge Inspection manual and assigned probabilities were  
181 selected in consultation with the experts and resource personal with substantial knowledge and experience in the  
182 field of road bridges. This was organised through a focus group session which included the director of the  
183 infrastructure management and delivery section, two structural engineers, two senior civil engineers (all from  
184 two branches of TMR) and three researchers from two universities who work in the bridge resilience areas. The  
185 experts consulted have agreed with the following approach in assigning probabilities;

- 186 • Change of condition state 1 to condition 2 is negligible.
- 187 • Change of condition 2 to 3 is a concern but it doesn't need immediate action.
- 188 • Change of condition 3 to 4 needs immediate action.
- 189 • Condition 5 was allocated as the worst case scenario and normally before any element reaches  
190 condition 5; TMR immediately repairs that particular component/element or repair the whole bridge.

191 Based on these general agreement, assigned probabilities are shown in Table 1.

192 Table 1: Probabilities for condition states

193 In order to show the calculation for the probabilities a girder in a timber bridge was selected.

### 194 4.2.2 Girder failure of a Timber Bridge

195 There are seven girders in Span 1 of this bridge. Condition states of these girders before and after cyclone  
196 Marcia are shown in Table 2.

197

198 Table 2: Condition states for the girders (Span 1) in a Timber Bridge



199 Five girders that were in CS2 (probability of 12%) before cyclone, changed to CS4 (probability of 50%) after  
200 the cyclone. Change in probability between these 2 condition levels is 38%. Therefore the probability of failure  
201 of these 5 girders in span 1 is 1.9 (0.38\*5). Similarly the probability of failure of the other 2 girders in span 1 is  
202 0.5. Therefore the probability of a girder failure using span 1 can be calculated as 0.343. Similar calculation  
203 process was continued for the girder failure in other 3 spans of the bridge and the findings are summarised in  
204 Table 3.

205 Table 3: Probability of girder failure using a Timber Bridge

#### 206 4.2.3 Probability of a girder failure using all timber bridges

207 Using the same method, the probability of a girder failure for eight bridges were calculated. The results are  
208 shown in Table 4.

209  
210 Table 4: Probability of girder failure using all the damaged timber bridges

211 In the above table, the probability of failure for four bridges is stated as 0. This is because the condition state of  
212 girders did not change after the cyclone Marcia for all the spans in those bridges. Using the findings from Table  
213 4, the probability of a girder failure in a timber bridge during cyclone Marcia can be calculated as 0.0729. Using  
214 the same method, the probability of failure of the deck, piles, abutments, and headstock were calculated.

#### 215 4.2.4 Probabilities for basic events

216 From the previous section, the probability of the girder failure was calculated as 0.0729. In the fault tree  
217 diagram (Figure 4) the girder failure can happen due to two basic events, debris/ loading or surge induced  
218 loading. Top to bottom method was used to find the probabilities for basic events.

219 41 concrete bridges and 18 timber bridges were analysed using level 1 inspection reports before and after  
220 cyclone Marcia. Timber bridges were predominantly damaged due to scour (9), debris/ impact (3) and surge  
221 induced loading (6). Twenty five of the 41 concrete bridges were damaged due to scour, while 3 and 8 were  
222 damaged due to debris/ impact and surge induced loading respectively. It is understood from the inspection  
223 reports that the superstructure (girders and deck) was damaged due to debris/impact and surge induced loadings  
224 while additional basic event, scour also contributed for the substructure (pile, abutment and headstock) damage.  
225 Based on the inspection reports and expert advice from the industry, Table 5 gives the probabilities for the basic  
226 events.

227  
228 Table 5: Assigned probabilities for basic events

229 In the fault tree diagram developed (Figure 4) OR gate was used to connect the basic events to the girder failure.

230 Equation for OR gate is:

$$231 \quad P = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - P_i) \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

232 If the probability of damage due to debris and surge are  $p_{debris}$  and  $p_{surge}$ , then the following relationship can  
233 be written for the OR gate connection.

$$234 \quad \text{Probability of a girder failure} = 1 - [(1 - p_{debris}) * (1 - p_{surge})] \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

235 From Table 5, for the members in the superstructure,

$$236 \quad p_{surge} = 3 * p_{debris} \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

237 By using the sample calculation for a girder failure (0.0729) and above equations, probability of failure of a  
238 girder due to debris and surge can be calculated as 0.0185 and 0.0554 respectively. Similar approach was used  
239 to find the probabilities of basic events for superstructure (deck) as well as for substructure (pile, abutment and  
240 headstock).

## 241 **5 Observations and results**

### 242 **5.1 General observations**

243 Post cyclone inspection data (level 1 inspection) for all the 59 bridges were used for analysis.

244

245 **Figure 5: Observed damaged behavior for bridges during cyclone**

246 Preliminary observations showed that there are no significant difference between potential cyclone induced  
247 damage on superstructure and substructure on both timber and concrete bridges. Potential cyclone related impact  
248 on substructure was most prevalent in timber bridges (Figure 5).

### 249 **5.2 Results from fault tree analysis**

#### 250 **5.2.1 Failure of timber bridges due to cyclone**

251 Fault tree analysis for timber bridges indicated that substructure is more susceptible for cyclone induced damage  
252 than superstructure (Table 6). Failure of substructure was found to have mostly influenced by damages to piles  
253 and headstock.

254

255 **Table 6: Probabilities for main element failure of timber bridges**

256 Using the top down method described in the previous section, the probabilities for the basic events for the  
257 superstructure were calculated (Table 7).

258

259

Table 7: Probability of basic events of the superstructure for timber bridges

260

A number of authors have also discussed similar observations where superstructure failure was found to be influenced by damage or displacement of the deck due to storm surge (Chen et al. 2009; Douglass et al. 2006).

261

262

Douglass et al. (2006) suggested that surface waves generated by storm surge, can overcome the anchorage and subsequent waves may dislocate them causing bridge to collapse. Fault tree analysis for timber bridges indicated

263

264

that the substructure failure is mostly influenced by surge forces followed by weakness caused by scouring (Table 8).

265

266

267

Table 8: Probability of basic events of the substructure for timber bridges

268

Surge induced loading seems to have caused the majority of the substructure element failures. The intensity of the damage may have been compounded due to the age of these timber bridges in this case study as anchorage and joints may have weakened over the years. Some of the bridges that have been included in this study are as old as 35 years.

269

270

271

272

### 5.2.2 Failure of concrete bridges due to a cyclone

273

According to the FTA (Table 9), probability of substructure failure in concrete bridges at the presence of cyclonic forces is greater than that of superstructure failure. Similar to timber bridges, failure of superstructure in concrete bridges has found to be mainly caused by girder damage.

274

275

276

277

Table 9: Probability for main element failure of concrete bridges

278

Similar to timber bridges, surge induced loadings have caused superstructure element failure (Table 10).

279

280

Table 10: Probability of basic events of the superstructure for concrete bridges

281

Results (Table 11) suggested that surge induced loading closely followed by structural weakness caused by scouring are responsible for substructure element failure. In contrast to timber bridges, abutment failure has shown significant impact on substructure failure for concrete bridges (Table 11).

282

283

284

285

Table 11: Probability of basic events of the substructure for concrete bridges

286

## 6 Discussion

287

### 6.1 Findings

288 Probabilities of failure for both timber bridges and concrete bridges as a direct or indirect impact from cyclone  
289 were calculated using FTA as discussed in this paper. The resultant probabilities obtained from this fault tree  
290 analysis are consistent with the reported work for hurricanes in USA.

291 The probability of a timber bridge failure due to a cyclone =32%

292 The probability of a concrete bridge failure due to a cyclone =18%

293 Probability of timber bridge failure due to cyclonic events is higher than that for concrete bridges. The main  
294 reasons for this may be due to the age of the timber bridges. Components of timber bridges are vulnerable to  
295 decay if exposed to moisture. Different timber standards were used by the time these bridges were built.

296

297 Figure 6: Damaged behavior based on FTA analysis for bridges during cyclone

298 Results indicated that substructure of timber bridges is more sensitive to surge induced forces compared to those  
299 of concrete bridges (Figure 6). The main contribution for this failure comes from the surge induced loadings to  
300 the piles and abutment. The exposure conditions must be playing an important role for this major contribution.

301 Most concrete bridges do not have a relieving slabs for abutment, and show poor compaction at the approaches.

302 Load distribution in timber bridges are different to that of concrete bridges and hence it impacts on the piles of  
303 concrete bridges (Eberhard et al. 1993). Results (Figure 7) indicated that the majority of the elements of timber  
304 bridges have low resilience to cyclonic events compared to that of concrete bridges. However there was a  
305 marked variation in the probability of abutment failure in concrete bridges, which impacted overall response of  
306 the substructure.

307

308 Figure 7: Element failure of bridges during a cyclone

## 309 6.2 Limitations

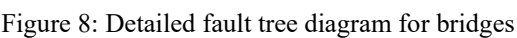
310 This study focusses only on one case study for a cyclone by using 59 damaged bridges due to Cyclone Marcia in  
311 Queensland. The probabilities of basic events were calculated based on the available data for this case study  
312 region. Although there are many beliefs about case study research about its inability to give generalized  
313 conclusions, it certainly broadens the knowledge in that particular research area (Flyvbjerg 2006). However this  
314 fault tree diagram needs to be strengthened by using at least few other case studies. There can be other failure  
315 mechanisms for the elements in the bridges and the probability of failure of each element could be varying in a  
316 different cyclone event. The limits or boundaries of the case study are a definitive factor of case study  
317 methodology (Yin, 2009). The developed fault tree diagram and the probabilities that were found may be

318 applicable for bridge failure due to a cyclonic effect in Queensland, Australia. More case studies from different  
319 parts of Australia such as Northern Territory and Western Australia will justify its broader utilization.

### 320 **6.3 Way forward**

321 In the case study used in this research, the effect of the cyclone on approaches, surface of the road was not  
322 prominent and in the FTA, aging effect was not considered too. The study was limited to the overloading due to  
323 the forces induced by cyclone effect. However this may not be the scenario for a general situation. Figure 8  
324 expands the fault tree diagram to include these effects into a main element in the superstructure (girder) and the  
325 substructure (pier). Depending on the availability of detailed inspection reports, overloading on the pier can be  
326 further categorized into vertical or horizontal movement or a rotation.

327

328  Figure 8: Detailed fault tree diagram for bridges

329 The FTA reported in this paper can be further extended by using the detailed diagram in Figure 8. Although it  
330 gives very general fault tree diagram for bridges it can be customized for timber and concrete bridges by using  
331 proper basic events.

#### 332 **6.3.1 Timber bridges**

333 Basic event 1 shown in Figure 8 for the time effects of beam or girder could be due to the corrosion of fasteners  
334 in each bridge element while basic event 2 for the aging effect of the beam or the pier could be due to the  
335 environmental effect such as weathering and splitting. There could be additional basic event for timber bridges  
336 which will take into effect the fungal, termite and marine organism attacks.

#### 337 **6.3.2 Concrete bridges**

338 Basic event 1 shown in Figure 8 for the time effects of beam or girder could be due to the corrosion of the girder  
339 while that for the pier could include the corrosion of pier, pile or capping beam. Basic event 2 for the aging  
340 effect of the beam or the pier could be due to the fatigue that they experience.

## 341 **7 Conclusions**

342 This research investigates a method to evaluate the vulnerability of timber and concrete bridges subjected to an  
343 extreme cyclone event. It identifies the development of a fault tree for bridge closure. A set of case study  
344 bridges that damaged due to Cyclone Marcia in 2015 has been used to develop a basic fault tree method.  
345 **Although this fault tree was developed based on a specific case study, it can still be used/ refined for another**  
346 **case study.** Detailed investigation on the structural member failure of these bridges resulted in obtaining the

347 probabilities of occurrence of basic events which causes the complete bridge failure. The analysis of the bridges  
348 in the case study leads to the following conclusions:

- 349 • Timber bridges are more vulnerable in cyclonic events than the concrete bridges. As expected, the  
350 substructure of a bridge is susceptible to damage more than the superstructure irrespective of whether it  
351 is timber or concrete.
- 352 • Timber bridge failure is mainly governed by the pile and headstock failure in substructure and girder  
353 and some contribution for superstructure failure was made by the girder and deck failure. However the  
354 governing failure mode for concrete bridges was the abutment and girder failure.
- 355 • Surge induced loadings and scouring were the main failure mechanisms for pile and headstock failure  
356 in timber bridges and for the abutment failure in concrete bridges.
- 357 • A fault tree diagram was developed in this study to demonstrate the possible contribution of each  
358 structural member in the bridge to its complete failure if it is subjected to cyclonic loadings. The fault  
359 tree diagram developed in this paper could be expanded to other branches as well using different case  
360 studies.
- 361 • Probabilities obtained through this study are specific for the considered case study which is a limitation  
362 of the research. The probabilities obtained for occurrence of basic events and other events can be used  
363 as a basis in doing fault tree analysis for bridges subjected to cyclonic events.

364 The proposed framework can be used as a guide and using few other case studies, it can be refined further for its  
365 broader use.

366

### 367 **Acknowledgement**

368 The authors are very grateful to Transport Main Roads in Rockhampton, Australia for providing the inspection  
369 reports for bridges and expert advice during the course of this study. The support of the Commonwealth of  
370 Australia through the Cooperative Research Centre program is acknowledged.

### 371 **References**

- 372 Ataei, N., Stearn, M. and Padjett, J.E. (2010), "Response Sensitivity for Probabilistic Damage Assessment of  
373 Coastal Bridges under Surge and Wave Loading", Transportation Research Record: Journal of the  
374 Transportation Research Board, Vol. 2202, No. 3, pp. 93-101.
- 375 Bridge Inspection Manual, (2004), Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland, Australia.

376 Chen, Q., Wang, L. and Zhao, H. (2009), "Hydrodynamic investigation of coastal bridge collapse during  
377 Hurricane Katrina", *Journal of Hydraulic Engineering*, Vol. 135, No. 3, pp. 175-86.

378 Chen, S. (2004), 'Dynamic performance of bridges and vehicles under strong wind', PhD thesis, Louisiana State  
379 University, USA.

380 Chorzepa, M.G., Saeidpour, A., Christian, J.K. and Durham, S.A. (2016), " Hurricane vulnerability of coastal  
381 bridges using multiple environmental parameters", *International Journal of Safety and Security Engineering*,  
382 *Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 10-18.*

383 Davis-McDaniel, C., Chowdhury, M., Pang, W. and Dey, K. (2013), "Fault-Tree Model for Risk Assessment of  
384 Bridge Failure: Case Study for Segmental Box Girder Bridges", *Journal of infrastructure systems*, Vol. 19, pp.  
385 326-34.

386 Douglass, S., Chen, Q. and Olsen, J. (2006), Wave forces on bridge decks, Coastal Transportation Engineering  
387 Research and Education Centre, Univ. of South Alabama, USA.

388 Ericson, C.A. (2005), Hazard Analysis techniques for system safety, John Wiley & Sons.

389 FHWA (2011), Framework for improving resilience of bridge design, Publication No. FHWA-IF-11-016. U.S.  
390 Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

391 Flyvbjerg, B. (2006), "Five misunderstandings about case-study research", *Qualitative Inquiry*, Vol. 12, No. 2,  
392 pp. 219-45.

393 Irish, J.L. and Cañizares, R. (2009), "Storm wave flow through tidal inlets and its influence on bay flooding",  
394 *Journal of Waterway, Port, Coastal and ocean Engineering*, Vol. 135, pp. 52-60.

395 James Cook University Cyclone Testing Station, (2015), viewed 05 May 2015,  
396 <<https://www.jcu.edu.au/cts/publications/content/overview-of-cyclone-marcia-wind-speeds> >.

397 Johnson, P.A. (1999), "Fault tree analysis of bridge failure due to scour and channel instability", *Journal of*  
398 *infrastructure systems*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 35-41.

399 Kuhlicke, C. (2010), "Resilience: a capacity and myth: findings from an in-depth case study in disaster  
400 management research", *Natural Hazards, ASCE*, Vol. 67, No. 1, pp. 61-76.

401 Lebbe, M.F.K., Lokuge, W., Setunge, S. and Zhang, K. 2014, 'Failure mechanisms of bridge infrastructure in an  
402 extreme flood event.', in 1st International Conference on Infrastructure Failures and Consequences (ICFC 2014):  
403 Melbourne, Australia.

404 LeBeau, K. and Wadia-Fascetti, S. (2007), "Fault tree analysis of Schoharie Creek Bridge Collapse", *Journal of*  
405 *Performance of Constructed Facilities, ASCE*, Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 320-6.

406 Lehrman, J.B., Higgins, C. and Cox, D. (2012), "Performance of Highway Bridge Girder Anchorages under  
407 Simulated Hurricane Wave Induced Loads", *Journal of Bridge Engineering*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 259-71.

408 Lokuge, W. and Setunge, S. (2013), 'Evaluating disaster resilience of bridge infrastructure when exposed to  
409 extreme natural events', in *International conference on disaster resilience: Sri Lanka*.

410 Lokuge, W., Gamage N. and Setunge, S. (2016), "Fault tree analysis method for deterioration of timber bridges  
411 using an Australian case study", *Built Environment Project and Asset Management, Emerald*, Vol. 6, No. 3, pp.  
412 332-344.

413 Lokuge, W., Wilson, M., Tran, H. and Setunge, S. (2019), "Predicting the probability of failure of timber  
414 bridges using fault tree analysis", *Structure and Infrastructure Engineering*, Vol. 15, No. 6, 783-797.

415 Meng, B. and Jin, J. (2007), 'Uplift wave load on the superstructure of coastal bridges', in *Structures Congress:  
416 New Horizons and Better Practices*, ASCE: Reston, VA.

417 Padgett, J., DesRoches, D., Nielson, B., Yashinsky, M., Kwon, O., Burdette, N. and Tavera, E. (2008), "Bridge  
418 Damage and Repair Costs from Hurricane Katrina", *Journal of Bridge Engineering*, Vol. 13, pp. 6-14.

419 Pritchard, R.W. (2013), "2011 to 2012 Queensland floods and cyclone events: Lessons learnt for bridge  
420 transport infrastructure", *Australian Journal of Structural Engineering*, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 167-76.

421 Robertson, I., Riggs, H., Yim, S. and Young, Y. (2007), "Lessons from hurricane Katrina storm surge on bridges  
422 and buildings", *Journal of Waterway, Port, Coastal and ocean Engineering*, Vol. 133, pp. 463-83.

423 Setunge, S., Lokuge, W., Mohseni, H. and Karunasena, W. (2014), 'Vulnerability of road bridge infrastructure  
424 under extreme flood events', in *AFAC and Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC Conference*, Wellington, New  
425 Zealand.

426 Setunge, S., Zhu, W., Gravina, R. and Gamage, N. (2015), "Fault-Tree-Based Integrated Approach of Assessing  
427 the Risk of Failure of Deteriorated Reinforced-Concrete Bridges", *Journal of Performance of Constructed  
428 Facilities*, pp. 04015058-1--12, <[http://ascelibrary.org/doi/pdf/10.1061/\(ASCE\)CF.1943-5509.0000754](http://ascelibrary.org/doi/pdf/10.1061/(ASCE)CF.1943-5509.0000754)>.

429 Standards Australia, (2004), *Australian Standards, AS5100: Bridge Design, Part 1: Scope and General  
430 Principles*, Australia.

431 Yadav, D.K., and Barve, A., (2019), "Prioritization of cyclone preparedness activities in humanitarian supply  
432 chains using fuzzy analytical network", *Natural Hazards*, Vol. 97, pp. 683-726.

433 process

434 Zhu, W. (2008), 'An investigation into reliability based methods to include risk of failure in life cycle cost  
435 analysis of reinforced concrete bridge rehabilitation', RMIT University, Melbourne.



436

437

438

**List of figures**

439

440 Figure 1: Damage due to impact (Padgett et al. 2008)

441 Figure 2: Damage caused by scouring (Padgett et al. 2008)

442 Figure 3: Damaged bridges during Cyclone Marcia

443 Figure 4: Fault tree diagram for bridge failure during a cyclone

444 Figure 5: Observed damaged behavior for bridges during cyclone

445 Figure 1: Damaged behavior based on FTA analysis for bridges during cyclone

446 Figure 7: Element failure of bridges during a cyclone

447 Figure 8: Detailed fault tree diagram for bridges

448

449



450 Figure1: Damage due to impact (Padgett et al. 2008)

451

452



453

454

Figure 2: Damage caused by scouring (Padgett et al. 2008)

455

456



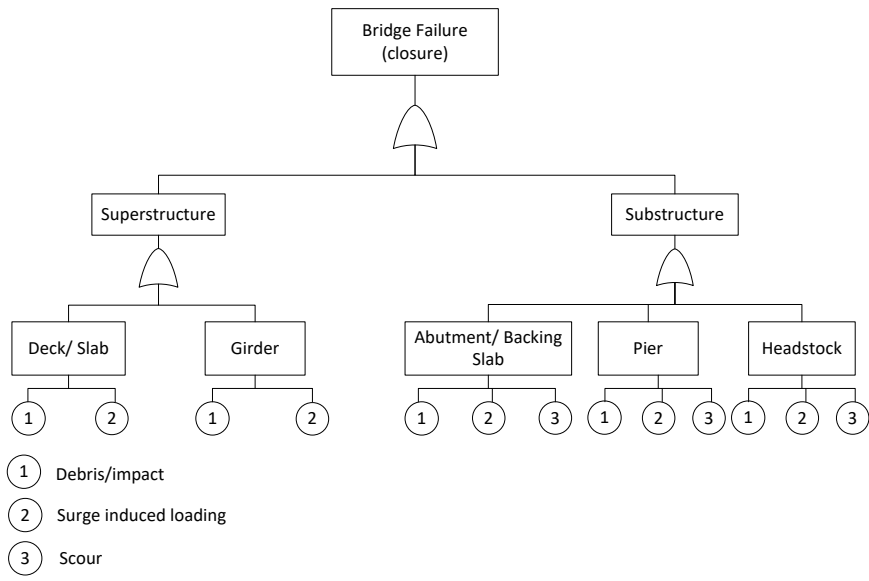
457

458

Figure 3: Damaged bridges during Cyclone Marcia

459

460



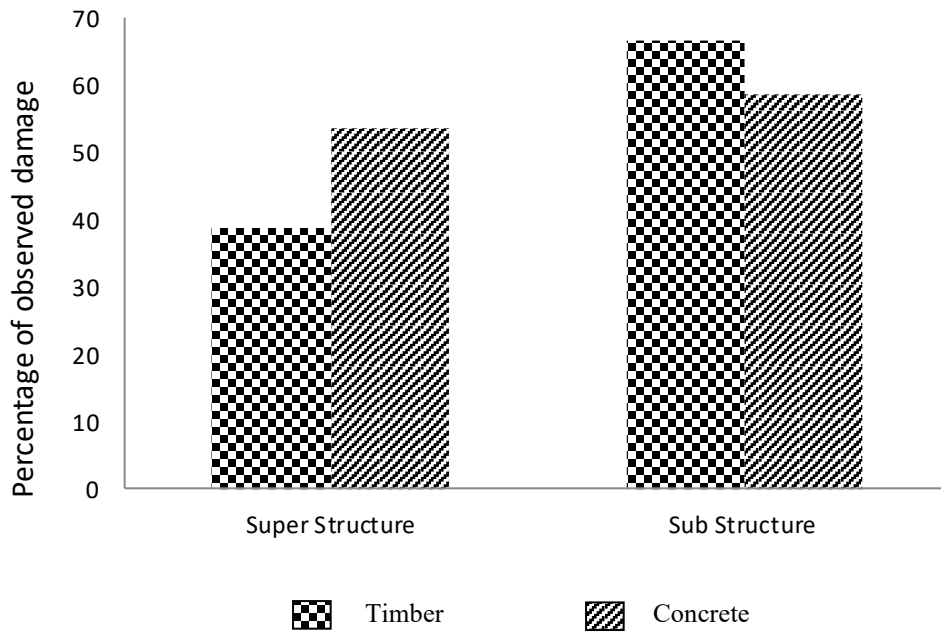
461

462

Figure 4: Fault tree diagram for bridge failure during a cyclone

463

464



465

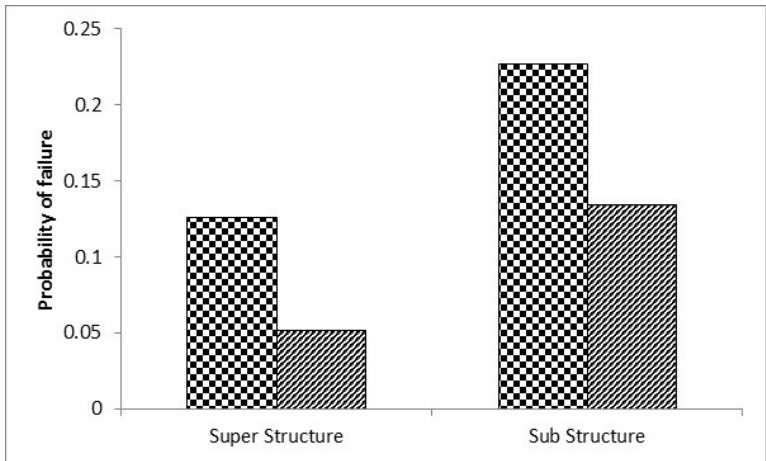
466

467

468

Figure 5: Observed damaged behavior for bridges during cyclone

469



470

471

Timber Concrete

472

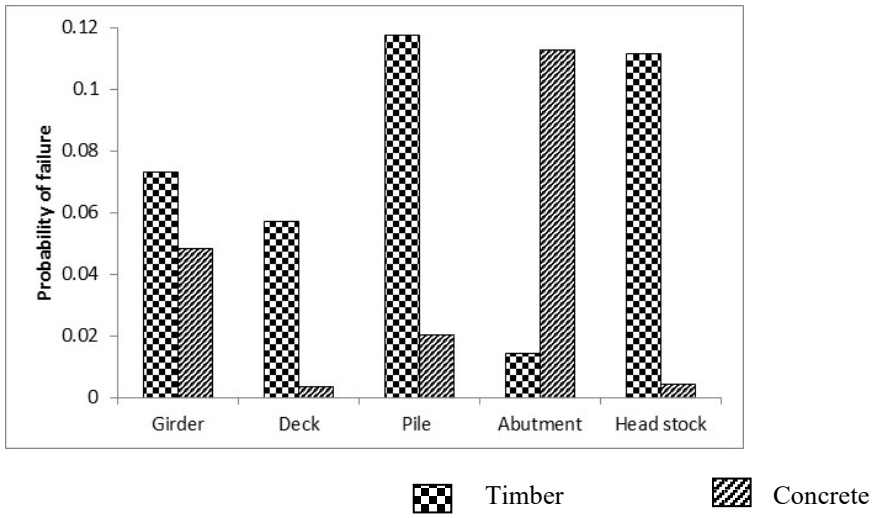
Figure 2: Damaged behavior based on FTA analysis for bridges during cyclone

473

474



475



476

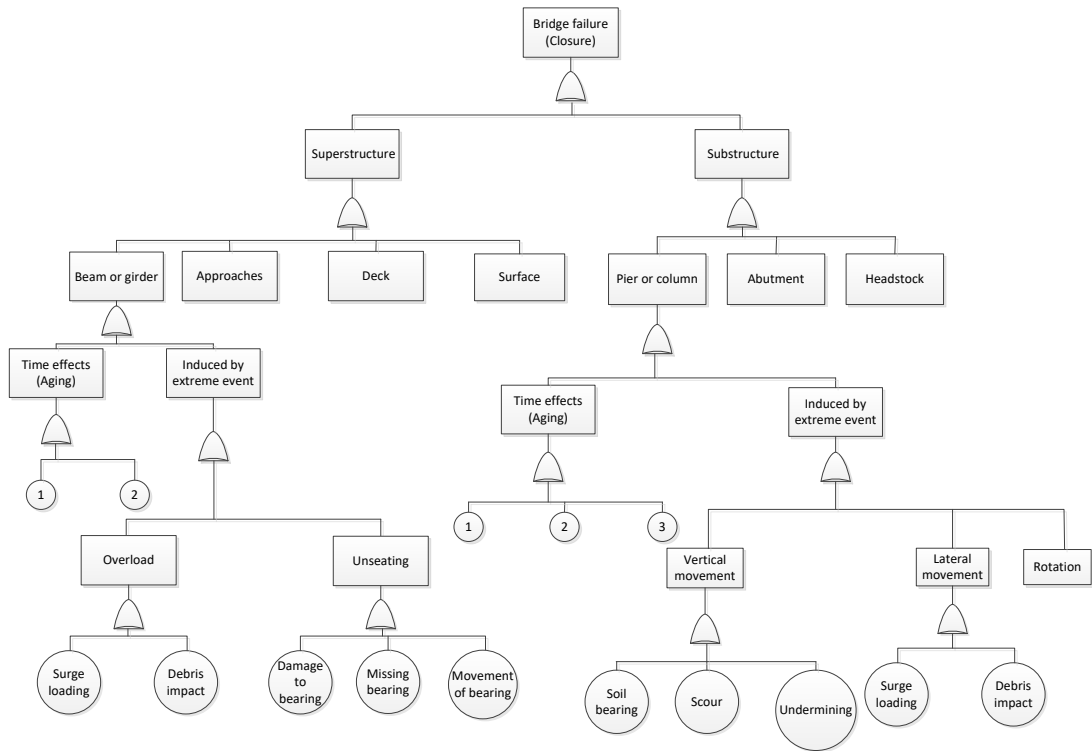
477

478

479

480

Figure 7: Element failure of bridges during a cyclone



482

483

Figure 8: Detailed fault tree diagram for bridges

484

485

486

487

488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501

**List of tables**

- Table 1: Probabilities for condition states
- Table 2: Condition states for the girders (Span 1) in a Timber Bridge
- Table 3: Probability of girder failure using a Timber Bridge
- Table 4: Probability of girder failure for all the damaged timber bridges
- Table 5: Assigned probabilities for basic events
- Table 6: Probabilities for main element failure of timber bridges
- Table 7: Probability of basic events of the superstructure for timber bridges
- Table 8: Probability of basic events of the substructure for timber bridges
- Table 9: Probability for main element failure of concrete bridges
- Table 10: Probability of basic events of the superstructure for concrete bridges
- Table 11: Probability of basic events of the substructure for concrete bridges

502

503

Table 1: Probabilities for condition states

Condition levels	Qualitative Rating	Assigned Probability
CS1	Good	7%
CS2	Fair	12%
CS3	Poor	25%
CS4	Very poor	50%
CS5	Worst	65%

504

505

506

507

Table 2: Condition states for the girders (Span 1) in a Timber Bridge

	CS1	CS2	CS3	CS4
Before cyclone	0	5	2	0
After cyclone	0	0	0	7

508

509

510

511

Table 3: Probability of girder failure using a Timber Bridge

Span	1	2	3	4
Probability	0.3430	0.3583	0.3429	0.3314
Probability of a girder failure = 0.3439				

512

513

514

515

Table 4: Probability of girder failure using all the damaged timber bridges

Bridge	Probability of a girder failure
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0.0625
5	0.1275
6	<b>0.3439 (sample calculation)</b>
7	0
8	0.05

516

517

518

519

Table 5: Assigned probabilities for basic events

Basic event	Superstructure	Substructure
Debris/impact	25%	20%
Surge induced loading	75%	45%
Scour		35%

520

521



522

523

Table 6: Probabilities for main element failure of timber bridges

Probability of failure of a timber bridge due to a cyclone (0.3244)				
Superstructure-0.1260		Substructure-0.2269		
Deck	Girder	Piles	Abutments	Head stock
0.057	0.0729	0.1175	0.01423	0.1114

524

525

526

527

Table 7: Probability of basic events of the superstructure for timber bridges

528

529

530

531

532

Deck		Girder	
Debris/Impact	Surge induced loading	Debris/Impact	Surge induced loading
0.01439	0.04319	0.0185	0.0555

533

534

Table 8: Probability of basic events of the substructure for timber bridges

Piles			Abutment			Head stock		
Surge	Scour	Impact	Surge	Scour	Impact	Surge	Scour	Impact
0.0549	0.0428	0.0244	0.0062	0.0048	0.0028	0.0519	0.0404	0.0231

535

536

537

538

Table 9: Probability for main element failure of concrete bridges

Probability of failure of a concrete bridge due to a cyclone (0.1792)				
Superstructure-0.0518		Substructure-0.1344		
Deck	Girder	Piles	Abutments	Head stock
0.0036	0.0483	0.0204	0.1127	0.00417

539

540

541

542

Table 10: Probability of basic events of the superstructure for concrete bridges

543

544

545

546

547

Deck		Girder	
Debris/Impact 0.0009	Surge induced loading 0.0027	Debris/Impact 0.0122	Surge induced loading 0.0366

548

549

Table 11: Probability of basic events of the substructure for concrete bridges

Piles			Abutment			Head stock		
Surge	Scour	Impact	Surge	Scour	Impact	Surge	Scour	Impact
0.0091	0.0071	0.0041	0.0523	0.0407	0.0233	0.0016	0.0012	0.0007

550

551