



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Tropical Cyclone *Damien*
30 January – 9 February 1987

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

Tropical cyclone *Damien* formed from a monsoonal low that developed off the Kimberley coast, to the north of Cape Leveque, on 31 January 1987. The developing low moved generally southwest under the influence of an upper-level high pressure system located over central Australia.

Cyclonic intensity was not attained until 2100 UTC 1 February at 15.5°S, 123.3°E, with a central pressure of 988hPa. Continuing to move southwest, parallel to the coast, the cyclone intensified slightly to reach a maximum intensity by 0000 UTC 3 February near 16.7°S, 121.5°E. Central pressure at this time was 980hPa and this was maintained for 12 hours before the cyclone began to weaken. A series of frontal passages to the south of the continent with subsequent advection of cold air into the cyclone caused it to weaken. By 0000 UTC 5 February the central pressure had risen to 991hPa and winds decreased below gale force. The resulting tropical depression moved erratically westward and by 0000 UTC 9 February at 20.0°S, 111.0°E had dissipated.

Cyclone *Damien* was a maritime cyclone throughout its life cycle and no coastal damage occurred. The strongest observed wind (83 km/h) was recorded by a ship 150 km to the north of the storm at 1200 UTC 3 February. The estimated strongest winds were 97 km/h from 0000 UTC to 0600 UTC 3 February when the cyclone was near 16.7°S, 121.5°E.

Table 1 Best track summary for Tropical Cyclone *Damien*, 31 January – 9 February 1987
 Note: Add 8 hours to convert to WST. Refer to best track database for complete track details.

Year	Month	Day	Hour (UTC)	Position Latitude S	Position Longitude E	Max wind 10min knots	Central Pressure hPa	Rad. of Gales nm
1987	01	30	2100	14.6	124.3	30	998	
1987	01	31	0000	14.6	124.0	30	998	
1987	01	31	0600	14.6	123.7	30	997	
1987	01	31	1200	14.7	123.4	35	996	
1987	01	31	1800	14.8	123.2	35	995	
1987	02	1	0000	15.0	123.0	35	994	380
1987	02	1	0600	15.2	123.0	40	992	
1987	02	1	1200	15.4	123.2	40	992	
1987	02	1	1800	15.4	123.3	40	990	
1987	02	2	0000	15.6	123.3	45	988	
1987	02	2	0600	16.0	123.0	45	986	
1987	02	2	1200	16.3	122.5	50	984	
1987	02	2	1800	16.6	122.0	50	982	
1987	02	3	0000	16.7	121.5	55	980	
1987	02	3	0600	16.8	120.9	55	980	
1987	02	3	1200	17.4	120.6	50	982	
1987	02	3	1800	17.5	119.8	50	983	
1987	02	4	0000	17.5	118.9	50	983	
1987	02	4	0600	17.7	118.2	45	985	
1987	02	4	1200	17.8	117.8	45	987	65
1987	02	4	1800	17.9	117.7	45	989	
1987	02	5	0000	18.1	117.6	40	991	
1987	02	5	0600	18.3	117.4	40	992	
1987	02	5	1200	18.7	117.2	40	992	
1987	02	5	1800	19.0	117.1	40	992	
1987	02	6	0000	19.4	116.9	35	993	
1987	02	6	0600	19.9	116.7	35	994	
1987	02	6	1200	20.2	116.0	35	995	
1987	02	6	1800	20.3	115.3	30	997	
1987	02	7	0000	20.1	114.6	30	998	
1987	02	7	0600	19.5	113.8	30	998	
1987	02	7	1200	19.2	113.4	30	999	
1987	02	7	1800	19.2	113.0	30	999	
1987	02	8	0000	19.3	112.4	30	999	
1987	02	8	0600	19.6	111.9	30	999	
1987	02	8	1200	19.8	111.6	30	999	
1987	02	8	1800	19.9	111.4	30	999	
1987	02	9	0000	20.0	111.0	25	1000	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone *Damien*, 31 January – 9 February 1987
All times in WST.

