



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

## **Tropical Cyclone *John***

23 – 31 January 1989

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre  
Bureau of Meteorology

### **A. Summary**

A low that developed northwest of Christmas Island on 23 January tracked to the west southwest passing near Cocos Islands on 26 January. The system reached cyclone intensity on 27 and 28 January but then weakened as it moved to the southeast.

There was no damage reported from Cocos Islands.

### **B. Meteorological Description**

A convective cloud mass near Cocos Island on 20 January moved southeast within the general monsoon flow and gradually became more organised. A 1004 hPa low was analysed within the cloud mass near 7.6°S and 103.3°E on 23 January. The low centre passed about 20 km to the north of Cocos Island at 0130 UTC 26 January when the pressure on the island was 999 hPa and winds were gusting to 70 km/h. Gales were not reported from the island as the low passed west southwest, but by 1800 UTC 26 January, tropical cyclone strength was reached.

Based on 0000 UTC 29 January satellite imagery, *John* was located near 18.9°S, 100.8°E with a rather disorganised cloud structure. Visual GMS imagery later on 29 January revealed a partially exposed low-level cloud centre with supporting convection restricted to the southern quadrants. This centre gradually became completely dissociated from the upper-level canopy and continued to be tracked by satellite imagery until it lost identity as a circulation on 2 February.

### **C. Impact**

Nil.

### **D. Observations**

Cocos Island: Wind gusts to 70 km/h 26 January.

Table 1. Best track summary for *John*, 12 – 19 December 1988

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
1989	01	23	0600	7.6	103.3	0	1004	
1989	01	23	1200	8.2	103.6	0	1004	
1989	01	23	1800	8.7	103.8	0	1004	
1989	01	24	0000	9.4	104.0	0	1004	
1989	01	24	0600	10.2	103.4	0	1003	
1989	01	24	1200	10.6	102.5	20	1002	
1989	01	24	1800	10.8	101.4	25	1001	
1989	01	25	0000	11.2	100.4	25	1000	
1989	01	25	0600	11.4	99.7	25	999	
1989	01	25	1200	11.6	98.8	25	999	
1989	01	25	1500	11.7	98.4	30	998	
1989	01	25	1800	11.8	98.1	30	997	
1989	01	25	2100	11.9	97.6	30	997	
1989	01	26	0000	12.0	97.1	30	997	
1989	01	26	0300	12.0	96.8	30	997	
1989	01	26	0600	12.0	96.7	35	996	
1989	01	26	0900	12.0	96.5	35	995	
1989	01	26	1200	12.1	96.3	35	994	
1989	01	26	1500	12.2	96.2	40	992	
1989	01	26	1800	12.2	96.0	40	991	25
1989	01	27	0000	12.3	95.7	40	990	25
1989	01	27	0600	12.4	95.0	40	990	25
1989	01	27	1200	13.0	94.0	40	990	110
1989	01	27	1800	13.6	94.9	40	990	110
1989	01	28	0000	14.2	96.0	40	990	90
1989	01	28	0600	15.3	97.2	40	992	110
1989	01	28	1200	16.4	98.3	35	993	95
1989	01	28	1800	17.6	99.6	35	995	60
1989	01	29	0000	18.9	100.8	30	997	65
1989	01	29	0600	19.5	101.0	30	997	
1989	01	29	1200	20.2	101.2	30	998	
1989	01	29	1800	20.8	101.3	30	998	
1989	01	30	0000	21.5	101.6	30	998	
1989	01	30	0600	22.1	101.9	25	999	
1989	01	30	1200	22.8	102.2	25	999	
1989	01	30	1800	23.6	102.5	25	1000	
1989	01	31	0000	24.3	102.7	25	1000	
1989	01	31	0600	25.0	103.0	25	1000	
1989	01	31	1200	25.3	103.8	25	1001	
1989	01	31	1800	25.7	104.8	25	1001	
1989	02	1	0000	26.3	105.6	20	1002	
1989	02	1	0600	26.9	106.0	20	1002	
1989	02	1	1200	26.6	105.6	0	1004	
1989	02	1	1800	26.3	105.3	0	1006	
1989	02	2	0000	26.0	105.0	0	1008	
1989	02	2	0600	25.9	104.1	0	1008	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone *John*, 23 January – 1 February 1989  
All times in WST.

