



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Tropical Cyclone Leon

13 – 19 February 1989
Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

A low formed between Cocos and Christmas Island was steered to the west passing south of Cocos Island on 18 February. The system reached cyclone intensity overnight on 18-19 February before passing west of 90°E and was renamed *Hanitra* by Mauritius Meteorological Service.

B. Meteorological Description

A weak tropical low was discernible between Cocos and Christmas Islands from 13 to 17 February. The cloud pattern was poorly organised during the period but a slow deepening of the system occurred as it settled on a westward track. The low passed to the south of Cocos Island during the night of 17 February and produced 45 km/h mean winds with a pressure at the station of 1007 hPa.

The westward movement continued as the system slowly deepened to become a tropical cyclone on 1800 UTC 18 February, at 12.8°S, 92.7°E. At 0000 UTC 19 February a ship located some 230 km east of the centre reported gale force winds and a 3.5 metre northwest swell.

The cyclone was renamed *Hanitra* by Mauritius Meteorological Service at 0600 UTC 20 February and reached its peak intensity on 23 February; minimum pressure was 940 hPa with maximum winds of 150 km/h and gusts of 230 km/h. *Leon/Hanitra* did not affect any land areas, became extra-tropical and decayed

C. Impact

Nil.

D. Observations

Nil.

Table 1. Best track summary for Leon, 13 - 19 February 1989

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	02	13	0600	12.0	102.0	0	1008	
1989	02	13	1200	12.2	101.1	0	1006	
1989	02	13	1800	12.4	100.2	0	1006	
1989	02	14	0000	12.4	99.5	0	1006	
1989	02	14	0600	12.0	99.7	0	1006	
1989	02	14	1200	12.0	100.2	0	1006	
1989	02	14	1800	12.2	100.8	0	1006	
1989	02	15	0000	12.6	101.0	0	1006	
1989	02	15	0600	12.7	100.8	0	1006	
1989	02	15	1200	12.8	100.6	0	1006	
1989	02	15	1800	12.8	100.3	0	1006	
1989	02	16	0000	12.8	100.1	0	1006	
1989	02	16	0600	12.9	99.6	0	1004	
1989	02	16	1200	13.0	99.1	0	1004	
1989	02	16	1800	13.0	98.5	0	1004	
1989	02	17	0000	13.0	98.0	0	1004	
1989	02	17	0600	13.0	97.5	20	1002	
1989	02	17	1200	13.0	97.1	25	1000	
1989	02	17	1800	13.0	96.4	25	999	
1989	02	18	0000	13.0	95.6	30	997	
1989	02	18	0600	13.0	95.0	35	995	55
1989	02	18	1200	12.9	93.8	35	993	110
1989	02	18	1800	12.8	92.7	25	992	130
1989	02	19	0000	12.7	91.5	40	990	150
1989	02	19	0600	12.7	90.4	45	989	130
1989	02	19	1200	12.8	89.0	45	988	145

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone Leon, 13 – 19 February 1989

All times in WST.

