



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Severe Tropical Cyclone *Lindsay*

6 – 11 March 1985

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

Lindsay formed well north of the mainland but developed into a severe cyclone moving to the south southeast and crossing on the southern side of Roebuck Bay south of Broome around midnight on 9 March. While severe vegetation damage was reported near the point of landfall, damage in Broome was generally slight mainly as a result of falling trees. A 20-metre fishing boat broke its moorings and sank under the Broome jetty.

Lindsay was the only cyclone to cause any significant damage in the Western region during the season.

B. Meteorological Description

After forming to the south of Sumbawa Island in the Indonesian Archipelago on 6 March 1985, the pre-cyclonic low moved south and then east. By 0600 UTC 7 March the system had become a cyclone and began moving onto a south-westerly track.

While still deepening, *Lindsay* recurved at 11.7°S 117.3°E and began a sustained south-easterly track that took it across the coast and continental Australia. Minimum pressure of 950 hPa was reached at 0600 UTC 9 March when at 16.2°S, 120.8°E. Maximum winds were estimated at 150 km/h. The lowest pressure was reached twelve hours before landfall which occurred on the southern side of Roebuck Bay, 35 km southeast of Broome.

Lindsay retained a small tight cyclonic core until 0300 UTC 11 March as it moved rapidly across the continent: While just below cyclonic intensity, the low passed 75 km to the southwest of Giles Meteorological Office at 0600 UTC 11 March where a gust of 80 km/h was recorded. The remnant low moved steadily southeast until it was absorbed into westerly moving systems near Ceduna on the Great Australian Bight.

C. Impact

The strongest wind recorded (74 km/h) was at Broome at 1600 UTC 9 March when the cyclone was at its closest to the town. Damage to the town was superficial, being confined to uprooted trees and slight structural damage mainly from falling trees. A 20-metre ferro-concrete fishing boat broke its

moorings and sank under the Broome jetty. Severe vegetation damage was reported to the south of Broome near the point of landfall.

Table 1 Best track summary for Tropical Cyclone *Lindsay* 6 – 11 March 1985.

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
1985	03	6	0000	9.2	117.6	0	1006	
1985	03	6	0600	9.5	117.6	0	1004	
1985	03	6	1200	9.8	117.8	0	1002	
1985	03	6	1800	9.9	118.4	0	1001	
1985	03	7	0000	9.9	119.1	0	1000	
1985	03	7	0600	10.2	119.8	35	998	
1985	03	7	1200	10.7	119.3	45	993	
1985	03	7	1800	11.0	118.4	50	987	
1985	03	8	0000	11.4	117.7	60	982	
1985	03	8	0600	12.1	117.2	60	979	
1985	03	8	1200	13.1	117.9	65	976	
1985	03	8	1800	14.1	118.8	80	963	
1985	03	9	0000	15.1	119.9	85	957	
1985	03	9	0600	16.2	120.8	95	950	95
1985	03	9	0900	16.8	121.1	90	954	
1985	03	9	1200	17.3	121.4	90	956	
1985	03	9	1600	18.0	122.0	85	958	80
1985	03	9	1800	18.4	122.2	80	962	
1985	03	9	2100	19.1	122.4	80	966	
1985	03	10	0000	19.8	122.6	75	970	
1985	03	10	0300	20.4	122.8	70	973	
1985	03	10	0600	20.9	123.2	65	976	
1985	03	10	0900	21.3	123.8	60	980	
1985	03	10	1200	21.8	124.5	55	984	
1985	03	10	1800	23.0	125.9	45	990	
1985	03	11	0000	24.0	126.9	40	994	
1985	03	11	0600	25.3	127.5	40	995	
1985	03	11	1200	26.9	128.4	0	997	
1985	03	11	1800	28.4	129.8	0	998	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone *Lindsay*, 6 – 12 March 1985
All times in WST.

