



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Tropical Cyclone Marcia

2- 5 March 1989

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

A low that formed southeast of Cocos Island on 2 March moved to the southwest then south reaching tropical cyclone intensity on 3 March. However, the cyclone weakened under strong wind shear the following day as it continued to move to the south.

Marcia remained over open waters throughout its lifetime and had no known impact to island or coastal communities.

B. Meteorological Description

Marcia began as a tropical low near 14.5°S, 102.1°E, southeast of Cocos Island, at 0000 UTC 2 March. The low initially moved slowly to the west-southwest and was first classified as a weak tropical cyclone at 0600 UTC 3 March.

Satellite imagery located the centre near the north-western edge of the main cloud mass. During the next 24 hours the cold cloud canopy continued to expand and extended southeastwards away from the centre. By 0600 UTC 4 March a clearly exposed low-level centre was evident near 20.7°S 97.3°E indicating that the cyclone had weakened.

Marcia was a weak tropical cyclone with a minimum central pressure of 995 hPa during the period 0600 3 March to 0000 UTC 4 March. The cyclone weakened rapidly due to high-level wind shear associated with a cut-off low pressure system to its southwest.

C. Impact

Nil.

D. Observations

Nil.

Table 1. Best track summary for Marcia, 2 – 6 March 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	03	2	0000	15.5	101.5	0	1004	
1989	03	2	0600	15.6	100.8	0	1004	
1989	03	2	1200	15.9	100.2	20	1002	
1989	03	2	1800	16.2	99.6	25	1000	
1989	03	3	0000	16.6	99.0	30	998	
1989	03	3	0600	17.0	98.4	35	995	25
1989	03	3	1200	17.8	98.1	35	995	85
1989	03	3	1800	18.2	97.8	35	995	120
1989	03	4	0000	19.7	97.6	30	995	120
1989	03	4	0600	20.7	97.3	25	998	120
1989	03	4	1200	21.9	97.1	20	1000	120
1989	03	4	1800	23.2	97.0	0	1002	
1989	03	5	0000	24.5	97.0	0	1004	
1989	03	5	0600	25.7	97.0	0	1004	
1989	03	5	1200	26.9	97.0	0	1006	
1989	03	5	1800	28.0	97.0	0	1006	
1989	03	6	0000	29.3	97.0	0	1006	
1989	03	6	0600	30.1	97.0	0	1008	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone Marcia

All times in WST.



