



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

**Severe Tropical Cyclone *Pancho***  
18 - 21 January 1986

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre  
Bureau of Meteorology

**A. Summary**

Tropical cyclone *Pancho* was an Indian Ocean cyclone active at the same time as cyclone *Hector* was moving southwest into the Kimberley region. *Pancho* briefly reached category three intensity on 20 January. *Pancho* remained over the ocean throughout its life cycle.

**B. Meteorological Description**

Initial development occurred approximately 500 km south-southeast of Christmas Island in an area of weak monsoonal activity. The developing low moved eastward from 14.4°S, 107.7°E at 0000 UTC 18 January 1986 and reached cyclonic strength near 13.7°S and 109.5°E at 1800 UTC 18 January. The basic eastward movement was continued against the influence of an extensive upper-level ridge to the south of the cyclone until 0000 UTC 20 January.

By 0000 UTC 20 January the cyclone had moved to 13.7°S, 114.2°E where steering mechanisms were weak, and during the next 30 hours *Pancho* performed a 480 degree clockwise loop. Subsequently the movement of the cyclone seems to have been influenced by the upper-level northerly flow. During the 12 hours after the completion of the loop, cool stable maritime air was entrained into the cyclone. This produced a rapid decay so that by 1800 UTC 21 January winds were estimated to have fallen below gale force.

A lowest central pressure of 976hPa was reached briefly at 0000 UTC 20 January near 13.7°S, 114.2°E, however the strongest wind reported was 74 km/h from a ship 120 km northwest of the centre at 1800 UTC 20 January

**C. Impact**

There was no known damage associated with TC *Pancho*.

Table 1 Best track summary for Tropical Cyclone *Pancho*, 18 – 21 January 1986. 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
1986	01	18	0000	14.4	107.7		1002	
1986	01	18	0600	13.9	108.4		1002	
1986	01	18	1200	13.8	108.9	30	999	
1986	01	18	1800	13.7	109.5	35	998	
1986	01	19	0000	13.9	110.4	40	995	
1986	01	19	0600	14.0	111.2	45	990	
1986	01	19	1200	14.1	111.9	55	984	
1986	01	19	1800	14.0	113.0	65	978	
1986	01	20	0000	13.7	114.2	65	976	150
1986	01	20	0600	14.4	114.6	65	978	
1986	01	20	1200	14.8	114.3	60	980	
1986	01	20	1800	14.9	113.8	60	980	60
1986	01	21	0000	14.2	114.0	60	980	60
1986	01	21	0600	14.5	114.1	55	984	
1986	01	21	1200	16.2	112.6	45	992	
1986	01	21	1800	17.7	111.7		1002	
1986	01	21	2100	18.5	111.3		1004	

Note: Radius of gales field incomplete.

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone *Pancho*, 18 – 22 January 1986  
All times in WST.

