



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Severe Tropical Cyclone *Quenton*

26 – 30 November 1983

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

Tropical Cyclone *Quenton* formed well north of the Pilbara coast overnight on 27-28 November as it moved to the southeast. *Quenton* developed rapidly reaching peak intensity before crossing a remote part of the coast along Eighty Mile Beach late on 29 November.

There was some property damage at Sandfire Roadhouse and stock losses but otherwise damage was limited due to the remote location of the coastal crossing.

Quenton was the first cyclone of the season to make landfall and was also the first November cyclone in ten years to cross the Australian coast.

B. Meteorological Description

The initial low formed to the south of Java in the monsoon trough on 23 November and then drifted very slowly south during the next four days without detectable development. After about 0000 UTC 26 November, the low began to deepen and assumed a southeasterly track under the influence of a northwest steering flow. This track, with only slight deviations, was maintained until after *Quenton* crossed the coast. Cyclone status was achieved by 1600 UTC 27 November and intensification continued steadily with severe cyclone status being reached by about 2100 UTC 28 November.

By 0300 UTC 29 November, the central pressure had fallen to an estimated 955 hPa and this intensity was maintained to landfall. No eye was visible from GMS imagery. *Quenton* crossed the coast halfway along the Eighty Mile Beach, 30 km north northeast of Sandfire Flats Roadhouse. After crossing the coast, *Quenton* degenerated as it moved southeast across the Great Sandy Desert and lost its identity around 0600 UTC 30 November.

C. Impact

Quenton produced minimal damage due to the remote location of the coastal crossing. At Sandfire Flats, a caravan and a toilet were demolished and several transportable accommodation units were unroofed or badly damaged. The newly-installed Telecom microwave link between Port Hedland and Broome was dislocated when a bolt holding the transmission dish was broken. At Anna Plains station, several windmills were damaged and fifty head of cattle drowned when trapped on the beach.

D. Observations

The automatic weather station (AWS) at Rowley Shoals measured a wind speed of 139 km/h when the centre was 19 km to the north-northwest at 0300 UTC 29 November. The highest wind speed reported from a ship was 93 km/h (50 knots) at 0600 UTC 29 November when it was located 148 km to the southwest of the centre.

Table 1. Best track summary for Severe Tropical Cyclone *Quenton* 26 – 30 November 1983.

Note: Add 8 hours to convert to WST. Refer to best track database for complete track details.

Year	Month	Day	Hour (UTC)	Latitude S	Longitude E	Max Wind knots	Central Pressure hPa	Radius of Gales nm
1983	11	26	0000	10.5	112.8		1004	
1983	11	26	0600	10.7	112.9		1004	
1983	11	26	1200	11.0	113.0		1004	
1983	11	26	1800	11.4	113.0		1002	
1983	11	27	0000	12.0	113.1		1000	
1983	11	27	0600	12.6	113.3		1000	
1983	11	27	1200	13.0	114.0		998	
1983	11	27	1800	13.6	114.7		994	
1983	11	28	0000	14.5	115.3		990	
1983	11	28	0600	15.0	115.6		988	
1983	11	28	1200	15.4	116.4		985	
1983	11	28	1800	15.8	117.2		980	
1983	11	29	0000	16.8	118.4		965	
1983	11	29	0300	17.4	119.0		955	
1983	11	29	0600	17.8	119.6		955	
1983	11	29	0900	18.4	120.2		955	
1983	11	29	1200	19.0	120.6		955	
1983	11	29	1500	19.6	121.3		957	
1983	11	29	1800	20.5	121.7		965	
1983	11	29	2100	20.9	122.3		970	
1983	11	30	0000	21.3	122.9		980	
1983	11	30	0300	21.5	124.4		990	

Figure 1. Track of Severe Tropical Cyclone *Quenton* 26 – 30 November 1983.
All times in WST.

