



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Tropical Cyclone *Terri*

28 January – 1 February 2001

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

Tropical cyclone *Terri* formed off the northwest Kimberley coast reaching category two intensity before crossing a remote part of the east Pilbara coast on 31 January. There was no known damage attributed to this cyclone.

B. Meteorological Description

This system resulted from a low which formed in the monsoon trough over the northern Kimberley region of Western Australia, at the start of an active phase of the intra-seasonal oscillation. A weak cross equatorial burst in the lower levels on 28 and 29 January increased the low level vorticity and provided the trigger for further development. A middle level ridge over central Australia then steered the low southwest into the Timor Sea and Indian Ocean with cyclone intensity being reached during 29 January.

The initial development of *Terri* was impeded by shear in the upper levels. The shear weakened briefly as the cyclone aligned beneath the upper ridge. This allowed the system intensify to storm force as it travelled to the southwest. This was short lived however as the middle level circulation became dislocated from the surface centre due to the influence of a large amplitude mid and upper level trough to the west. Under the influence of this trough the low level centre recurved to the southeast and crossed the northwest Australian coast east of Port Hedland at about 0100 UTC on 31 January. The system weakened slightly as it approached the coast and crossed in a sparsely populated area causing minimal damage.

Terri weakened further as it moved steadily south southeast toward the interior of Australia, and degenerated into a tropical depression at about 1600 UTC 31 January. It then accelerated southward over the Great Sandy Desert ahead of an approaching cold front.

C. Impact

There was no known damage attributed to this cyclone.

D. Observations

Mean winds of 52 knots were observed at Bedout Island AWS, whilst at Pardoo winds of 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots were reported. In general rainfall totals were lower than usual, with falls in the path of the system below 100 mm

Table 1. Best track summary for Tropical Cyclone *Terri* 28 – 31 January 2001.

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

Year	Month	Day	Hour	Latitude	Longitude	Max Wind Knots	Central Pressure hPa	Radius of Gales nm
2001	1	28	0400	14.2	124.8	25	1002	
2001	1	28	1000	14.6	124.2	25	1001	
2001	1	28	1600	15.1	123.5	25	1000	
2001	1	28	2200	15.5	122.8	30	998	
2001	1	29	0400	15.7	122.1	35	996	
2001	1	29	1000	15.9	121.6	35	994	25
2001	1	29	1600	16.0	121.2	40	992	35
2001	1	29	2200	16.3	120.8	45	988	35
2001	1	30	0100	16.6	120.4	50	985	50
2001	1	30	0400	17.0	120.0	55	980	50
2001	1	30	0700	17.4	119.6	60	975	75
2001	1	30	1000	17.9	119.3	60	975	75
2001	1	30	1300	18.3	119.2	60	975	75
2001	1	30	1600	18.7	119.1	60	975	75
2001	1	30	1900	19.0	119.1	60	975	75
2001	1	30	2200	19.3	119.3	55	980	75
2001	1	31	0100	19.9	119.6	55	980	75
2001	1	31	0400	20.5	119.9	55	980	75
2001	1	31	0700	21.4	120.2	50	985	50
2001	1	31	1000	22.3	120.5	50	985	25
2001	1	31	1300	23.1	120.8	40	990	
2001	1	31	1600	23.9	121.1	40	990	
2001	1	31	1900	24.8	121.4	40	990	
2001	1	31	2200	25.8	122.0	40	990	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone Terri, 28 January – 1 February 2001.
All times in WST.

