



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Tropical Cyclone *Victor*

8 -17 February 1998

Perth Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre
Bureau of Meteorology

A. Summary

TC *Victor* formed from a tropical low that moved across northern Australia, and was most likely the remnants of former TC *Katrina* in the Coral Sea. It had no impact on the WA coastline. Once it had moved west southwest away from the north Kimberley coast it intensified on 9 and 10 February, reaching cyclone intensity at 1800 WST 10 February. Victor peaked on 12 February at category 3 intensity but then gradually weakened over open waters passing west of 90°E on 16 February.

The time period from the formation of the low from which TC *Katrina* formed in the Coral Sea, through until it could no longer be identified as a low in the central Indian Ocean was at least 50 days.

B. Meteorological Description

Intensity Analysis

Victor formed from a low with a pre-existing deep vertical circulation. The low was weak and poorly structured as it moved to the north of the Kimberley during 8 February, however its organization improved markedly overnight on 9 February as it moved west southwest away from the north Kimberley coast. in a region of low vertical wind shear on 9 February. An LNG tanker reported 40 knot winds near the centre during the late afternoon of 10 February and *Victor* was named at 1800 WST. It continued to move westward and remained weak during 11 February but intensified during 12 February. An eye became visible during the morning of 13 February as *Victor* reached peak intensity. *Victor* continued west southwest but then progressively weakened. By the morning of 15 February it was fully sheared with a fully exposed low level centre apparent on satellite imagery.

Motion

The motion of TC *Victor* was dominated by an intense mid-level subtropical ridge to its south during its whole lifetime, a typical Standard Region, Dominant Ridge Pattern.

Structure

TC *Victor* remained a small cyclone for its whole lifetime with estimated radius to gales of only 75 kilometres. It was surrounded by very high environmental pressures of around 1012 hPa. The ship report of 40 knot winds near the cyclone centre was at a time when the ship's barometric pressure reading was 1005 hPa. The cyclone central pressure at the time was estimated to be about 1002 hPa. Late on 13 February TC *Victor* began a slow weakening process due to increasing shear. The shear resulted from increasing lower level easterly environmental winds while *Victor* moved southwards of the upper ridge axis into an area of weak north to northwesterly flow.

C. Impact

There was no known impact associated with TC *Victor*.

Table 1. Best track summary for *Victor*, 8 – 17 February 1998.

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
1998	02	8	0400	13.3	126.1	20	1008	
1998	02	8	1000	13.7	125.3	20	1007	
1998	02	8	1600	14.2	124.5	20	1007	
1998	02	8	2200	14.5	123.7	20	1007	
1998	02	9	0400	14.6	123.0	20	1005	
1998	02	9	1000	14.8	122.3	20	1005	
1998	02	9	1600	14.9	121.6	20	1005	
1998	02	9	2200	15.1	120.9	20	1005	
1998	02	10	0400	15.2	120.2	25	1003	
1998	02	10	1000	15.4	119.4	25	1002	
1998	02	10	1600	15.4	118.6	25	1000	
1998	02	10	2200	15.4	117.6	25	1000	
1998	02	11	0400	15.4	116.7	25	1000	
1998	02	11	1000	15.4	115.7	35	995	45
1998	02	11	1600	15.2	114.6	40	990	45
1998	02	11	2200	15.0	113.6	55	980	45
1998	02	12	0400	15.1	112.6	60	975	45
1998	02	12	1000	15.4	111.7	65	970	45
1998	02	12	1600	16.0	110.6	65	970	45
1998	02	12	2200	16.5	109.3	60	975	45
1998	02	13	0400	17.1	108.1	55	980	45
1998	02	13	1000	17.5	106.8	55	980	45
1998	02	13	1600	17.8	105.4	55	980	45
1998	02	13	2200	18.1	104.0	50	985	45
1998	02	14	0400	18.5	102.4	50	985	45
1998	02	14	1000	18.7	100.6	40	990	45
1998	02	14	1600	19.0	98.8	35	995	45
1998	02	14	2200	19.5	97.0	25	1000	
1998	02	15	0400	19.8	95.3	20	1005	
1998	02	15	1000	20.2	93.5	20	1005	
1998	02	15	1600	20.7	92.0	20	1010	
1998	02	15	2200	21.1	90.6	20	1010	
1998	02	16	0400	21.6	89.3	20	1010	

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Cyclone Victor 8 - 17 February 1998.
All times in WST.

