

Summary of wind warnings

Wind warning	Wind range*
Strong wind	26 to 33 knots
Gale	34 to 47 knots
Storm force	48 to 63 knots
Hurricane force	64 knots or more

One knot = one nautical mile per hour = 1.85 kilometres per hour

* Ten-minute averages

Wind warnings for coastal waters attempt to provide around a 24-hour lead time and are normally renewed every six hours.

Please be aware wind gusts can be a further 40 per cent stronger than the average and maximum waves may be up to twice the height.

1300 telephone numbers

Bureau weather warnings are available by 1300 services and are charged at the cost of a local call, more from mobile and public phones.

Queensland	1300 360 427
New South Wales	1300 659 218
Victoria	1300 659 217
Tasmania	1300 659 216
South Australia	1300 659 215
Western Australia	1300 659 223
Northern Territory	1300 659 214

Enquiries

Please contact your local Bureau office or email webmar@bom.gov.au or write to the National Manager, Marine Weather Services
Bureau of Meteorology
GPO Box 1289
Melbourne VIC 3001

More information about these services is available from the Bureau's marine website

www.bom.gov.au/marine



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

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WIND WARNINGS



**A SERVICE TO
MARINERS FROM THE
BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**

> A change is in the wind

From 1 November 2006 the Bureau of Meteorology will be changing the way it describes wind conditions in the forecasts and warnings for Australian coastal waters when severe weather prevails.

In line with international standards the Bureau will introduce the terms 'storm force' and 'hurricane force' to describe wind conditions during extreme weather events that may affect coastal waters*, for example, in major tropical cyclones in the tropics or intense low pressure systems outside the tropics.

Warnings will now be issued whenever strong winds, gales, storm force or hurricane force winds are expected.

* Generally out to 60 nautical miles from the coast



> Example wind warning

In the tropics, hurricane force winds are associated with severe tropical cyclones (Category 3 and above). An illustration of a coastal waters wind warning incorporating the new terminology follows. Wave heights can be influenced by the size and movement of the weather system, shallow waters and proximity to the coast.

WARNINGS FORECAST (ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY)

Coastal waters wind warning

For waters between Wyndham and Kuri Bay
Issued at 5:00 am CST 31 January 2010

Synoptic situation

Severe Tropical Cyclone Xenon 952 hPa Located at
5:00am CST near 12.5 S 125.2 E
Forecast at 4 pm CST 13.5S 124.6E

Hurricane force wind warning

Within 15 nautical miles of centre
Clockwise winds above 64 knots. Seas to 11 metres.

Storm force wind warning

Within 25 nautical miles of centre
Clockwise winds above 48 knots. Seas to 8 metres.

Gale warning

Within 50 nautical miles of centre
Clockwise winds above 34 knots. Seas to 5 metres.

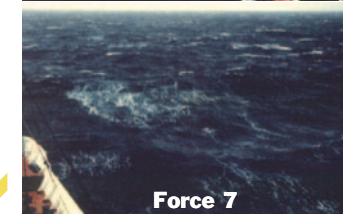
Bureau wind warning categories

Strong wind 26 to 33 knots

Probable wave heights
around 3 to 5 metres*



Force 6



Force 7



Force 8

Gale 34 to 47 knots

Probable wave heights
around 5 to 8 metres*



Force 9



Force 10

Storm force 48 to 63 knots

Probable wave heights
around 8 to 11 metres*



Force 11

Hurricane force 64 knots or more

Probable wave heights
around 11 metres* or more



Force 12

*Maximum waves may be up to twice the height. Images courtesy Environment Canada