

Extreme weather outlook

CAIRNS

State's north faces possibility of two cyclones forming up in coming week as Far North Queensland cops a drenching

Jack Lawrie, Toni Caldwell, Danaella Wivell and Andrea Falvo, The Cairns Post

5 minutes ago



- [Forecaster warns of 'scary' cyclone](#)
- [80mm of rain dumped in an hour](#)

UPDATE: Residents in Ingham are bracing for the worst flood in nearly a decade.

Meanwhile further north, swift-water rescue teams are being sent to Innisfail as heavy rain prompts major flood warnings across the region.

Falls of up to 300mm in parts of the Far North have closed roads and schools and cut off towns across the region.



Cairns Post

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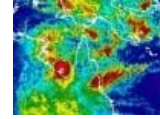
MOST VIEWED



Heavy falls set to subside as Far North recovers



New 'Aussie flu' pandemic warning



Tropical low is set to weaken



Emergency crews busy with wet weather call outs

Murray River Upper State School, Kennedy State School, Irvinebank State School and Lower Tully State School will remain closed today.

Parents of schoolchildren in affected areas can check the Department of Education's School Closures website at <http://closures.det.qld.gov.au> for the most up-to-date information about the status of schools in affected areas as the situation is subject to change.

Parents of school children who attend independent and Catholic schools should check arrangements with their school.

[HERO TRADIE'S DRAMATIC RESCUE SAVES A LIFE](#)

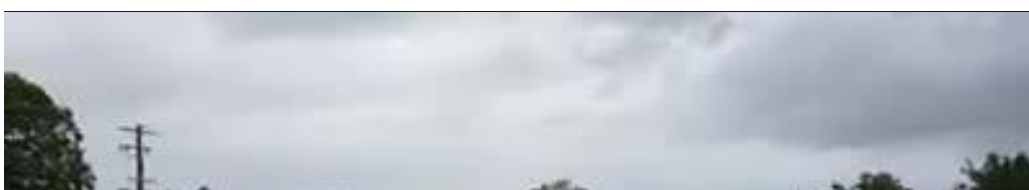
[FLOODS COULD CUT OFF INGHAM FOR DAYS](#)

[HEAVY RAINFALLS EXPECTED AGAIN IN FNQ](#)

[RAVENSHOE CUT OFF AS BRIDGE GOES UNDER](#)

ROAD CLOSURES - FRIDAY MARCH 9

- Bruce highway at Tully - Water over road at Banyan Creek.
- Tully Mission Beach Road, Birkalla
- Bruce Highway is closed from Frosty Mango to Port Hinchinbrook
- The North Johnstone Bridge on the Bruce Highway is flooded
- Gillies Range closed due to Flooding and major debris. Unknown reopening time
- South Johnstone Road Vic Sivyer Bridge subject to flooding
- Mossman Mount Molloy Road, Julatten - Water is approximately 1 Metre over the road at Bushy Creek Floodway
- Peninsula Developmental Road, Coen - Water over road at Archer River, approximately 4 Metres
- Mulligan Highway, Southedge - Water over the Big Mitchell Bridge
- The Millstream Bridge, Ravenshoe
- Moore Street, Ravenshoe - Road closed at North Cedar Creek Bridge





North Johnstone bridge closed

The heavy rainfalls which have drenched the Far North this week are expected to move north today.

But Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Jim Richardson said Cairns and the surrounding areas would remain wet over the weekend.

“The heavier stuff is generally pushing north. We are still expecting some rainfall to be around the next few days,” he said.

“The heavier rain will be mostly north of Cairns by this evening but over the next seven days showers are continuing for that region.



Police and SES volunteers prepare to leave a flooded boat ramp to check on the welfare of boaties in the Johnstone River, Innisfail. PIC: CHRIS HOLMES

“The main trough is pushing north but it has got south easterlies behind it, so over the whole east coast showers will persist.”

Mr Richardson played down fears of a cyclone forming in northern Queensland.

“We have a weak low in the gulf shifting on to land today, but we’re not expecting too much development there,” he said.

“There may be another system over the weekend but there is a low chance of

it developing into something significant.”

RAINFALL TOTALS

(to 7am today)

Kiriana Range - 396mm

Cairns Airport - 103mm

Tully - 118mm

Tully Gorge - 218mm

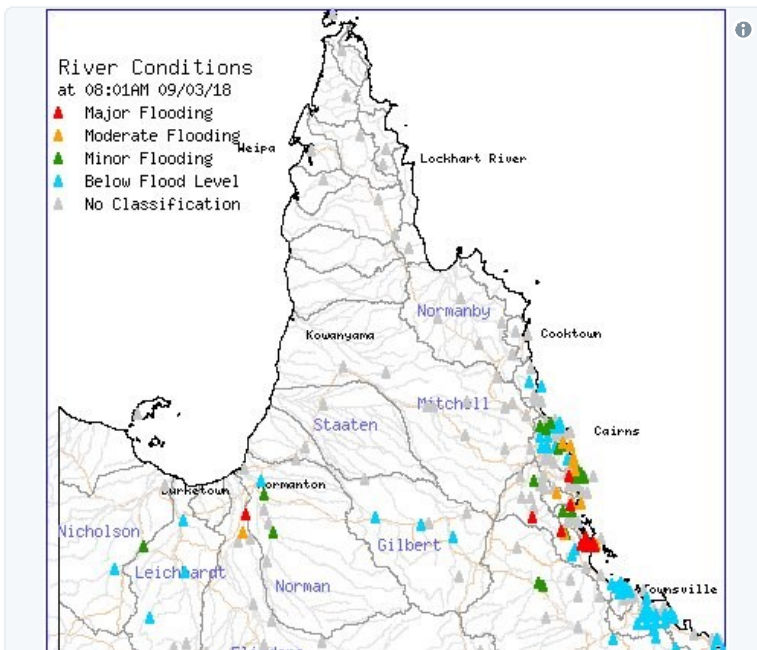
Mareeba - 70mm


Millaa Millaa- 290mm

Innisfail- 111mm



Shaw road, Innisfail, going down to the old North Johnstone bridge. PHOTO: Justin Epong





Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland @BOM_Qld

⚠ Major #Flood warning updated for #Herbert river, expected to peak early this afternoon at a similiar level to 2009 event. Major flood warnings current for a number of other catchments. Keep up to date at: ow.ly/Erdh50gMdVp

10:03 PM - Mar 8, 2018

4 See Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland's other Tweets

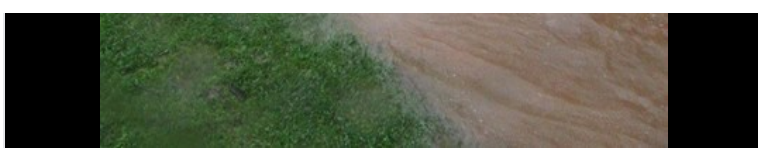
weatherzone^o

YESTERDAY: The wet weather causing chaos across the Far North region is expected to continue overnight and tomorrow but will subside over the weekend as the heavy rain trough that came up from Townsville moves further north.

The Bureau of Meteorology has cancelled its previous severe storm warning issued at 2pm for the Tropical North Coast and Tablelands, though showers will persist over the weekend.

Many roads throughout the Tablelands and Cassowary Coast areas remain closed.





Wow!! Millaa Millaa Falls in flood!! Thanks to Margaret Plant for sharing 😊

👍 871 💬 191 ➡ 1.8k



📷 Flooding at Boland Street, Westcourt. PHOTO: Raymond Okami Stubbins



📷 Ishmal road in Earlvile. PHOTO: Niki Ioannou



Pease St Manoora is flooded

ROAD CLOSURES

- Bruce highway at Tully is closed.
- Gillies Highway (including the Gillies Range) is presently closed due to flooding.
- The North Johnstone Bridge on the Bruce Highway is flooded

- Mossman Mount Molloy Road at Julatten
- Mulligan Highway at Desailly and Mulligan Highway at Southedge closed
- Gregory Developmental Road at Einasleigh / Mount Surprise
- The main bridge in Ravenshoe is cut
- Bruce Hwy between Edmonton and Gordonvale down to one lane
- Mulligan Hwy closed at McLeod River



Bramston Beach flooded

-
- Bryant Street at Tully
 - Jubilee Road at Daradgee
 - Burke Developmental Road at Wrotham and Rookwood
 - Mt Peter Road
 - Palmerston Highway at Mungalli
 - South Johnstone Road at Boogan
 - Tully Mission Beach Road at Birkalla
 - Pine Creek Yarrabah Road
 - Davidson Road at Munro Plains
 - Mossman Mount Molloy Road at Julatten
 - El Arish Mission Beach Road, Gilles Range Goad
 - Bruce Highway North for Townsville at the Frosty Mango will be closed at 7pm due to the weather





📷 Goldsborough at Peets Bridge is flooded. PHOTO: Kylie Horwood

- Mulligan Highway, Boobah Creek Bridge on the Bruce Highway
- Bryant Street at Tully.
- The Millstream and Moore Street Bridges at Ravenshoe
- Tully Hull Road at Silky Oak,
- Cardstone Road at Jarra creek, East Feluga Road,
- Wright's Creek at Mt Peter
- North Johnstone River Bridge at Goondi
- Pease street near the western arterial road turn off at Manunda is under water



Gillies Highway closed due to flooding and reports of landslides

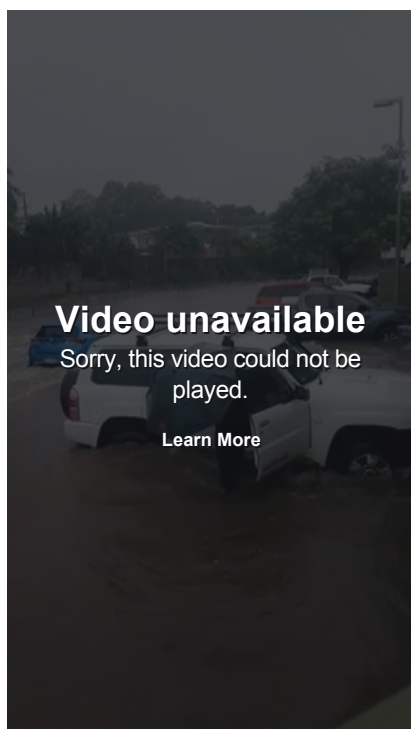
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Tropical Public Health Services issued a Boil Water alert for the tablelands Regional Council water supply at Millaa Millaa and the Cassowary Coast water supply at Tully and surrounding, due to staff being unable to reach those areas.
- Due to rock slides on the Kuranda Range, the Kuranda Scenic Railway has cancelled afternoon and tomorrow's services.
- Stockland carpark at Earlville is closed due to flooding.
- Sandbags are available for people preparing for major flooding in the Far North. Here's where to find them:

Ingham - Shire Hall Carpark

Cordelia - Carrs Farm

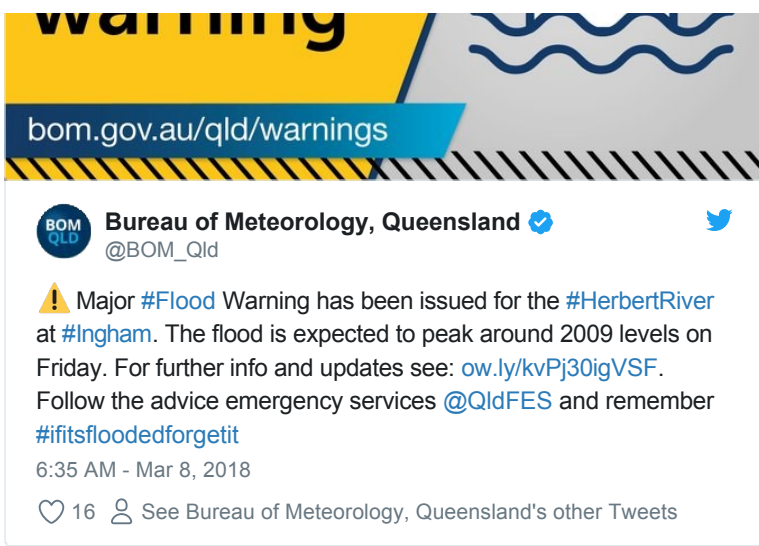
Halifax - BP Service Station



A MAJOR FLOOD WARNING HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR THE HERBERT RIVER

- A Major Flood Peak similar to February 2009 flood levels is expected at Ingham early Friday morning.
- River levels are expected to reach the major flood level at Ingham Pump Station (14.75 m) early Friday morning.
- The Herbert River at Gairloch is expected to peak around 12.50 metres early Friday morning.
- Sand and sandbags are available for collection at BP Halifax, Carrs Farm at Cordelia and Shire Hall car park Ingham.
- Roads closed in the district include Hawkins Creek at Dalrymple and Bridge and Bosworths Crossing.
- Water over road at Halifax / Gairloch Washaway and the Blue Butterfly Road intersection.
- Residents need to take immediate action to prepare for a major flood event.
- Residents in low lying flood prone areas should enact their household emergency plan





EARLIER: Roads have been closed across the Far North as heavy rain continues to fall.

The Bruce Highway at Tully has been closed at Banyan River to all traffic due to flooding.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads closed the road at 11.35am and long delays are expected.

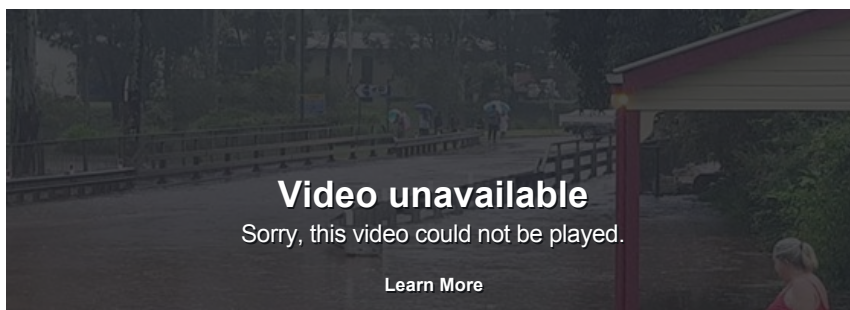
The Gillies Range Road at Lake Barrine / Little Mulgrave has also been closed to all traffic from 12.40pm.



📷 Road flooded between Gordonvale and Edmonton. Photo: Sharnie Hansen

The highway is also closed from Vico Road at Gordonvale, through to Boar Pocket Road on the Yungaburra side of the range.

64mm has been recorded in an hour at Peet's bridge and the main bridge in Ravenshoe flooded.





Other roads closed to all traffic across the Cassowary Coast region include East Feluga Rd, Tully Hull Rd at Silky Oak, Bryant Street at Tully, Cardstone Rd at Dingo Pocket/Jarra Creek, Davidson Rd at Munro Plains, Tully Mission Beach Rd at Birkalla, and East Feluga Rd at East Feluga.

Motorists are reminded not to drive in flood waters.

Further advice will be provided once conditions change.



The North Johnstone Bridge on the Bruce Highway

RAINFALL TOTALS

- Cairns central received 26mm yesterday and 38mm today, totalling 64.
- Tully has received 39mm as of today.
- Cooktown received 65mm yesterday, but only 10mm today, though that is expected to increase as the trough heads north.
- Port Douglas picked up 117mm yesterday, with widespread falls decreasing today, though still remaining in the strong 50-100mm range.
- A few isolated areas received figures higher, with 132mm hitting Millaa Millaa and Kuranda range which received 182mm





📷 The North Johnstone Bridge on the Bruce Highway is flooded. PHOTO: Allan Sloan



📷 Gillies Highway (including the Gillies Range) is presently closed due to flooding. The highway is closed from Vico Road at Gordonvale, through to Boar Pocket Road on the Yungaburra side of the range.

EARLIER: Far North Queensland has been warned to brace for flooding across the region as the monsoon kicks into high gear.

Road closures have already taken effect at Tully, Ravenshoe, Mt Peter and the Mulligan Highway. Further north, roads are closed all the way from Laura to Coen, with 1500mm water over at Morehead River.

Out west, the Burke Developmental Road from Dunbar Station to Mareeba Shire Council boundary has been closed off due to flooding.



📷 Flood Warning for Johnstone River, Innisfail. PHOTO: Allan Sloan





Flood Warning for Johnstone River, Innisfail. PHOTO: Allan Sloan

Properties are at flood risk at Innisfail, where the Johnstone River is expected to rise to 6.0 metres by late Thursday morning.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council's Mayor John Kremastos has urged residents of Jordell Street, and the lower end of Corinda, Benwell, Campbell and Donald Street to make immediate flood preparations.



BOM QLD Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland  

@BOM_Qld

Heavy rainfall overnight on the tropical coast and #FNQ with 311mm at Bulgun Creek. Further heavy rainfall is forecast with levels on the Tully and Murray Rivers rising, and will reach major flood levels today. See Warnings for further info: ow.ly/r7s830iOPjg

1:00 AM - Mar 8, 2018

 7  See Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland's other Tweets

“If possible, move vehicles, outdoor equipment, garbage bins and chemical containers to higher locations,” Cr Kremastos advised.

Due to the rain, Tully has closed its visitor information centre, library and public swimming pool.

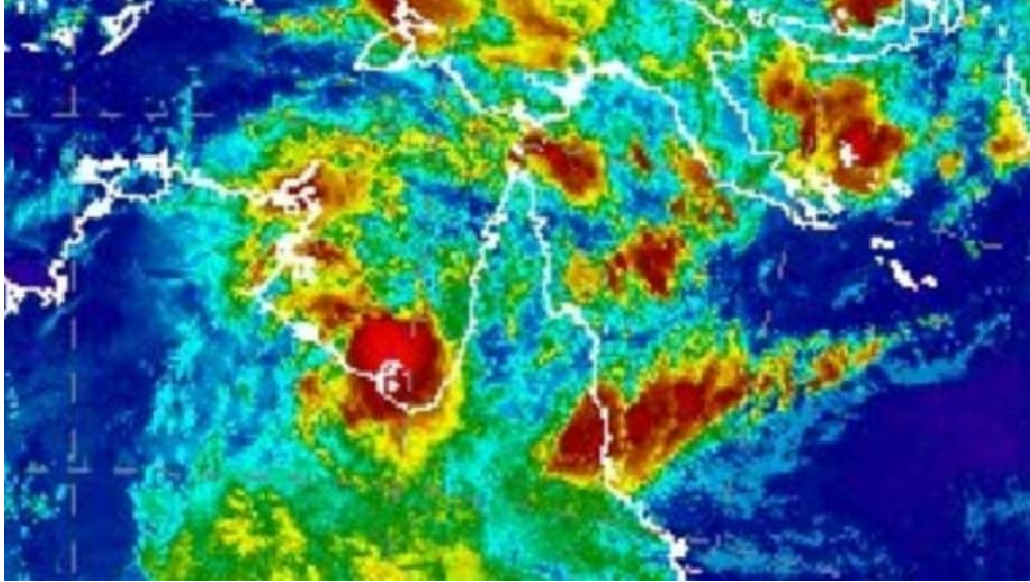
Cairns has not received any heavy rainfall warnings.

The Bureau of Meteorology's current outlook calls for rain to intensify with upwards of 90mm on Friday before easing off.

UPDATE: FORECASTERS are predicting the chance of several cyclones forming in the Far North during the weekend.

Meteorologist Livio Regano said the low pressure system "probably wouldn't affect weather" in Cairns.

"In the next couple of days' time our models show that a low will form in the Gulf of Carpentaria," he said.



Forecasters are predicting the chance of a cyclone forming in the Far North during the weekend.

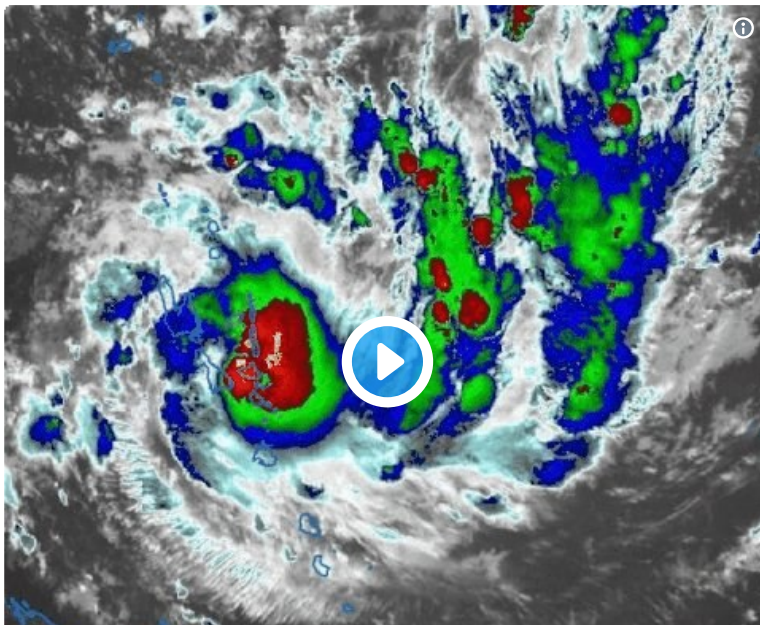
"It will have a moderate chance of forming into a cyclone during the weekend."

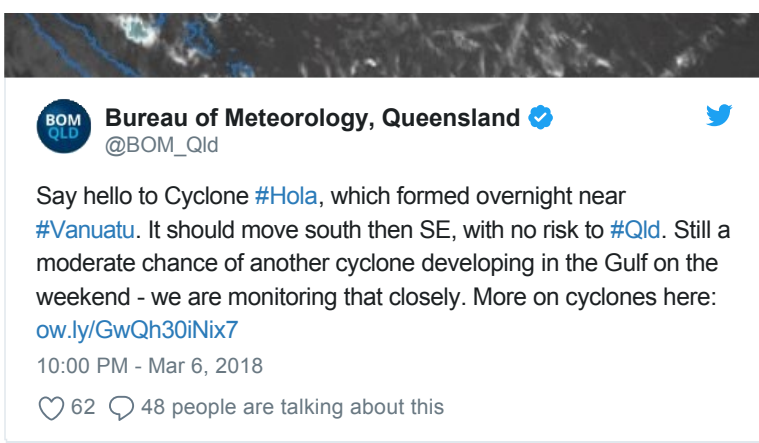
He said several lows were off the coast of the Far North today.

"There is a cyclone in Fijian waters, but it won't come towards Australia," he said.

"There's also a low pressure area near Cairns."

He said the bulk of rainfall had fallen along the Cassowary Coast, with rainfall totals above 100mm for the last 24 hours.





“Far North Queensland is the only place without strong wind warnings for south-easterlies, but there’s still very heavy rain at the moment,” he said.

“There are storm warnings in place, but that’s for rainfall.”

Mr Regano said the rain would start to ease tomorrow.

“The rain won’t pass, but it will ease and you’ll return to normal tropical weather with a bit of sun between the rain,” he said.

He said Cairns Airport only recorded 26mm of rain overnight.



📷 Russell River. PHOTO: Allan Sloan

EARLIER: AS the tropical low extending up from Townsville prepares to drop buckets on Cairns, one farmer is staying optimistic.

Smithfield cane farmer John Westaway said he’s prepared for the worst.

“Any rain is good for me,” he said.

“It’s still another month or two before the cane goes up, I’m just hoping some of the farmers out west get it.





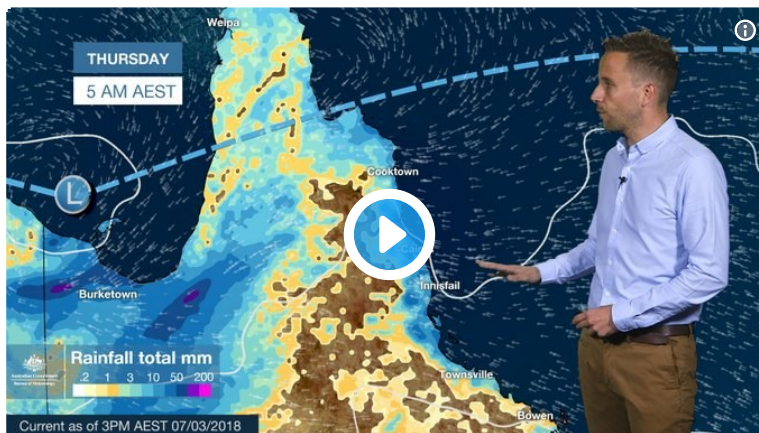
Smithfield sugar cane farmer John Westaway in wet water logged cane fields and he is looking forward to a lot more soakings this wet season. PICTURE: STEWART MCLEAN

As the Far North braces for an expected forecast of up to 80mm over the next two days, it's more than just rain on the horizon.

The Bureau of Meteorology is monitoring two lows building off the Coral Sea and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

At the moment, neither of these troughs are forecast to develop into tropical cyclones.

Emergency Services Minister Craig Crawford said Far North residents should be vigilant all the same.



BOM AUS Bureau of Meteorology, Australia  
@BOM_au

Weather Update on the continuing active weather across tropical northern Australia. Video current at 3pm AEST, Wednesday 7 March 2018. Check ow.ly/Wo1B30iNBQx for the latest weather warnings, and follow advice from your local emergency services and health departments.

6:54 AM - Mar 7, 2018

 36  25 people are talking about this

“I would be very surprised if we don’t see a cyclone form in the Gulf,” Mr Crawford said.

“It’s very difficult to know where but we need people to be vigilant, especially in those areas where they’ve already had a lot of rainfall.”

“There’s no ability for water to soak in there, it will run and it will flash flood fast.”

Parts of the region have already started feeling the wet.

The causeway at James Creek on Wolfram Road, Dimbulah, was washed away by 200mls of rain yesterday morning.

One driver was nearly washed away attempting to ford the river in his ute.

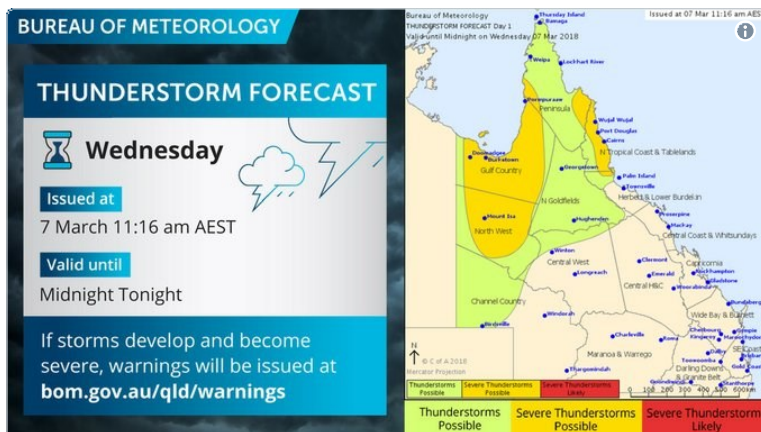
Mareeba Shire Council created a river pass slightly up stream for 4WDs.



UPDATE: The Bureau of Meteorology has issued a thunderstorm warning with possible heavy rain and damaging winds for Cairns tonight as the Far North cyclone threat rises.

The weather bureau is still closely monitoring two lows building off the Coral Sea and the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Forecaster, Nicholas Shera said as the tropical low moved southwest this will bring severe storms to northwest Queensland as well as Cairns.



Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland 
@BOM_Qld 

#QldStorm forecast for today: heavy rainfall possible for #NTC including #Cairns tonight. Heavy rain and damaging winds also possible in #NWQld severe storms as the tropical low moves west towards @BOM_NT. As always, keep track of our warnings here ow.ly/S4TZ30iNtjN

2:15 AM - Mar 7, 2018

 15  See Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland's other Tweets

“Heavy rain and damaging winds are possible and people should keep track of the warnings.

A number of Far North beaches have been closed due to the extreme weather as stinger nets are removed.

[Surf Lifesavers have removed stinger nets](#) from Ellis Beach, Palm Cove, Clifton Beach, Trinity Beach and Holloways Beach with Port Douglas and Yorkeys Knob nets to be removed tomorrow.

The Bureau of Meteorology has issued a strong wind warning for Townsville waters today and that will extend north to Cairns tomorrow with 25-30 knots expected.

EARLIER: PARTS of the Far North have been hit by more than 300mm of rain in less than 24 hours as the Bureau of Meteorology confirms it is still monitoring two cyclones, one of which could possibly form over the weekend.

Cairns has received 64mm of rain since 9am yesterday morning, but areas south of the city have been drenched, with Davidson Creek near Tully copping 304mm while parts of Innisfail have had 250mm.



 A bridge in Dimbulah on the Atherton Tableland is washed away by flooding.

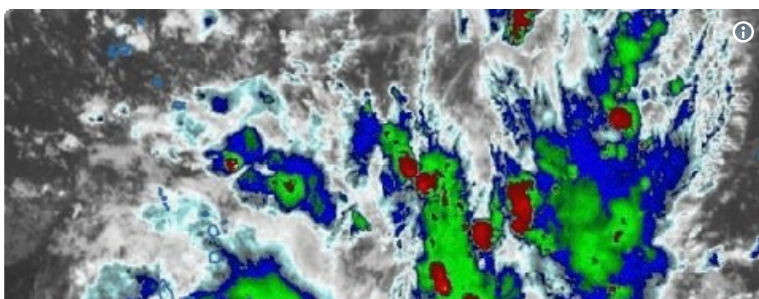
Forecaster, David Crock said as rain totals continue to rise with more on the way the weather bureau is still closely monitoring two lows building off the coral sea and Gulf of Carpentaria.

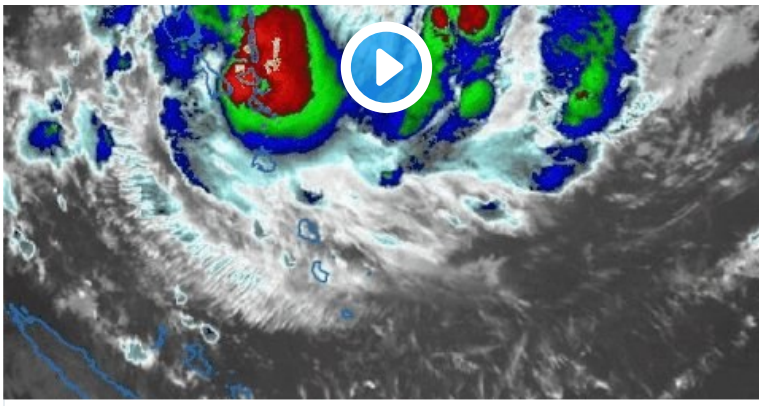
He said a strengthening monsoonal trough in the Gulf will cause further heavy rain and showers in the tropics with strong wind warnings expected which will increase the likelihood of a cyclone.

[WIND WARNING: Stinger nets removed and Far North beaches closed](#)

“There is quite a strong ridge of high pressure to the south pushing up strong south-easterlies,” Mr Crock said.

“There is a strong wind warning for Townsville waters today and that will extend north to Cairns tomorrow with 25-30 knots expected.”





Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland ✓
@BOM_Qld



Say hello to Cyclone #Hola, which formed overnight near #Vanuatu. It should move south then SE, with no risk to #Qld. Still a moderate chance of another cyclone developing in the Gulf on the weekend - we are monitoring that closely. More on cyclones here: ow.ly/GwQh30iNix7

10:00 PM - Mar 6, 2018

♡ 62 💬 48 people are talking about this

The bureau confirmed cyclone Hola has formed overnight near Vanuatu but it should move south then southeast, with no risk to Queensland.

With the tropics expected to become more active over this weekend and next, Mr Crock said there was a chance of a cyclone forming in the Gulf this weekend.

“(There is) still a chance of a cyclone forming, particularly the system in the Gulf — there is a moderate chance of it forming over the weekend,” Mr Crock said.



📷 Catamaran owner Rick Zylmans wades through the flooded car park near the Innisfail marina on Thursday. PIC: CHRIS HOLMES

The weather bureau will be monitoring the possibility of a cyclone in the Coral Sea next week.

“Keep watching that in the next few days, as models suggest a cyclone forming in the Coral Sea next week but that is now looking less likely,” Mr Crocker said.

Heavy showers and the odd storm are expected to continue in Cairns over the

next two days and then move north towards Cooktown on Friday.

ROAD CLOSURES AND FLOOD WARNINGS

The Bureau of Meteorology has issued a moderate flood warning for the Tully River and minor flood warning for the Murray River.

Tully Mission Beach Road: Flash flooding. Road closed to all traffic in all directions.

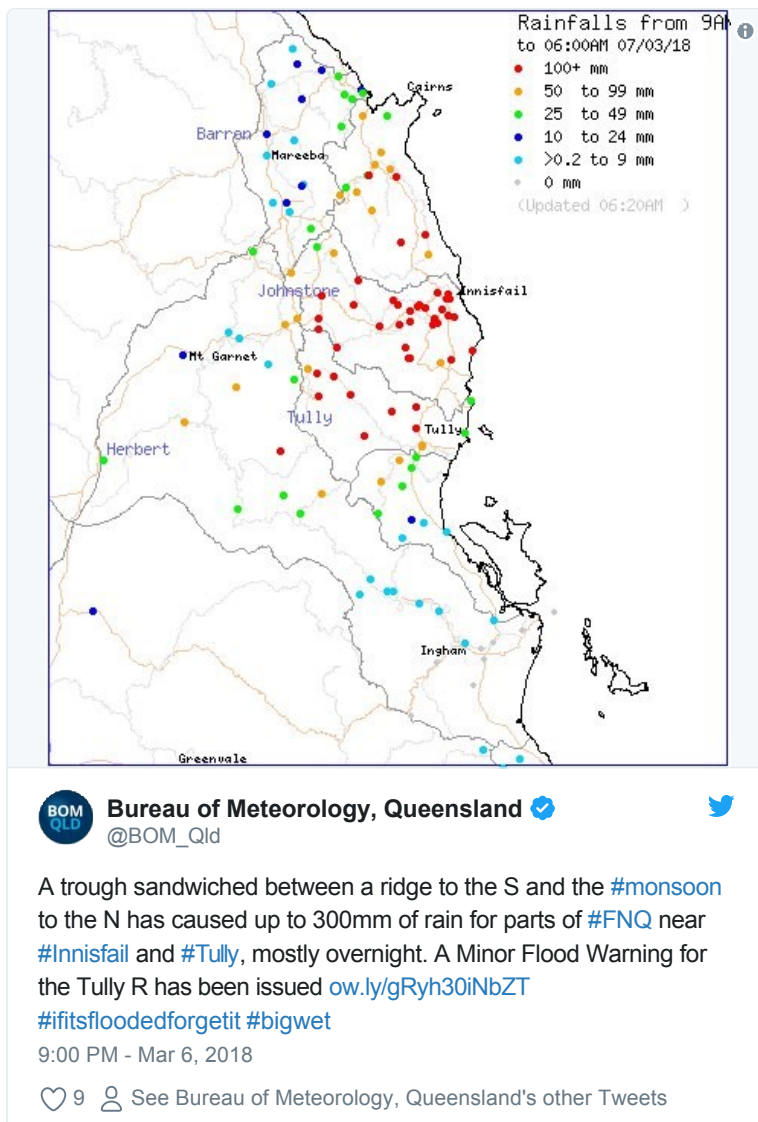
Burke Developmental Road: Flooding of river. Road closed to through traffic in both directions with long delays expected

Gregory Developmental Road: Flooding of river. Road closed to all traffic in both directions towards Einasleigh with long delays expected.

Peninsula Developmental Road, Coen: Heavy rain. Road closed to through traffic in both directions with delays expected.

South Johnstone Road, Boogan: Flooding of river. Road closed to through traffic in both directions with delays expected.

Pine Creek Yarrabah Road: Water over road. All lanes blocked in both directions with long delays expected.



UPDATE: The Bureau of Meteorology has warned the tropical low brewing in the Coral Sea could develop into something bigger next week.

With the threat of twin cyclones forming in the Far North, forecaster David Crock said there was a ‘very low’ likelihood of a cyclone developing out at the spot however there is still uncertainty about the low.

“We’ll be keeping an eye on it, our cyclone models provide updates every 12 hours,” Mr Crock said.

“We probably won’t know much more until the end of the week.”



📷 The Bureau of Meteorology has warned the tropical low brewing in the Coral Sea could develop into something bigger next week.

Despite this, Far North Queensland is in for a very wet week as the surge affecting Townsville moves north up the coast.

Rain in the area is likely to peak on Thursday, with widespread falls of 50-100mm and isolated heavy showers of up to 200mm.

While the Coral Sea low brews slowly, all eyes at the moment are on the low brewing over the Gulf of Carpentaria, which is likely to move west toward the Northern Territory in the next two days.

Monsoonal conditions brewing as a result of that low could spread as far as Queensland, though at this point is unlikely to travel below the tip of Cape York.



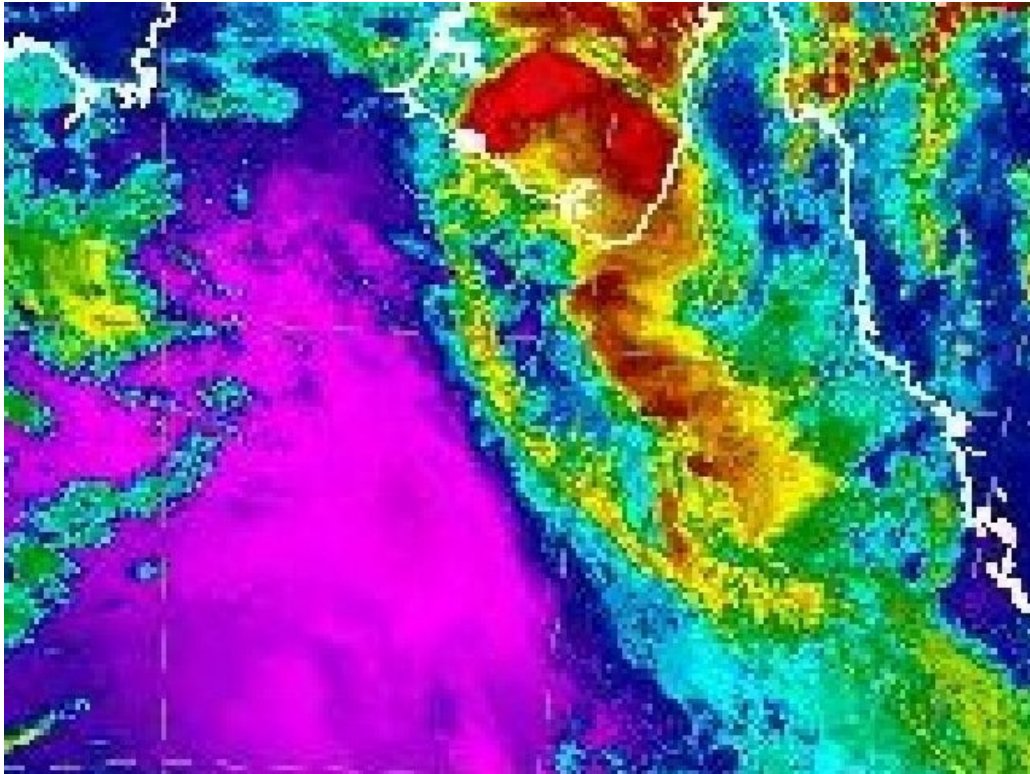
📷 Far North Queensland is in for a very wet week as tourists Jemma Maggiore of Sydney and Travis McCree from USA walk the inlet boardwalk. PICTURE: STEWART MCLEAN

EARLIER: MONSOONAL troughs developing off the Coral Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria have a slim chance of forming cyclones.

According to BoM forecaster Adam Blazak, monsoon activity is intensifying in the Coral Sea, though the size or path of the developing trough will likely not be confirmed until later in the week.

“We’re looking at increasing wind and moisture activity out in that area by around the midweek,” Mr Blazak said.

“Whenever we get that, it raises the possibility of cyclones forming.”



📷 Queensland and parts of NSW are in for a battering. Picture: Bureau of Meteorology

As a result of the trough, torrential rain is expected to hit Townsville starting this Wednesday.

Cairns may fare slightly better, but is nonetheless in for a wet week with showers increasing as the Townsville trough starts to move north in the next few days.

“There are expectations of hit and miss shower activity, looking at around 20-30mm on average in the next three days, but that’s at the broad scale,” Mr Blazak said.

“Isolated areas could get double or triple that quite quickly.”

On Sunday, Cairns received 36mm of rain at the airport, and isolated showers all around.

David Taylor, owner of East Coast weather who correctly predicted the heavy rainfall that hit Townsville last week, said weather modelling pointed to a very high chance of a cyclone forming that could move southwest across the Queensland coast.

Meanwhile, the US Navy’s Joint Typhoon Warning Centre is monitoring the

potential cyclone forming west of Fiji, that may move southwest once fully formed later in the week.



COMMENTS 12



Show Comments



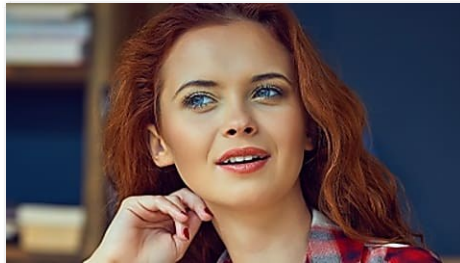
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