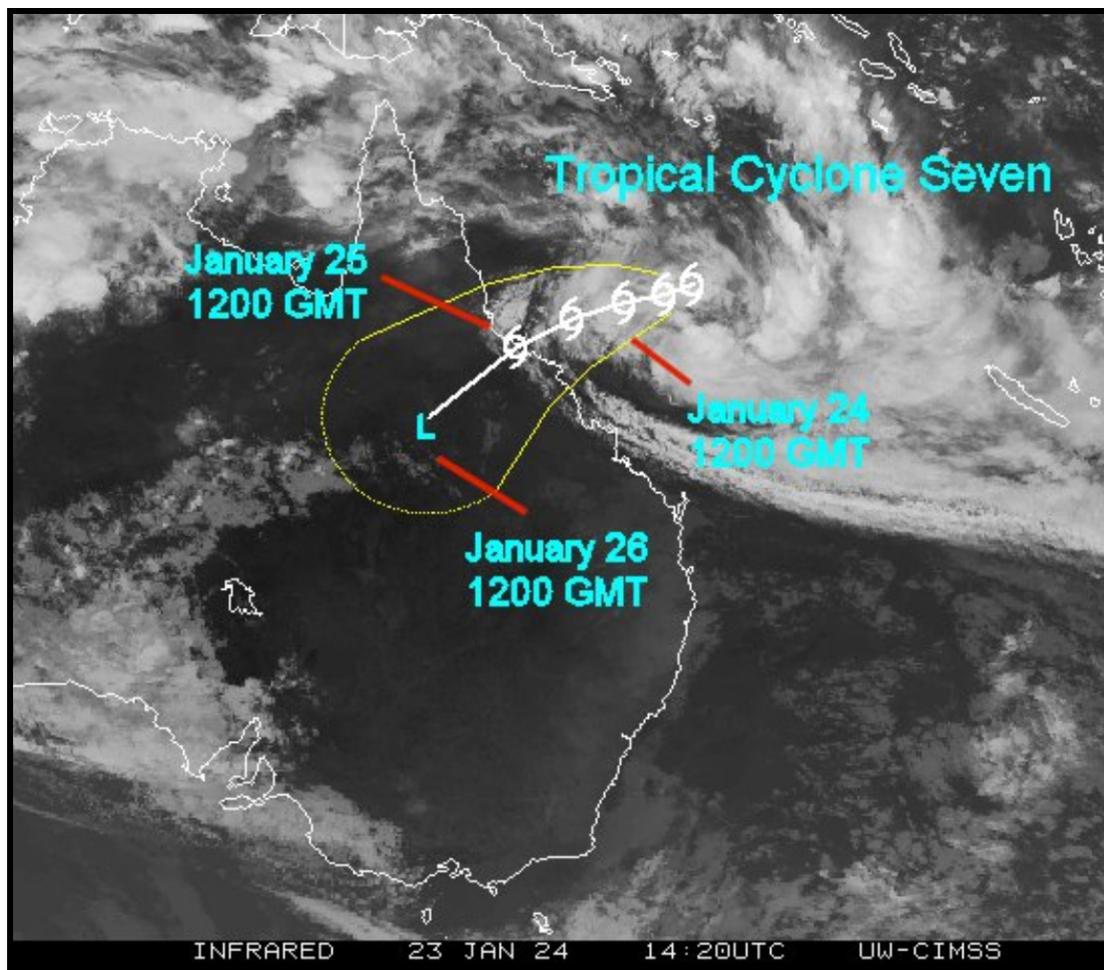


Tropical Cyclone Seven Heading Toward Queensland, Australia

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 23 (World Weather Inc.) – *Tropical Cyclone Seven recently evolved over the Coral Sea northeast of Queensland, Australia. The disturbance will slowly advance toward Queensland today and Wednesday before making landfall Thursday morning. Heavy rain and damaging wind will likely evolve near and between Townsville and Mackay along the Queensland coastline as the disturbance initially makes landfall. Remnants of this tropical cyclone will bring beneficial moisture to many of the drier biased areas of Queensland and possibly northeastern New South Wales where sorghum, cotton and other crops are produced.* There is potential for some damage from flooding rain and high wind speeds, but the areas impacted will be few in number.

As of 1500 GMT, Tropical Cyclone Seven was located near 17.4 south, 153.2 east, or approximately 509 miles east southeast of Cairns, Queensland. Movement was southwesterly at 5 mph during the previous six hours. Maximum sustained surface wind speeds were at 40 mph, gusting upwards of 52 mph. Tropical storm force wind speeds (39 to 73 mph) were occurring out of 224 miles away from the center of the disturbance.



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Tropical Cyclone Seven will continue its southwesterly track toward Queensland today and Wednesday. Some intensification is expected and the storm will be named Cyclone Kirrily. The disturbance will likely make landfall near Ayr, Queensland Thursday morning and will continue advancing southwesterly into east-central Queensland later in the day Thursday. The disturbance will lose its tropical characteristics Friday while tracking farther into Queensland. Remnants of the disturbance will slowly advance over Queensland Friday through early next week and may reach into Northern Territory late Monday and next Tuesday.

The main concern when Tropical Cyclone Seven initially makes landfall will be torrential rain combined with damaging wind speeds. Areas near and between Townsville and Innisfail along the Queensland coastline into the Richmond and Maxwelton, area will generally receive the greatest amount of rain late Wednesday and Thursday. Moisture totals will range from 4.00 to 8.00 inches with local amounts of 12.00 inches or more by early next week. Although hurricane force wind speeds are not expected, many areas near and along the Queensland coastline will see wind speeds in excess of 65 mph. The impacted region of Queensland is not a major agricultural region which should help to keep crop damage low. Some damage to infrastructure will be possible. The storm will impact livestock areas as well as grains, oilseeds, cotton and sugarcane with some reduction in milk production possible along with a brief bout of reduced weight gains.

After tracking farther into Queensland Friday, the disturbance will slowly meander around the state through the end of the weekend. Rain will be scattered across Queensland and extreme northeastern New South Wales during this time with periods of significant precipitation expected in northern and central Queensland. Rain will likely persist in several locations Monday as the disturbance potentially shifts into The Northern Territory. Rainfall for much of northern and central Queensland outside the region of heavy rainfall will range from 1.50 to 5.00 inches and locally more by next Tuesday morning. Southern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales will receive 0.25 to 2.00 inches of rain from this event.

Sorghum, corn, soybeans, peanuts and other oilseeds as well as sugarcane will be impacted by the storm; though most of the impact will be positive especially with soil moisture still a little too light in a part of the dryland production area.

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