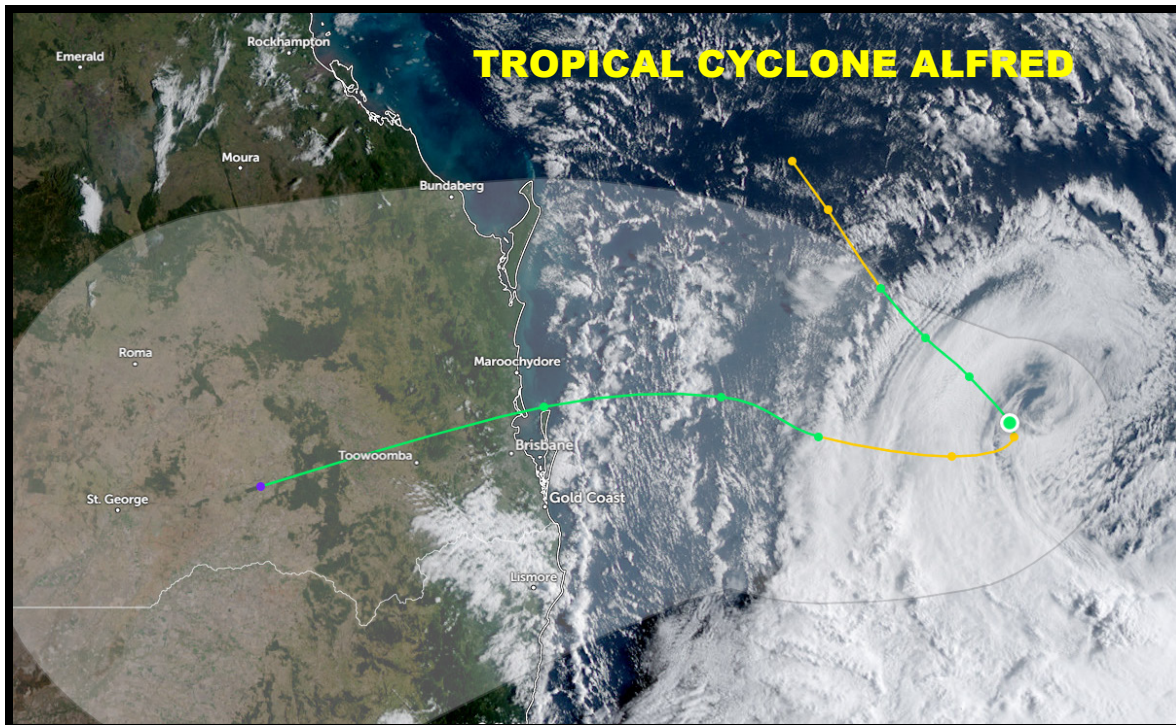


Tropical Cyclone Alfred Threatens East-Central Australia

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, March 3 (World Weather Inc.) – *Tropical Cyclone Alfred remains east of Australia, but a turn to the west is predicted by most computer weather forecast models which may bring the storm inland through the southeastern most corner of Queensland during mid-week this week. The storm center and its remnants will leave behind a swath of heavy rain local flooding and strong wind speeds. Some crop and property damage is possible mostly in and around the Darling Downs region of southeastern Queensland and northeastern New South Wales.*



The center of Tropical Cyclone Alfred was located 346 miles east of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia at 2200 GMT today. The storm was moving south southeasterly, though a turn to the west is likely Tuesday bringing the storm to the lower Queensland coast around 1300 GMT Thursday, March 6. Maximum sustained wind speeds near the storm center at the time of this report were reaching 60 mph making the system a moderately strong tropical storm. The system may intensify briefly to a Category One hurricane equivalent storm as it moves toward the Queensland coast. Some forecast models intensify it greatly as it approaches land, but the system is expected to come inland as a tropical storm producing wind speeds of 50-65 mph

Alfred will bring some very heavy rain and flooding to the lower Queensland coast and into the upper New South Wales coast as well. this will begin Wednesday and continue Thursday. The storm center will move from southeastern Queensland into north-central New south Wales, although the system is expected to be sheared in such a manner that most of the deep convection and heavy rain will occur along the central eastern Australia coast and not very far inland.

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Dairy production areas and a few sugarcane, sorghum and cotton areas near the coast may be most impacted by the storm with rainfall of 5.00 to 15.00 inches expected and locally more. *The area most impacted will be to the south of where the storm center moves inland and from there through the Darling Downs region of northeastern New South Wales to the upper half of the New South Wales coast.*

Some lighter rain will impact the Great Diving Range and a part of summer crop country into southeastern Queensland and central and northeastern New South Wales. Most of the rain in these areas will be less than 3.00 inches benefiting a few summer crops that are in that region.

Wind speeds associated with the storm are predicted to dissipate quickly once the storm moves over land around 1300 GMT Thursday.

Damage from the storm should be mostly confined to coastal areas from southeastern Queensland into northeastern New South Wales unless the storm changes its intensity and/or movement in the next couple of days.

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