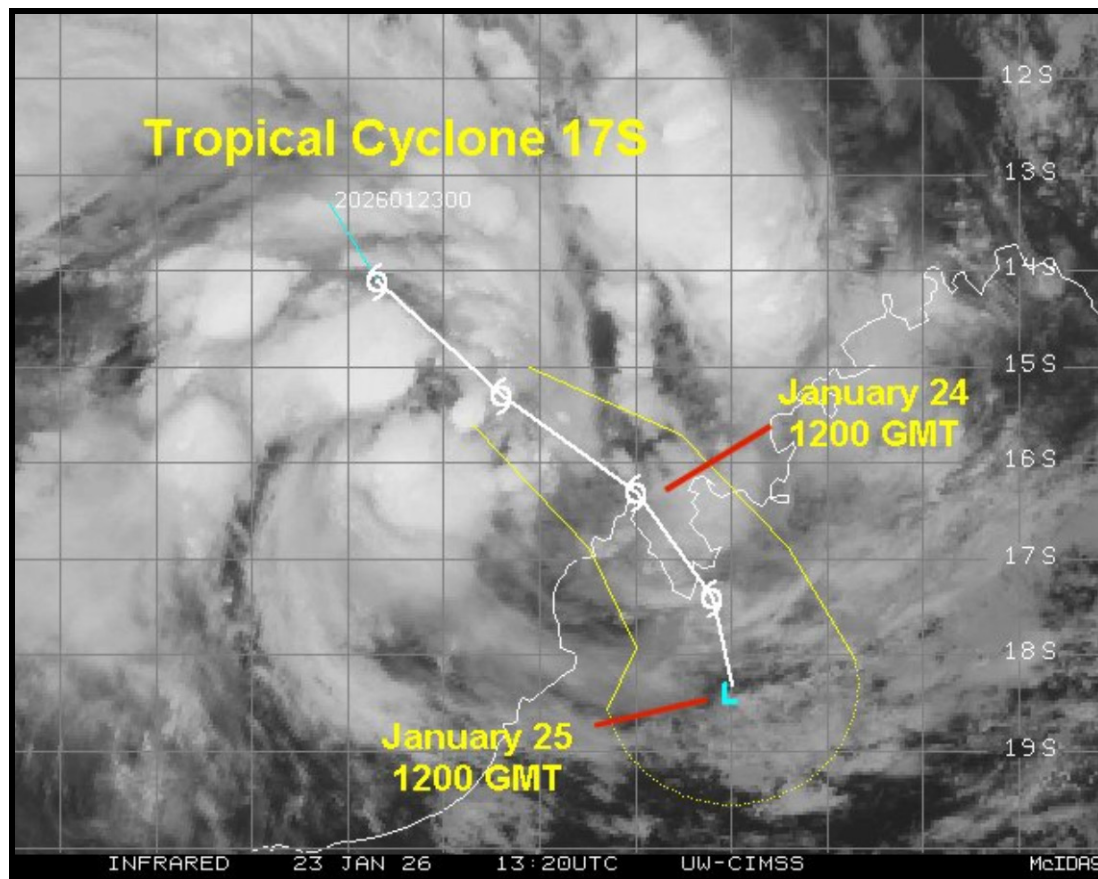


Tropical Cyclone 17S Will Miss Port Hedlund, Australia

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, January 23 (World Weather Inc.) – Tropical Cyclone 17S (Luana) was located just to the north of Western Australia at 1930 GMT today. The disturbance will make its way into the Dampier Peninsula overnight tonight into Saturday morning before tracking farther south across Western Australia this weekend and early next week. [Port Hedland, Western Australia will be spared from the storm; through some rough weather is likely in the Broome and Derby areas and from the Dampier Peninsula into the King Sound impacting some shipping activity.](#) Remnants of the storm will bring rain farther to the south in Western Australia, though much of the precipitation will occur outside of key agricultural areas. Flash flooding will still be possible in Western Australia and minor livestock impacts will be possible.

At 1930 GMT, Tropical Cyclone Luana was located nearly 85 miles northwest of the northeast coast of the Dampier Peninsula or 159 miles northwest of Derby, Western Australia moving southwest and producing maximum sustained wind speeds near 65 mph. Tropical storm force wind speeds (39 to 73 mph) were occurring up to 161 miles away from the center of the disturbance.



Tropical Cyclone Luana will intensify marginally later today while approaching the Dampier Peninsula of Western Australia. The disturbance will enter the region overnight

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tonight and continue tracking south-southeasterly across Western Australia this weekend and Monday. The disturbance will gradually lose its tropical characteristics during this time and will eventually dissipate Tuesday or early Wednesday.

Areas near Broome, Australia and to the northeast along the Western Australia coastline will receive some of the most significant rain from Tropical Cyclone 17S. These areas will receive 5.00 to 10.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 15.00 inches or more by Wednesday morning. Several areas near and in the Dampier Peninsula will also see tropical storm force wind speeds later today and early Saturday as the disturbance makes landfall. Damage to ports and general infrastructure will be possible. Ocean travel will likely be diverted around these locations. Port Hedlund, Australia may see some light rain as the disturbance passes to the east, though no major damage is expected.

A band of heavy rain will track from northeastern Western Australia into southeastern Western Australia this weekend and the first part of next week as Luana makes its way across the region. Several locations will receive 2.00 to 6.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 10.00 inches or more by Wednesday morning. *The greatest rain will occur outside grain and oilseed production areas where the harvest is largely finished. No significant crop impact is likely; though, there may be some livestock grazing areas that may be exposed to flash flooding. Overall, the impacts from this storm are expected to be minimal – at least from an agricultural perspective.*

In the meantime, the dangerous stretch of hot weather will evolve this weekend and prevail in eastern Australia through at least the end of next week. Daytime highs will often vary from 100 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit with some pockets warming to 118 degrees. The environment will be highly stressful for livestock, along with the summer grains, oilseeds, and cotton produced this time of year. Unirrigated summer crops in New South Wales and Queensland are likely to suffer from the heat and dryness possibly reducing production.

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