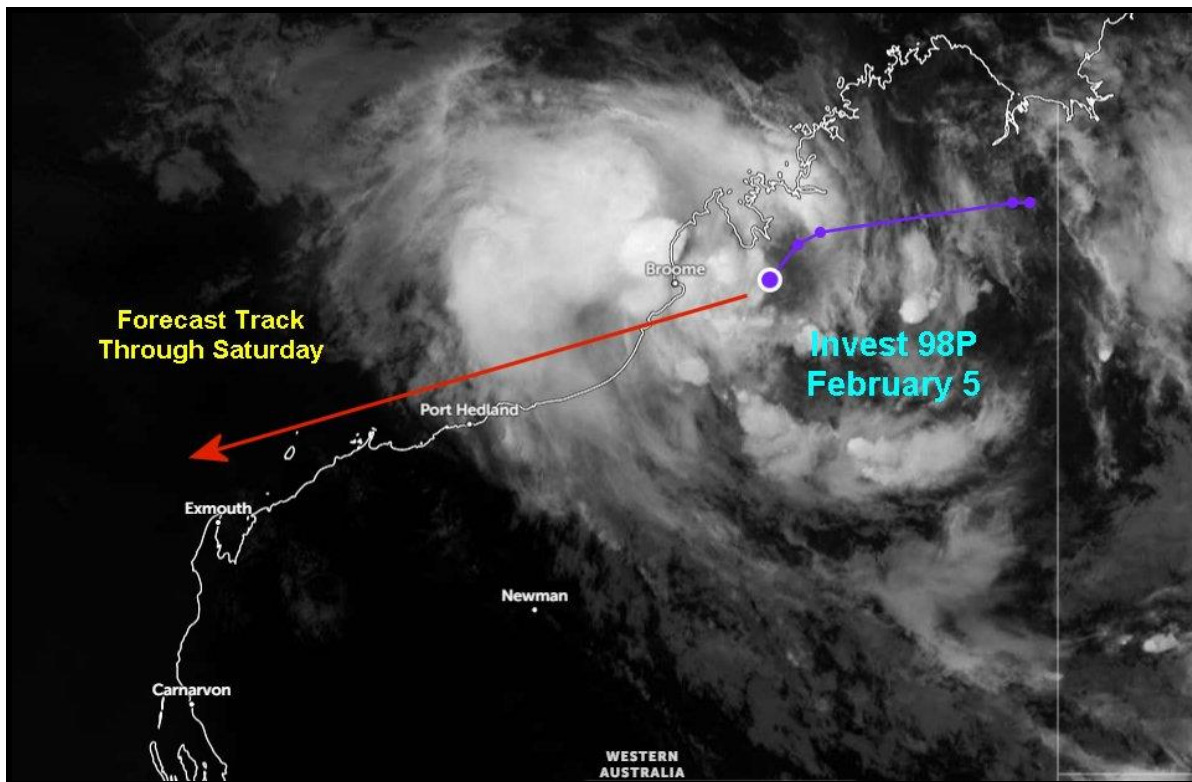


Port Hedlund, Australia May Be Impacted By Tropical System

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, February 5 (World Weather Inc.) – A disorganized tropical system was advancing over the Dampier Peninsula in Western Australia this morning. This disturbance will enter the Indian Ocean later today and slowly advance farther west Friday and Saturday just north of the Western Australia coastline. **The disturbance will still generate periods of significant rain along the northern Western Australia coastline, Port Hedlund included. Rain and high storm surge may impact or delay shipping to and out of Port Hedlund and several neighboring areas. Only minor port and infrastructure damage is expected.** The disturbance will hug the Western Australia coastline later this weekend before potentially moving inland over central Western Australia early next week.

A disorganized disturbance, Invest 98P, was located near 17.3 north, 124.4 east, or approximately 151 miles east-northeast of Broome, Australia as of 0730 GMT. Estimated sustained surface wind speeds ranged from 21 to 26 mph.



Invest 98P will rapidly advance across Western Australia's Dampier Peninsula into the Indian Ocean over the course of the day today. This disturbance will continue tracking west-southwesterly over the ocean just to the north of Western Australia Friday and Saturday. Conditions will be favorable for development into an organized tropical disturbance when enter the Indian Ocean.

The Dampier Peninsula and other areas along the northern Western Australia coastline will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with locally greater amounts possible by Sunday morning as Invest 98P passes nearby. Localized flooding will be a concern, as will

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high storm surge. Overall damage to ports and general infrastructure should be relatively small in northern Western Australia. However, ocean travel will likely be diverted around the disturbance or even delayed for several days.

The disturbance will likely hug the northwest corner of Western Australia Sunday. There is some uncertainty with the track this system will take next week with some models sending the disturbance farther into the Indian Ocean and others bringing the disturbance into central Western Australia. If the disturbance does enter Western Australia early next week, impacts to livestock, crops, and general infrastructure will be minimal.

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