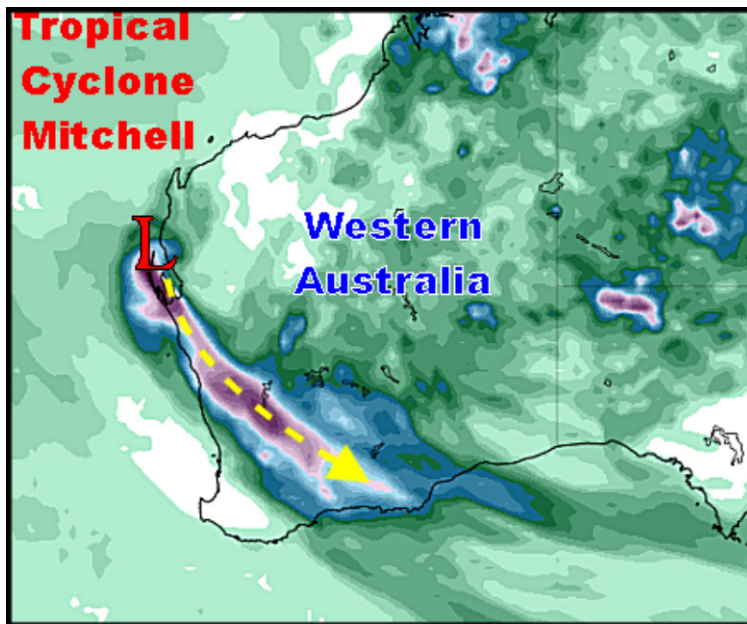


Tropical Cyclone Mitchell Reaches Shark Bay, Western Australia

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, February 9 (World Weather Inc.) – *Tropical Cyclone Mitchell was moving into Shark Bay in west-central parts of Western Australia today while producing 60 mph sustained wind speeds. The storm traversed most of the northern coast of Western Australia during the weekend producing some heavy rain and windy conditions. Disruptions to shipping activity resulted and a few coastal areas were roughed up a bit, but most of the nation was spared of much damage.* Today, the storm will move through Shark Bay producing rough seas, some damaging wind and torrential rainfall and the moisture will stream into the interior parts of Western Australia's primary agricultural region tonight into Wednesday.

At 1100 UTC today, the center of Tropical Cyclone Mitchell was located over



northern portions of Shark Bay to the west southwest Carnarvon, Western Australia moving south southeasterly while producing maximum sustained wind speeds of 60 mph near its center. At 0900 UTC, the center of the storm was more precisely located near 25.0 south, 113.6 east moving with a forward speed of 16 mph.

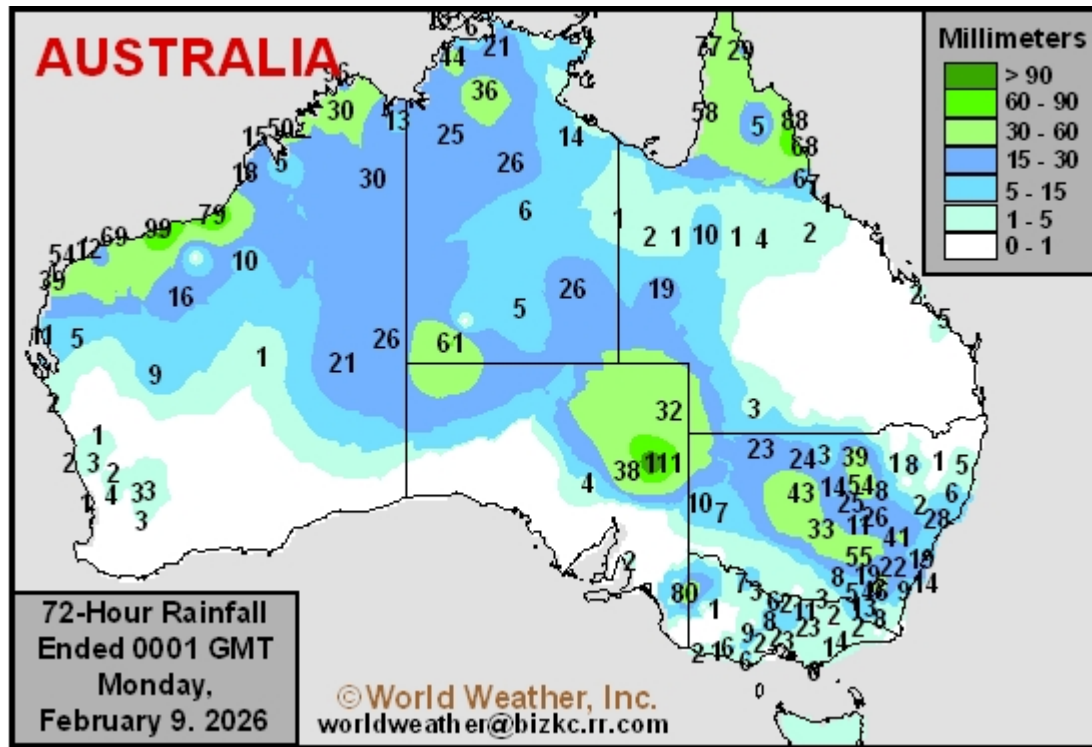
During the weekend Mitchell moved along the entire northern Western Australia coast producing rainfall of 0.72 to more than 4.00 inches. *Most of the storm's peak wind speeds were kept over open water until*

the system came near to Learmonth and started turning to the south. That is when some coastal property damage may have begun. Assessments of storm damage from the system are still a few days away, but most of the nation was spared of its wrath.

Mitchell will continue to move from northwest to southeast across Shark Bay today producing wind speeds of 45 to 65 mph and stirring up much of the water. Shipping and other coastal activity has been halted and it will continue in that mode into Tuesday as the storm clears the region. Mitchell will move more south southeasterly and eventually southeasterly during the next two days. *A swath of heavy rain and windy conditions is expected from the southern end of Shark Bay into northern and western agricultural areas in Western Australia producing 2.00 to 6.00 inches of rain as it moves through the region. Most of the storm's excessive wind will diminish once it reaches land and the impact on interior parts of Western Australia should be minimal except for the potential for local flooding and a few strong to severe thunderstorms producing hail and more wind damage.*

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Western Australia produces mostly a winter wheat, barley and canola crop and each of those have been harvested. Some livestock areas will be impacted by the storm, but the bottom line should be minimal for agriculture.



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