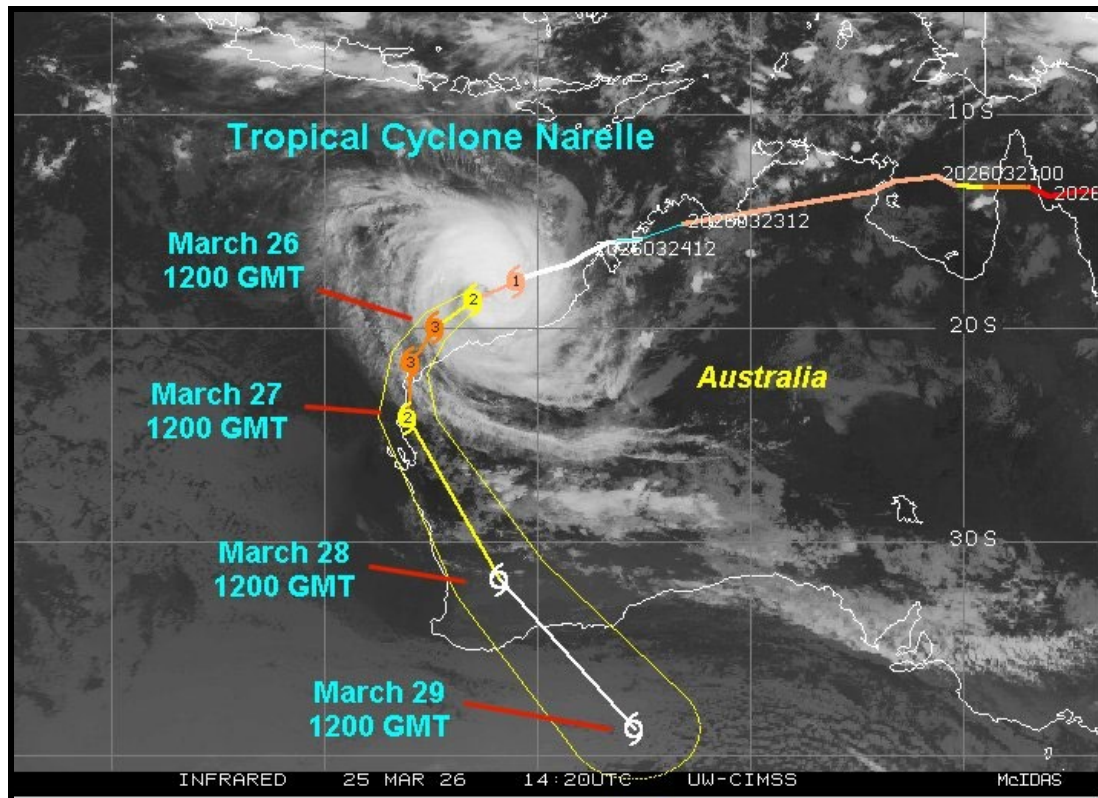


Tropical Cyclone Narelle To Impact Western Australia

By Andrew Owen

Kansas City, March 25 (World Weather Inc.) – **Tropical Cyclone Narelle** continued to move parallel to the northern Western Australia coastline today after moving across northernmost parts of Northern Territory and northeastern Western Australia earlier this week. The disturbance will not take a direct path over Port Hedland, Western Australia, though a strong storm surge and localized flooding will be possible in the region possibly promoting minor structural damage. *Ocean travel has been and will likely continue to be disrupted along most of the northwestern coast of the nation as the disturbance follows the coast. The storm is expected to intensify while tracking over warm water of the Indian Ocean before reaching the northwest corner of Western Australia late Thursday or early Friday. A shift to the south-southeast will then occur Friday and early Saturday taking the storm across far Western Australia where flooding will be possible from the Learmonth area through Shark Gulf, Geraldton and Perth.*

At 1500 GMT, Tropical Cyclone Narelle was located near 18.2 south, 117.4 east, or approximately 171 miles north-northwest of Port Hedland, Western Australia. Movement was westerly at 13 mph during the previous six hours. Maximum sustained surface wind speeds were at 104 mph, gusting upwards of 127 mph. Hurricane force wind speeds (greater than 73 mph) were occurring upwards of 81 miles away from the center of Tropical Cyclone Narelle. Tropical storm force wind speeds (39 to 73 mph) were occurring up to 172 miles away from the center of the disturbance.



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Tropical Cyclone Narelle will continue to track west-southwesterly just north of Western Australia today and Thursday. Narelle may intensify further due to warm sea surface temperatures over the eastern India Ocean. *A notable storm surge will be a concern from Port Hedland to Exmouth, Western Australia during this time. Several areas along the northern Western Australia coastline will also receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 7.00 inches or more. Localized flooding may cause minor structural damage. Ocean travel will likely be delayed or diverted around the disturbance as well.*

Tropical Cyclone Narelle will then shift south-southeasterly across western sections of Western Australia Friday and Saturday. Narelle will enter Western Australia as a significant tropical system near Coral Bay early Friday morning or even late Thursday evening and will gradually weaken while shifting farther over land. *A direct path over Perth, Western Australia is not expected as Narelle remains just to the north and east late Friday and early Saturday. Extreme western and southwestern Western Australia will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 7.00 inches or more due to the disturbance. Several areas farther inland in Western Australia, including much of the main winter grain and oilseed areas, will receive trace amounts to 0.75 inch of rain with locally greater amounts.*

Localized flooding will also be a concern in west-central and southwestern Western Australia due to Tropical Cyclone Narelle, including Perth and neighboring areas. Minor structural damage will be possible and travel may be sluggish. No significant impacts are expected for any crops that are grown this time of year or to grazing livestock. Rain in winter grain and oilseed areas will be welcome for early planting of winter wheat, barley and canola; although, most of the moisture will be evaporated out of the region by late April when planting normally begins.

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