

## = Cyclone Clare =

Severe Tropical Cyclone Clare was a moderately strong cyclone that struck Western Australia in January 2006 . The storm formed as an area of low pressure in the Arafura Sea , and moved westward . After receiving the name Clare on 7 January , the system ultimately peaked at Category 3 intensity on the Australian tropical cyclone scale . It moved ashore on the coast of Pilbara and proceeded inland , dissipating on 10 January . Clare produced winds of 142 km / h ( 88 mph ) at Karratha and triggered widespread torrential rainfall that led to flooding . Following its usage , the name Clare was retired by the Bureau of Meteorology , and will never be used again for a tropical cyclone in the area .

## = Meteorological history =

On 4 January 2006 , a weak area of low pressure was situated in the Arafura Sea . It moved westward , and by 6 January , it was located in the Timor Sea . That same day , both the United States Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology ( BoM ) identified the system as a tropical disturbance . On 7 January , the low began to show signs of strengthening . Continuing to organise , the BoM designated it as Tropical Cyclone Clare shortly thereafter . At the time , it was centred approximately 265 mi ( 426 km ) to the north of Broome and moving west @-@ southwestward . The JTWC classified the cyclone , locally designated 05S , as a tropical storm at 1800 UTC .

By early on 8 January , the storm had begun to steadily gain power . Later that day , Clare achieved severe tropical cyclone status while located around 170 mi ( 270 km ) north of Port Hedland . Tracking southwestward , the storm continued to mature . On 9 January , the JTWC estimated the storm to have peaked in intensity with maximum sustained 1 @-@ minute winds of 110 km / h ( 70 mph ) and a minimum barometric pressure of 980 millibars . However , the BoM reported the storm to have been somewhat more intense , with sustained 10 @-@ minute winds of 140 km / h ( 85 mph ) and a barometric pressure of 964 millibars . This made Clare a Category 3 on the Australian tropical cyclone scale .

Clare maintained roughly the same intensity as its track became more southerly . At 1600 UTC on 9 January the storm made landfall at Pilbara to the west of Dampier . Heading ashore , the storm began to quickly deteriorate , and both the JTWC and the BoM declared it dissipated on 10 January as it continued southward . Throughout the storm 's course , the JTWC 's intensity estimates were below that of the BoM . Also , it is reported that the cyclone 's presentation on satellite was not representative of its actual intensity .

## = Preparations and impact =

In advance of the storm 's landfall , officials issued a " red alert " for several locations . Offshore , oil rigs were shut down and ports were closed . At least 2 @, @ 000 residents were evacuated from their homes in potentially susceptible areas of the Karratha region . In areas between Broome and Port Hedland , people were urged to tidy debris and organise disaster supplies to prepare for the storm .

Upon moving ashore , the storm produced winds of 131 km / h ( 81 mph ) at Legendre Island and a gust of 142 km / h ( 88 mph ) at Karratha . Heavy precipitation ? often exceeding 200 mm ( 7 @. @ 9 in ) ? was recorded along the central Pilbara coast . Rainfall at Wickham totaled 215 mm ( 8 @. @ 5 in ) , with 212 mm ( 8 @. @ 3 in ) at Karratha and more moderate amounts elsewhere . Since storm surge from the cyclone peaked during low tide , it was not severe and caused no known damage .

Clare produced extensive flooding that forced the closure of numerous roads , including part of the North West Coastal Highway . It also triggered torrential rains and flooding in southern areas of the country , including Gascoyne and the South @-@ West Land Division . There , 224 mm ( 8 @. @ 8 in ) of rain fell in 24 hours . Additionally , the Greenough River surpassed its banks ; a sandbagging effort prevented the resultant floods from inundating the town of Walkaway . The storm cut off power

and left tens of thousands of residents without telephone service . Property damage was generally minor , and no casualties or significant injuries from the storm were reported . The name Clare was retired following its usage in 2006 .