



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

## **Tropical Low**

23 February -2 March 2009

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### **A. Summary**

A weak low was initially identified off the Top End on 23 February and struggled to develop under easterly shear. The low remained ill-defined as it moved west southwest north of the Kimberley and then southwest eventually crossing the coast near Port Hedland at 9 pm WDT Saturday 28 February. Heavy rain caused some flooding from the east Pilbara extending to the eastern Gascoyne and adjacent northern Goldfields and Interior. Roads were closed and some mining operations were disrupted.

### **B. Meteorological Description**

#### *Intensity analysis*

The surface circulation remained weak below 20 knots.

#### *Motion*

The low tracked to the southwest and then to the south as it approached the Pilbara coast in response to an approaching mid-level trough.

#### *Structure*

The low remained poorly defined throughout its lifetime and no gales were evident.

### **C. Impact**

Significant flooding occurred in eastern Pilbara rivers including the De Grey. Mining activities in the region were disrupted and roads closed for a period.

### **D. Observations**

#### *Rainfall*

Daily rainfall totals:

To 9 am 1 March: 135 mm at Marillana; 133 mm at Marble Bar; 124 mm Pardoo; 123 mm at Bonney Downs; 121 mm at Hillside.

To 9 am 2 March: 91 mm at Bonney Downs.

See weekly rainfall map (Fig. 2).

Figure 1. Track of Tropical Low, 23 February – 2 March 2009.

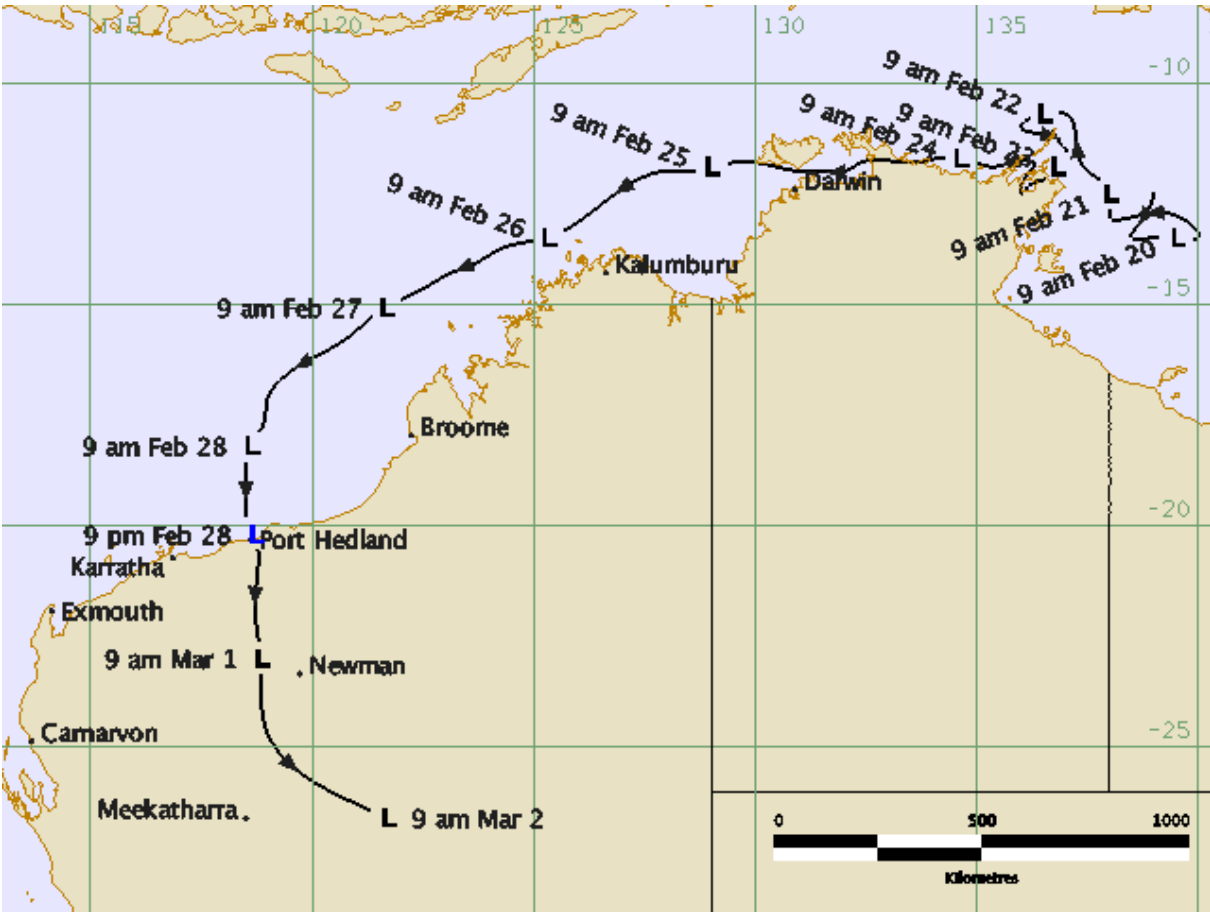


Figure 2. Weekly rainfall distribution to 9 am 4 March 2009.

