

HISTORY OF CYCLONE JASPER in Port Douglas Australia

Prepared by Judy Zimmet, February 16, 2024

Dec 2, 2023 Australia and Fiji meteorological services began to monitor a disturbance in Fiji's area tropical disturbance 03F to Tropical Low O2U

DEC 4, 2023 the disturbance entered Australia's domain

DEC 5, 2023 joint typhoon warning center began issuing bulletins on Jasper as it developed into a tropical depression over the western South Pacific Ocean CJ graded cat 1

Dec 6, 2023 CJ intensified to a cat 3

Dec 7, 2023 CJ had strengthened to a cat 4 equiv cyclone as it tracked southwestward

Dec 8, 2023 CJ began to weaken

DEC 11, 2023 CJ turned westward and accelerated towards Queensland **where its cyclonic circulation brought warm, moist northeasterly winds from the Coral Sea onshore, resulting in heavy precipitation along the coast for several days. CJ intensified and made landfall.** CJ weakened later that day to a tropical low, however remained traceable.

Dec 13, 2023 by the time it made landfall at Port Douglas, CJ winds had weakened back to tropical depression strength. **However, the storm then stalled over the Cape York Peninsula**

December 15, 2023: The Bureau of Meteorology gave the tropical low a moderate chance of redeveloping into a tropical cyclone by Dec 15, 2023. The chances of CJ re-developing into a very low was soon downgraded as the storm turned southeast further inland. The tropical low storm rapidly weakened. **However, the storm then stalled over the Cape York Peninsula.**

All flights to Cairns were postponed. Evacuation centers were set up in Cairns and Port Douglas. Homeless people were offered shelter through local charities. Tourists were urged to have a plan to bunker down during CJ. CJ caused thousands of properties to lose power and there was a shortage of drinking water. There was severe flooding and people needed to be rescued. Several rivers and creeks overflowed. Trees were uprooted. Numerous roads remain closed after the storm passed including Captain Cook Highway between Cairns and Port Douglas. Captain Cook Highway suffered mudslides and destabilizing damage. Cairns airport finally closed due to low visibility and extreme flooding on the landing strip of the airport (Dec 16-17, 2023). Mossman and Daintree River were also flooded. Crocodiles were seen floating through the main street of Ingham. Jasper was the wettest tropical cyclone to impact Australia on record.

December 18, 2023: On December 18, 2023, Reef Unlimited announced that it would start a ferry service between Port Douglas and Cairns starting on December 19, 2023. CJ was last noted over Cape York Peninsula.

Dec 28, 2023: Port Douglas has only started to get back on its feet. Captain Cook Highway could take weeks of clearing, rebuilding and repairing before the road can open again. Regular boats have been put in place to ferry people and critical supplies and cargo to and from Cairns.

REFERENCES

cyclone Jasper general

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone_Jasper

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY SEVERE CYCLONE JASPER December 2-18, 2023

<http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/history/jasper23.shtml>

NASA 12/21/2023

<https://gpm.nasa.gov/applications/weather/news/tropical-cyclone-jasper-brings-heavy-rainfall-queensland-australia>

Guy Carpenter ?Insurance? POST-EVENT REPORT 12/22/2023

<https://www.guycarp.com/insights/2023/12/EX-TROPICAL-CYCLONE-JASPER-12-2023.html>

DEC 13, 2023 Australia Govt Disaster Assist Tropical cyclone jasper associated rainfall and flooding dec 13-28, 2023

<https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Pages/disasters/current-disasters/Queensland/tropical-cyclone-jasper-commencing-13-december-2023.aspx>

DEC 13, 2023 AP Tropical cyclone jasper weakens while still lashing northern australia with flooding rain.

<https://apnews.com/article/cyclone-jasper-australia-9ef63b047baf71212d11363d143bc2d9>

The first tropical cyclone of the Australian hurricane season weakened to a low pressure system, but continued to lash the northeast coast Thursday with flooding rain. Several roads were closed due to fallen trees and flood waters. Places were saturated and rivers ran high

Dec 14, 2023 Reuters Australia tourist towns brace floods aftermath cyclone jasper

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-tourist-towns-brace-floods-aftermath-cyclone-jasper-2023-12-13/>

December 15, 2023 Sydney Morning Journal <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/far-north-queensland-on-flood-watch-as-ex-tropical-cyclone-jasper-crosses-region-20231215-p5erp1.html>

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/weather/far-north-queensland-on-flood-watch-as-ex-tropical-cyclone-jasper-crosses-region-20231215-p5erp1.html>

December 15, 2023 Rosher <https://www.rosher.net.au/news/severe-weather-update-15-december-2023-latest-on-ex-tropical-cyclone-jasper?uid=11496>

<https://www.rosher.net.au/news/severe-weather-update-15-december-2023-latest-on-ex-tropical-cyclone-jasper?uid=11496>

December 19, 2023 The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/dec/19/cyclone-jasper-how-did-it-cause-so-much-rain-and-could-global-heating-be-to-blame>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/dec/19/cyclone-jasper-how-did-it-cause-so-much-rain-and-could-global-heating-be-to-blame>

NEWSPORT NEWS: PORT DOUGLAS NEWSPAPER

December 14, 2023 <https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/live-coverage-absolutely-ferocious-jaspers-midnight-surge-wreaks-havoc-around-douglas-shire>

<https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/live-coverage-absolutely-ferocious-jaspers-midnight-surge-wreaks-havoc-around-douglas-shire>

Dec 17, 2023 <https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/flood-watch-douglas-under-water-sewage-concerns-and-captain-cook-highway-closed>

<https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/flood-watch-douglas-under-water-sewage-concerns-and-captain-cook-highway-closed>

Dec 18, 2023 <https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/flood-watch-continues-highway-to-cairns-destroyed-supermarket-chaos-drinking-water-warnings-sewage-concerns-bom-updates>

<https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/flood-watch-continues-highway-to-cairns-destroyed-supermarket-chaos-drinking-water-warnings-sewage-concerns-bom-updates>

Dec 19, 2023 <https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/live-flood-coverage-council-sends-military-sos-as-situation-in-daintree-wider-douglas-shire-reaches-crisis-point>

<https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/live-flood-coverage-council-sends-military-sos-as-situation-in-daintree-wider-douglas-shire-reaches-crisis-point>

Dec 29, 2023 <https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/yir-december-2023-cyclone-jasper-brings-worst-flooding-in-living-memory>

<https://www.newsport.com.au/2023/december/yir-december-2023-cyclone-jasper-brings-worst-flooding-in-living-memory>

ABC NEWS AUSTRALIA

March 16, 2024 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-16/australia-tourism-natural-disasters-business-financial-loss/103589576>