

CYCLONE WARNINGS

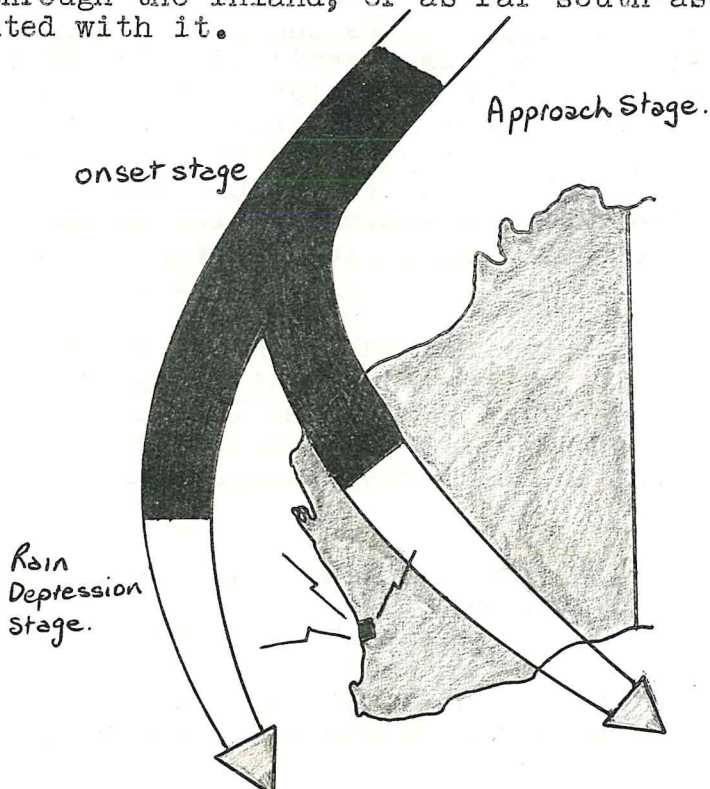
The Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology has issued a pamphlet dealing with cyclones. Copies are available from their office.

About three times a year a tropical cyclone roars down the coast of Western Australia. We are always warned by the "Met" bureau and from there it is up to the individual to secure his buildings and boat against the lashing wind and rain.

A cyclone is a roughly circular system of gale to hurricane force winds moving clockwise about a centre of very low pressure. For a radius of 2 to 20 miles of the centre only light winds and rain may be experienced, or even sunshine, but for the next 50 miles or so outward, look out. Wind speed can top 100 m.p.h. with dense rain clouds.

The first sign to coastal dwellers is perhaps, rain 200 miles in advance of the cyclone and a long swell, slight at first but continually rising if the centre is seaward of them. Gales have raised very high seas, with a hurricane surge wave up to 10 feet above high water roving ahead of the storm.

The cyclone may last a few days, or it may last a fortnight. As it weakens, and moves south or south-east, winds of up to 60 knots through the inland, or as far south as Cape Leewin, can be associated with it.



THE WARNING SYSTEM

Six hourly warnings
issued.