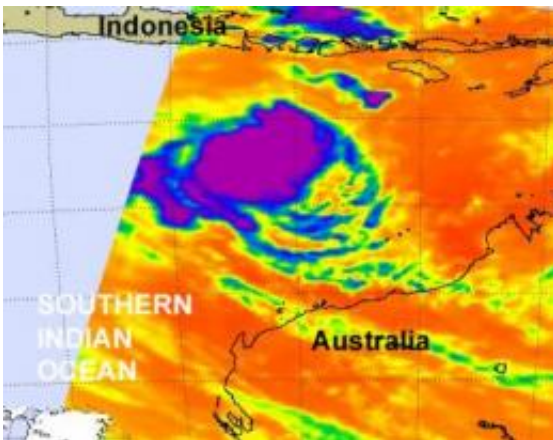


# Cyclone 24S now all grown up and renamed Tropical Storm Sean

April 23 2010

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The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder instrument on NASA's Aqua satellite captured this image of Tropical Storm Sean (formerly Cyclone 24S) on April 22 at 17:29 UTC (1:29 p.m. EDT). The infrared image showed some strong, high, cold thunderstorms (purple) around Sean's center. The orange depicts sea surface and land temperatures as warm as or warmer than 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Credit: NASA/JPL, Ed Olsen

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When a weather system develops it is given a weather system number to keep track of it. For example, Sean was "born" as System 91S on April 21 about 630 nautical miles north-northwest of Port Hedland, Australia. On April 22, System 91S strengthened and developed tropical cyclone characteristics but wasn't quite a tropical storm, so it was renamed as the twenty-fourth tropical cyclone in the [Southern Hemisphere](#), "Tropical Cyclone 24S." After strengthening further and reaching tropical storm status, it received a human name and became "Tropical Storm Sean." So, it went through two numbered nicknames to get its "grown-up name."

The Atmospheric Infrared Sounder (AIRS), instrument that flies aboard NASA's Aqua satellite from April 22 at 17:29 UTC (1:29 p.m. EDT) showed some strong, high, cold thunderstorms around Sean's center.

[Infrared imagery](#) is false-colored and higher cloud tops of stronger storms are depicted in purple. Sean showed a circular area of high, strong thunderstorms around his center of circulation. Those highest thunderstorms are as cold as or colder than 220 Kelvin or minus 63 degrees Fahrenheit (F).

On Friday, April 23 at 1500 UTC (11 a.m. EDT) Tropical Storm Sean had [maximum sustained winds](#) near 45 knots (52 mph). It was about 475 nautical miles north of Learmonth, Australia, near 14.4 South and 113.3 East. It was moving southeast at 4 knots (5 mph).

Animated [infrared satellite imagery](#) shows convective banding (that is, rapidly rising air that condenses and form thunderstorms) keeps wrapping into the low-level center of the storm, from both the south and east of the center. Forecasters at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center note that conditions are still good for further intensification over the next

12-24 hours, but then Sean will encounter vertical wind shear and begin weakening over the weekend.

Sean is a sea storm, and will not affect any land areas over the weekend.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: Cyclone 24S now all grown up and renamed Tropical Storm Sean (2010, April 23)  
retrieved 27 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2010-04-cyclone-24s-grown-renamed-tropical.html>

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