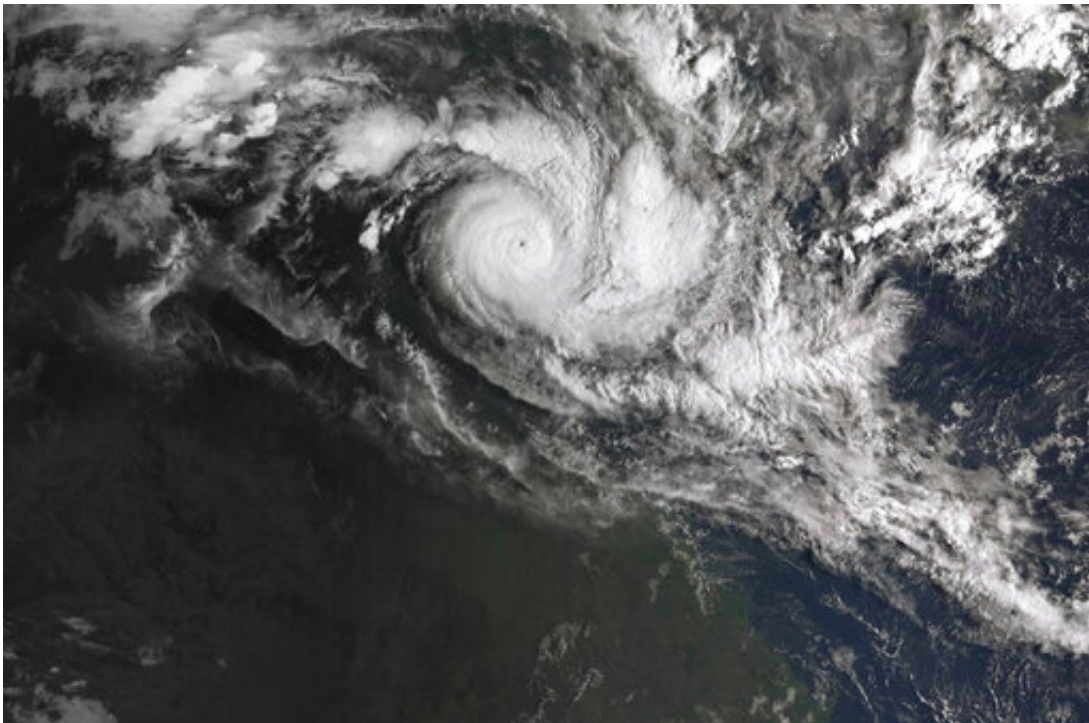


Australia moving 2,000 people from powerful cyclone's path

March 21 2019, by Trevor Marshallsea



In a satellite image acquired from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Cyclone Trevor moves over the Northern Territory captured at 0810am AEDT, Tuesday, 19 March 2019. Australia is evacuating about 2,000 people from parts of northern Australia ahead of the cyclone with winds gusting up to 160 miles an hour (260 kph) expected to hit on Saturday. (Bureau of Meteorology/AAP Image via AP)

About 2,000 Australians were being moved inland Thursday from part of the northern coast ahead of a powerful cyclone expected to hit this

weekend.

Evacuees were being moved by air and road from remote, mostly [indigenous communities](#) on the east coast of the Northern Territory, with most going to the provincial capital, Darwin.

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology said Cyclone Trevor, with sustained winds of 125 miles per hour (200 kph) and gusts of up to 160 mph (255 kph), was expected to bring [heavy rainfall](#) and a dangerous storm surge.

An emergency was declared in communities along the western Gulf of Carpentaria where Trevor is expected to make landfall on Saturday, Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner said.

At landfall, Trevor is forecast to be a Category 4 severe tropical cyclone, roughly similar to a Category 2 or 3 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson scale used in the U.S.

Bureau of Meteorology spokesman Todd Smith said a further intensification has not been ruled out. Flash flooding was likely, with [heavy rains](#) of up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) in a day set to fall on ground "hard-baked" by drought, Smith said.

Gunner said the decision to evacuate the communities in the cyclone's path was due to their remoteness.



In this March 19, 2019, photo, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, Katarina Carroll (left), Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk (center) and Queensland Police Deputy Commissioner Bob Gee (right) are seen during a meeting of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee discussing the approaching cyclone at the Emergency Services Complex in Brisbane. Australia is evacuating about 2,000 people from part of northern Australia ahead of powerful Cyclone Trevor expected to hit on Saturday. (Darren England/AAP Image via AP)

Almost 1,000 people had left the towns of Groote Eylandt and nearby Numbulwar by late Thursday, Gunner said. Most of Borroloola's 900 residents were expected to be evacuated, along with several smaller communities. Most would be housed in temporary accommodations in Darwin, he said.

Air force Hercules aircraft, along with helicopters, buses and cars were being used to transport evacuees to Darwin and nearby Katherine, with

sleeping areas set up in buildings on local fairgrounds, Smith said. Steps were being taken to ensure indigenous cultural protocols were respected and tribal languages used.

It's the largest pre-cyclone evacuation in Northern Territory history, and the largest cyclone-related exodus since Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin in 1974, killing 71 people and forcing 30,000 to flee the city.

Trevor earlier crossed the Cape York peninsula in northern Queensland state, causing flooding, closing roads and knocking out power. No fatalities have been recorded.

Meanwhile, another powerful category 4 cyclone was bearing down on the other side of Australia's northern rim.

Cyclone Veronica is expected to reach the Pilbara area on the north coast of Western Australia state over the weekend.

"While it is possible the [cyclone](#) may weaken before reaching the Pilbara coast, a severe impact is likely," the Bureau of Meteorology said in a statement.

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