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**AGENDA ITEM NO.4:                    REVIEW OF THE 2016/2017 AND 2017/2018 CYCLONE SEASONS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.4.1:                TCWC REPORT**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.4.1.3:            AUSTRALIAN TCWCS**

**1.                    2017–18 cyclone season**

During the 2017–18 season, eleven tropical cyclones were recorded in the broader Australian basin (areas south of the Equator and between 90°E and 160°E, which includes Australian, Papua New Guinea and Indonesian areas of responsibility), equalling the long-term average. Five of the eleven tropical cyclones crossed the coast

Severe tropical cyclone *Marcus* was the strongest (category 5), having intensified over the Indian Ocean after passing very close to Darwin at category 2 strength. *Marcus* was the strongest tropical cyclone to affect Darwin since severe tropical cyclone *Tracy* in 1974. Although severe tropical cyclone *Gita* occurred outside the Australian basin, there was a considerable amount of liaison between the Nadi TCC and Brisbane TCWC in regards to the intensity forecast and warning strategy for Norfolk Island.

**2.                    2016-17 cyclone season**

During the 2016-17 season, nine tropical cyclones were recorded in the broader Australian basin, slightly below the long-term average of eleven. Three of the nine tropical cyclones crossed the coast. Severe tropical cyclone Debbie was the most significant system to make landfall during this season, causing widespread damage and flooding in parts of Queensland and New South Wales. Severe tropical cyclone Ernie underwent one of the most rapid intensification cycles documented in the broader Australian basin. One of the recorded tropical cyclones in this season was not named at the time of the event, but was later assessed to have briefly reached tropical cyclone intensity prior to making landfall on the Western Australian coastline.

**3.                    Support to RAV Members**

During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 tropical cyclone seasons, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology provided the following support products and services to other RA-V members, including:

- 88 Satellite Analysis Bulletins
- 37 Special Advisories for the Solomon Islands
- 5 Special Advisories for Indonesia and Timor Leste
- Adhoc liaison with Port Moresby TCWC in the lead up to any tropical cyclone event

#### **4. Impacts and coordination with emergency managers**

The tropical cyclones that were deemed to have caused significant impacts, warranting retirement from the Australian tropical cyclone list of names include:

- *Marcus* (the proposed replacement is *Marco*)
- *Debbie* (the proposed replacement is *Dara*)

All of the Australian Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (Perth, Darwin and Brisbane) maintain close relationships with their respective emergency services partners. Meteorologists are embedded in some of the operational centres of our fire and emergency services partners, providing detailed briefings and specialised products. Dedicated members within the Perth and Brisbane offices also provide specialised services to commercial clients. Staff from across the Bureau of Meteorology service the needs of the media during tropical cyclone events and these needs will be offered by either national or local talent.