

Tropical Cyclone (TC) 22P (Erica)*



First Poor : 2330Z 03 Mar 03

First Fair : 0600Z 04 Mar 03

First TCFA : 0630Z 04 Mar 03

First Warning : 1200Z 04 Mar 03

Last Warning : 0600Z 15 Mar 03, Extratropical

Max Intensity : 130 kts, gusts to 160 kts

Landfall : None

Total Warnings : 16 plus 2 Amended Warnings

Remarks:

(1) Tropical Cyclone (TC) 22P was first noted as a tropical disturbance east-southeast of Cairns, Australia on 03 March, 2003. TC 22P formed and went to warning status within 14 hours of first official mention by JTWC. The cyclone weakened enough to final at 0000Z on 06 March. JTWC continued to monitor the remnants of TC 22P and when regeneration was detected the cyclone was warned on again by 10 March.

Over the next 48 hours the storm intensified at a climatological rate, attaining a 65 knot intensity, a rate of one Dvorak T-number per day. TC 22P then began to intensify rapidly, reaching the maximum intensity of 130 knots by 13 March, an increase of 2.5 Dvorak T-numbers in 18 hours. The rapid intensification was due to excellent outflow conditions combined with a weak vertical wind shear environment. During this period, TC 22P altered track toward New Caledonia, eventually skirting the entire southwestern coast of New Caledonia with an intensity of 130, 125 and 100 knots throughout. After passing New Caledonia, the cyclone encountered increased vertical wind shear and began extratropical transition.

(2) Reported damage to New Caledonia was significant, and included structural damage, power losses and flooding. Noumea was also damaged by the passage of the system according to news reports. Subsequent damage reports from New Caledonia indicated agricultural damage, water fouling and an increase in dengue fever. Two fatalities were also reported due to the passage of the system, with many others injured.

*Named by WMO designated RSMC

Statistics for JTWC on TC22P

DTG	WRN NO.	BEST TRACK		wind	POSITION ERRORS								WIND ERRORS							
		LAT	LONG		00	12	24	36	48	72	96	120	00	12	24	36	48	72	96	120
03030400		20.1S	152.4E	20																
03030406		20.8S	153.1E	25																
03030412	1	21.3S	154.0E	30	18	103	130	155	187				5	5	5	10	5			
03030500	2	20.3S	155.0E	30	51	108	135	187	277				0	-5	5	0	0			
03030512	3	19.0S	155.3E	35	16	21	24	93	146				0	5	5	5	5			
03030600	4	17.6S	154.4E	30	11	42							0	0						
03031006	5	12.1S	157.8E	30	6	24	30	83	152				0	0	-5	-10	-15			
03031018	6	12.7S	158.2E	35	16	19	87	155	179				0	-5	-10	-15	-60			
03031106	7	13.4S	158.9E	45	13	55	98	138	167				0	-5	-10	-55	-65			
03031118	8	15.2S	159.6E	55	0	33	64	103	130				0	-5	-45	-60	-60			
03031206	9	17.1S	159.9E	65	16	67	113	140	317				0	-45	-65	-60	-30			
03031212	10	17.9S	160.4E	90	0	66	96	176	364				5	-35	-35	-10	5			
03031218	11	18.8S	160.8E	115	18	32	87	227	377				-15	-35	-35	-10	0			
03031300	11A	19.6S	161.3E	130	22	32	120	287	421				-5	5	25	30	35			
03031306	12	20.2S	162.0E	130	0	41	173	273	370				10	25	40	45	70			
03031318	13	21.1S	164.2E	125	12	118	188	278					-25	-5	0	25				
03031406	14	23.1S	168.7E	90	8	56	150						-10	0	30					
03031418	15	25.9S	173.5E	70	17	98							0	35						
03031506	16	28.8S	179.0E	30	19								15							
			AVERAGE		15	57	107	177	257				5	13	23	26	29			
			BIAS										-1	-4	-7	-8	-9			
			# CASES		17	16	14	13	12				17	16	14	13	12			

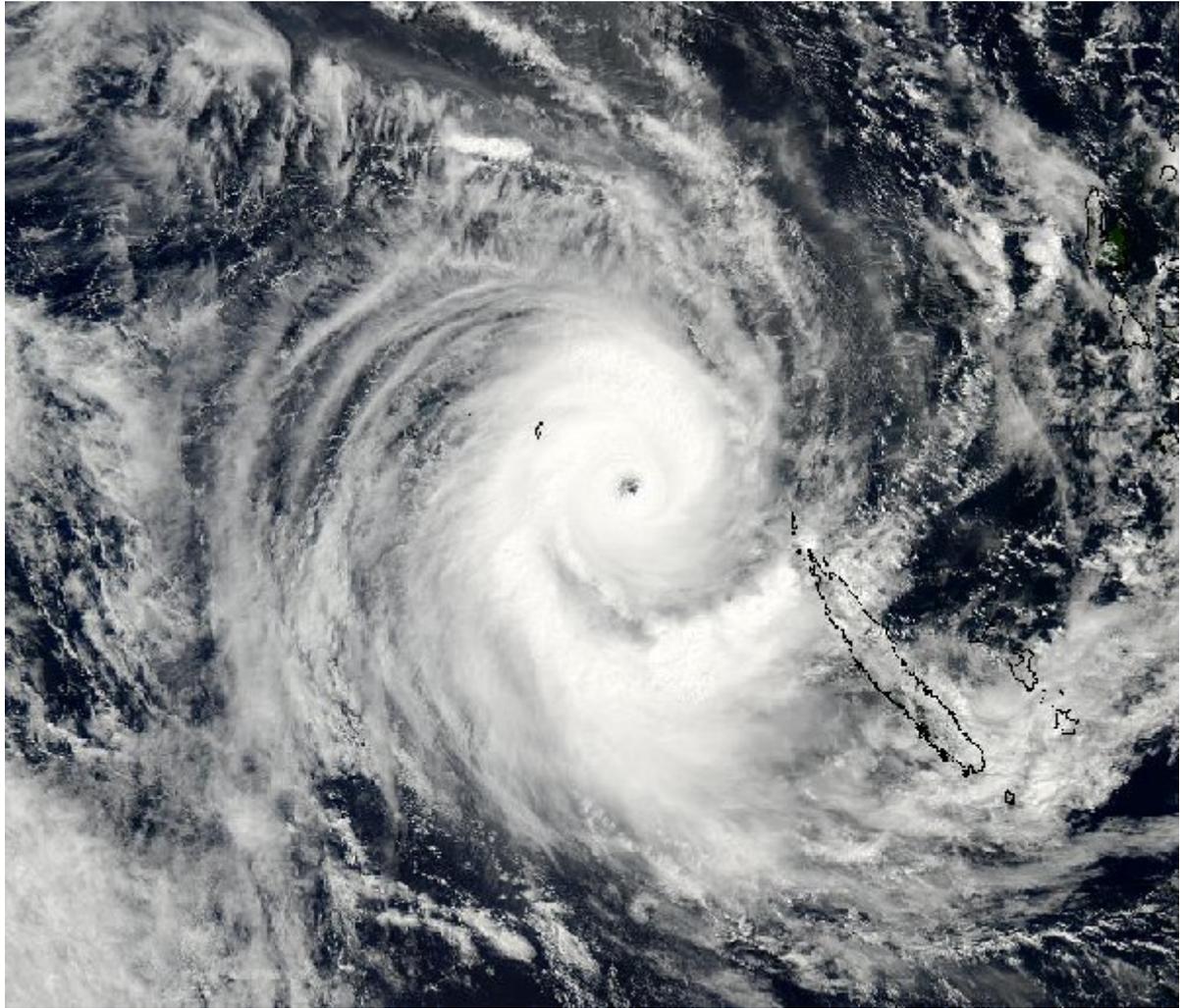


Figure 2-22P-1. 130255Z March 2003 MODIS true-color image of TC 22P (Erica), located 165nm west-northwest of New Caledonia, with a maximum intensity of 130 knots.

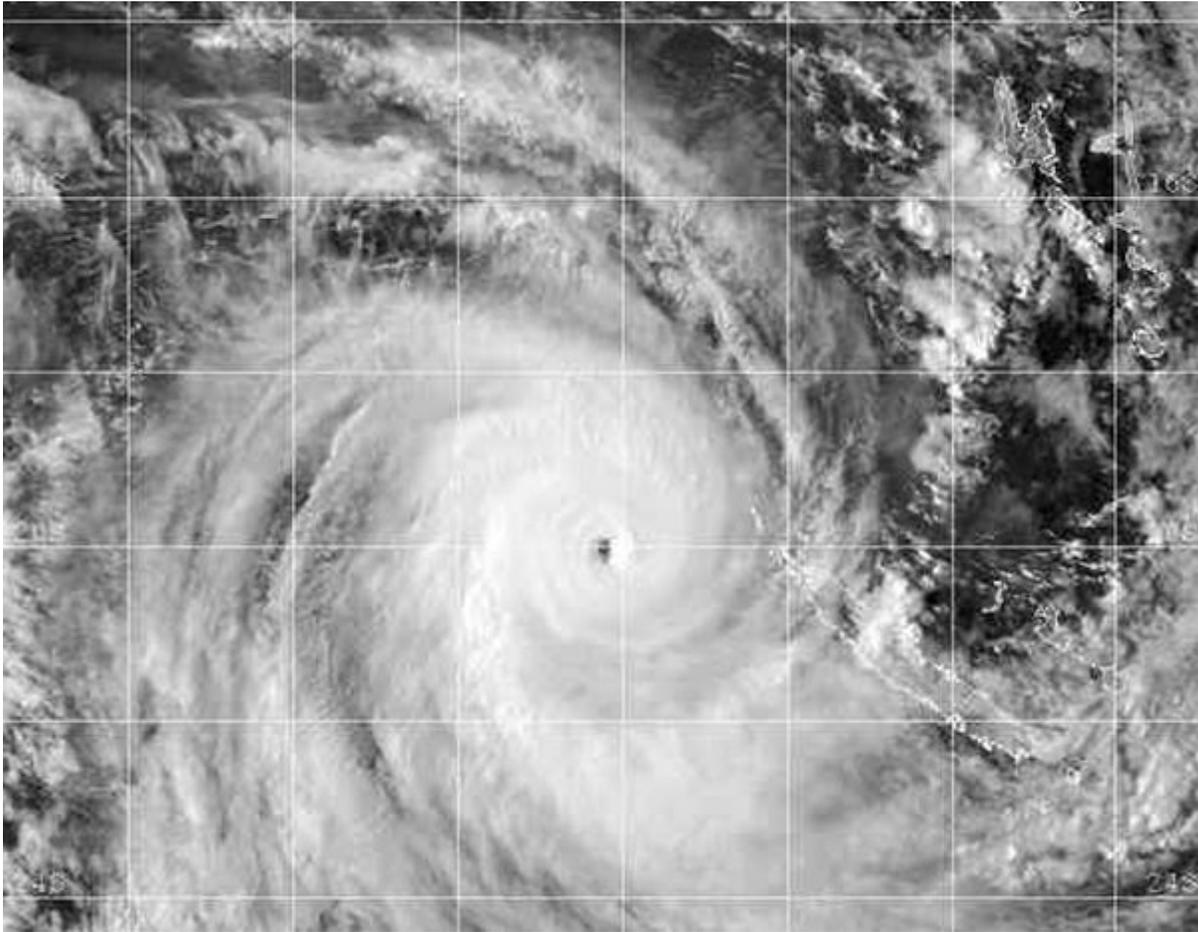


Figure 2-22P-2. 130501Z March 2003 GMS-5 visible satellite imagery of TC 22P (Erica), 945 nm east of Cairns, Australia, with an increasing intensity of 125 knots.

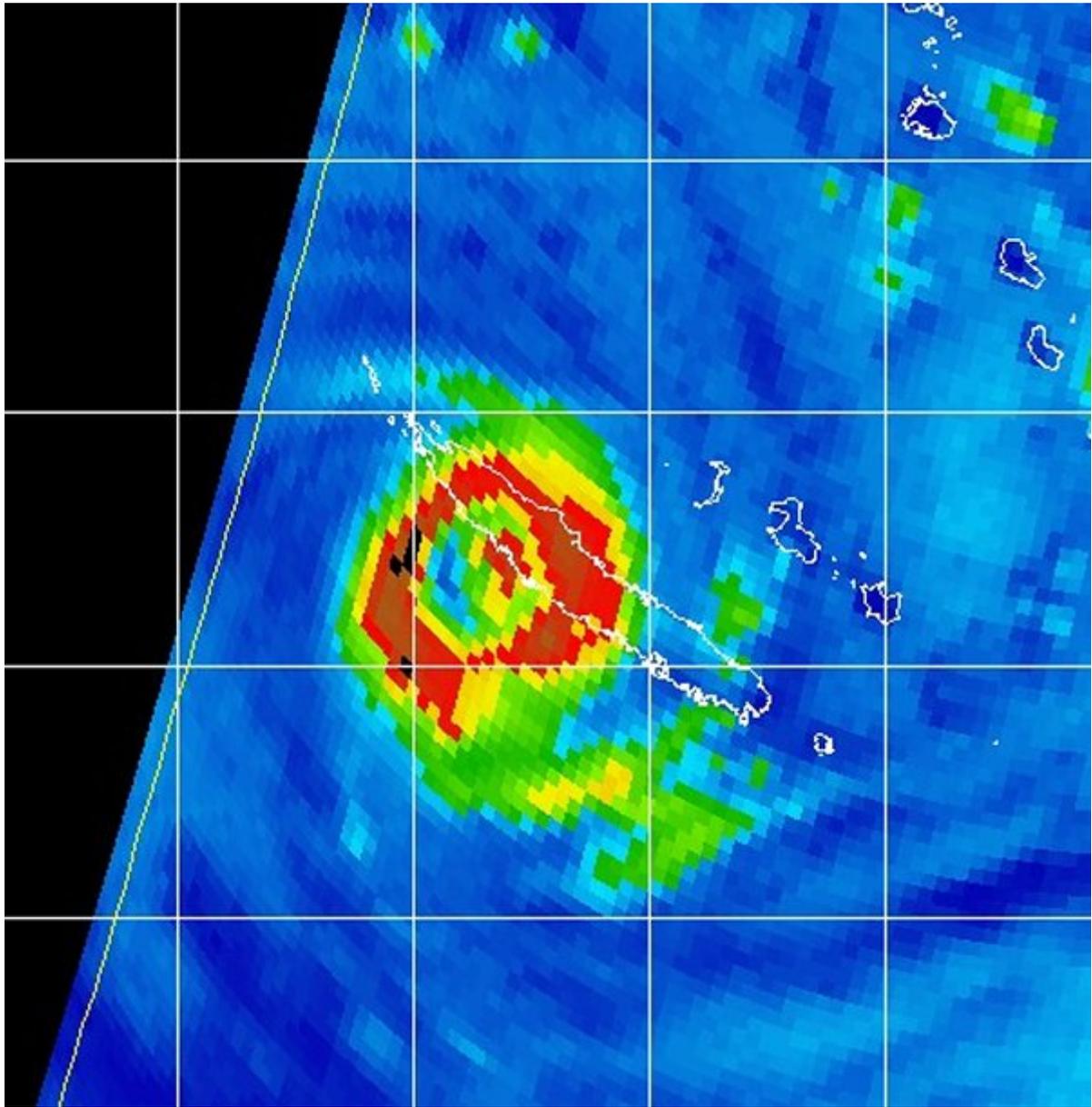
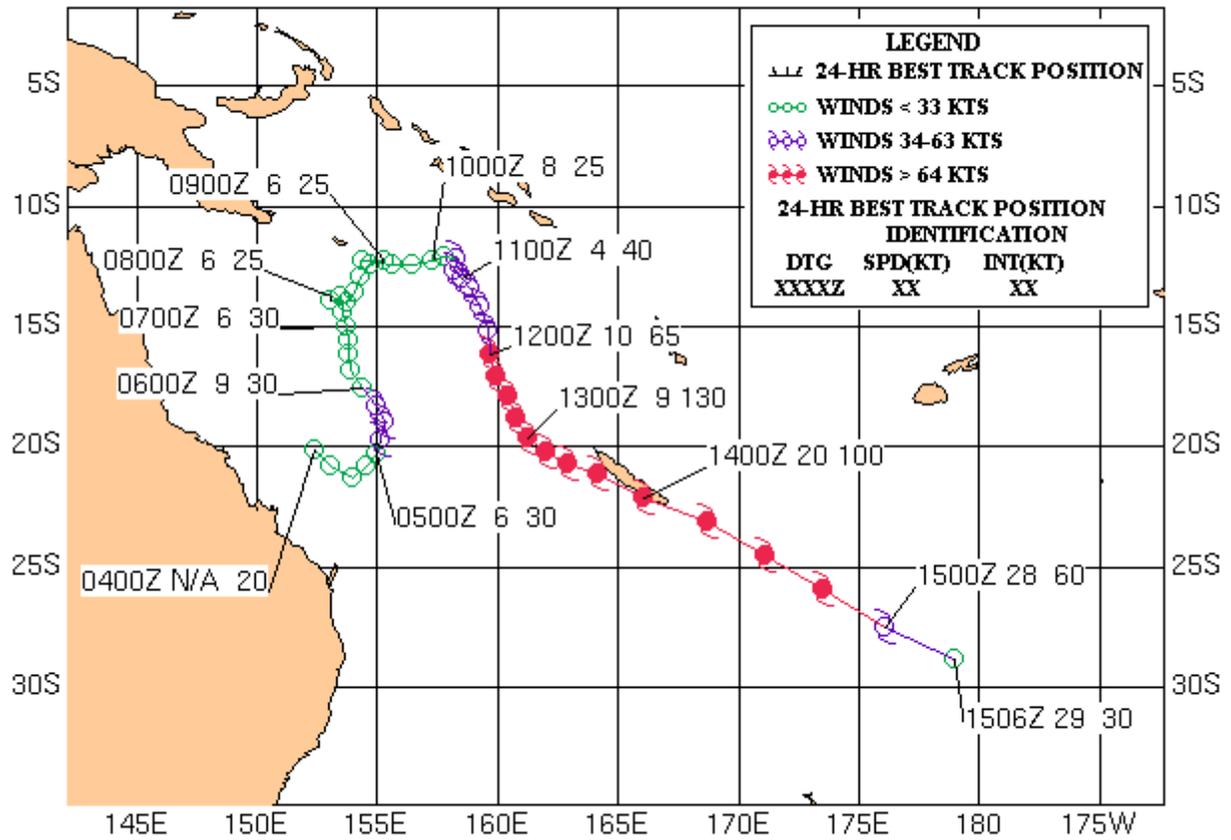


Figure 2-22P-3. 131850Z March 2003 85 GHz SSM/I imagery of TC 22P (Erica), 905 nm east of Cairns, Australia, with an increasing intensity of 100 knots.

TROPICAL CYCLONE 22P (ERICA) 04-15 MAR 2003



Time Intensity for 22P

Intensity (kts)

