

FEATURED ARTICLES | TROPICAL CYCLONES

# Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle severely damages Exmouth airport and disrupts LNG operations in Western Australia

By Rishav Kothari • Sunday, March 29, 2026 12:59 UTC • [Follow us on Google News](#)

Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle made landfall just south of Coral Bay, Western Australia, on March 27, 2026, bringing destructive winds, heavy rain, and coastal impacts across the northwest coast. The storm caused significant damage in Exmouth, disrupted essential services, and forced the shutdown of major LNG facilities.



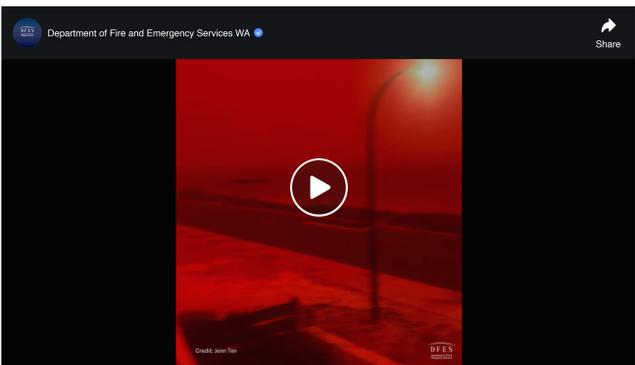
Satellite image of Tropical Cyclone Narelle at 08:40 UTC on March 27, 2026. Credit: JMA/Himawari-9, Zoom Earth, The Watchers

Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle made landfall in Western Australia on March 27 as a Category 3 system, after passing the Exmouth area as a more intense severe cyclone. ABC reported that winds of around 200 km/h (124 mph) were recorded at Learmonth, while the BoM reported rainfall of more than 300 mm (11.8 inches) at Learmonth air base on Friday night.

Exmouth sustained severe damage as winds of around 200 km/h (124 mph) were recorded at Learmonth. Power and water supplies were cut, and Exmouth Shire president Matthew Niikkula said the airport's apron and domestic terminal had been "obliterated."



Flooding and storm damage rendered the only sealed road connecting Exmouth to the surrounding regions impassable, isolating the community. Air and land transport disruptions limited access to and from the town. A cyclone-proof evacuation center also sustained partial roof damage. At least 40 people were sheltering at the facility on the night of March 26.



Essential services in Exmouth were significantly affected, with widespread power outages, water supply disruptions, and communication failures. Damage to petrol stations reduced fuel availability amid the ongoing fuel crisis.

ADVERTISEMENT

Top 5 Supplements [Learn More](#)

Major Australian gas producers Chevron and Woodside reported cyclone-related disruptions to LNG and gas operations in Western Australia, with the most prolonged impacts reported at Chevron's Wheatstone facility and Woodside's Karratha gas plant.

A Woodside spokesperson confirmed production was interrupted at the Karratha Gas Plant, the onshore processing facility for the North West Shelf Project, although limited supply continued from available capacity. Production is expected to resume once workforce access to offshore facilities is restored.

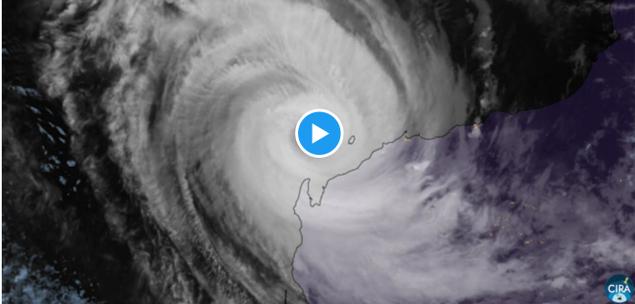
Chevron's Gorgon facility on Barrow Island experienced winds of about 159 km/h (99 mph) as the cyclone passed west of Port Dampier.

An outage occurred at the offshore Wheatstone platform, located about 225 km (140 miles) offshore, leading to a suspension of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and domestic gas production at onshore facilities near Onslow.

ADVERTISEMENT

Badlands Ranch [Open >](#)

Chevron said on March 29 that Gorgon had returned to full production, while Wheatstone was likely to take several weeks to return to full rates as damage assessments and repairs continue.



Across Coral Bay, Carnarvon, and parts of the Gascoyne and Pilbara regions, impacts were less severe, with localized flooding, structural damage, and power outages affecting about 2 000 properties.

Emergency services were deployed across affected areas to assess damage and begin recovery operations, prioritizing restoration of power, water supplies, transport access, and communications.

As of March 29, authorities reported no serious injuries or deaths, though major damage remained across Exmouth and surrounding parts of Western Australia. About 1 400 properties in Exmouth were still without power on Sunday morning as cleanup and restoration continued.

References:

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle downgraded following widespread damage across WA's northwest — [News.com.au](#) — March 28, 2026
- Cyclone Narelle isolates Exmouth, destroys airport and cuts essential services — [ABC News](#) — March 28, 2026.

ADVERTISEMENT

Top 5 Supplements [Learn More](#)

Author profile [Articles](#)

**Rishav Kothari**

I am an Assistant Editor and Severe Weather & Science Journalist at The Watchers, specializing in real-time severe weather coverage, geophysical event reporting, and research-driven scientific analysis. You can reach me at [rishav\(at\)watchers\(.com\).news](mailto:rishav(at)watchers(.com).news).

Share: [X](#) [f](#) [e](#) [v](#) [t](#) [k](#) [in](#) [p](#) [v](#) [e](#)

Follow Us

[#australia](#) [#australia weather](#) [#pilbara](#) [#tropical cyclone narelle](#) [#western australia](#) [#western australia weather](#)

← PREVIOUS NEXT →

Red Flag Warnings issued from the Plains to the Southeast under critical fire weather conditions Early-season wildfire surge across the United States with over 611 000 ha (1.51 million acres) burned year-to-date

Related by tag and category Related by tag Related by category

- Narelle triggers dark red skies across Shark Bay and Denham, Western Australia  
Monday, March 30, 2026
- Tropical Cyclone Narelle crosses Gascoyne coast with destructive winds and flooding, Western Australia  
Friday, March 27, 2026
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle to pass close to the North West Cape, bringing destructive winds to Western Australia  
Thursday, March 26, 2026
- Tropical Cyclone Narelle strengthens off Western Australia, Category 4 intensity forecast near the coast  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
- Heavy rainfall and flooding impact Northern Territory as ex-Tropical Cyclone Narelle moves west  
Monday, March 23, 2026
- Tropical Cyclone Narelle weakens after Queensland landfall, forecast to re-intensify over Gulf of Carpentaria  
Friday, March 20, 2026
- Category 5 Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle forecast to cross Far North Queensland on March 20  
Thursday, March 19, 2026

## Commenting rules and guidelines

We value the thoughts and opinions of our readers and welcome any healthy discussions on our website. In order to maintain a respectful and positive community, we ask that all commenters follow these [rules](#).

### Leave a reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

Comment \*

Name \*  Email \*

Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

[Post comment](#)

**Subscribe**

Support our work — subscribe to unlock all articles and apps, ad-free. View all benefits.

### Latest articles

- Avalanche kills 7 on Srinagar–Leh highway near Zojila Pass, Ladakh  
March 30, 2026
- Strong storms and heavy rainfall hit southern China  
March 30, 2026
- Heavy rain triggers urban flooding and transport disruption in Dubai, UAE  
March 30, 2026
- At least 28 dead after flooding and landslides hit multiple provinces in Afghanistan  
March 30, 2026
- Narelle triggers dark red skies across Shark Bay and Denham, Western Australia  
March 30, 2026
- Major M7.3 earthquake hits near Luganville, Vanuatu  
March 30, 2026
- Major X1.4 solar flare erupts from AR 4405, CME impact expected late March 31  
March 30, 2026

### From the same category

- Dust storms Tropical cyclones
- Narelle triggers dark red skies across Shark Bay and Denham, Western Australia  
March 30, 2026
- Featured articles Seismic activity
- Major M7.3 earthquake hits near Luganville, Vanuatu  
March 30, 2026
- Featured articles Solar activity
- Major X1.4 solar flare erupts from AR 4405, CME impact expected late March 31  
March 30, 2026
- Featured articles Tropical cyclones
- Tropical Cyclone Narelle crosses Gascoyne coast with destructive winds and flooding, Western Australia  
March 27, 2026

VIVAIA

Spring's Signature Shade  
Your Best Choice for the Season [Shop Now](#)

### Most read

- 24 hours 7 days 30 days
- Explosive eruption at Sheveluch sends ash to 11 km (36 000 feet), Aviation Code Raised to Red, Russia  
March 29, 2026
- Major X1.4 solar flare erupts from AR 4405, CME impact expected late March 31  
March 30, 2026
- Major M7.3 earthquake hits near Luganville, Vanuatu  
March 30, 2026
- Narelle triggers dark red skies across Shark Bay and Denham, Western Australia  
March 30, 2026
- At least 28 dead after flooding and landslides hit multiple provinces in Afghanistan  
March 30, 2026
- Heavy rain triggers urban flooding and transport disruption in Dubai, UAE  
March 30, 2026
- Strong storms and heavy rainfall hit southern China  
March 30, 2026

## Subscribe to our newsletter

Use the form below to have our daily news roundup delivered to your inbox every day at midnight UTC.

The newsletter is free and you can unsubscribe anytime.

Email

[Subscribe](#)

**3 Foods To Never Give Your Dog**  
If You Want Them to Live Longer

**3 Foods To Never Give Your Dog**  
If You Want Them to Live Longer

VIVAIA

Your Bunion's Bestie  
The BFF shoes you've been waiting for.  
[SHOP NOW](#)

### FOLLOW US



Up to \$50 off  
Comstylish