

Broome nights to be warmer than usual

■ Glenn Cordingley

Broome has sweated through its hottest December since records began – and there is more to come.

The Bureau of Meteorology said there was a 65 per cent chance of greater than average overnight temperatures in the next three months.

The average overnight minimum in Broome for January, February and March is 25.9C.

“The expectation is the nights over this period will be warmer,” Broome BoM duty officer Ray Hegarty said.

Temperatures in December soared to an average 36.3C, beating the previous record set in 1951 by 2.5C.

The hottest day was December 9, when the mercury hit 40C.

“The average minimum and maximum temperatures were above average in November. December with warmer nights and warmer days,” Mr Hegarty said.

“The average night-time temperature in November was 26.6 degrees and 27.3 degrees in December.”

Mr Hegarty said there has been little rain so far this wet season, which runs from November to April.

“We have definitely had a drier start to the wet season than average,” he said.

But relief was in sight as a monsoonal trough hangs above northern Australia, south of Indonesia.

Mr Hegarty said the system would bring wet weather and possibly cyclones.

“We are expecting to see increased thunderstorm activity,” he said.

“The monsoon trough is where cyclones are born so the further south it gets, the more chance of a cyclone being formed closer to us.”



WEATHER WATCH

As of Monday, a low pressure system south of Timor was expected to intensify and develop into a cyclone on Tuesday or Wednesday.

BoM said once it developed it would likely move south-west, putting it parallel with the WA coast. “At the moment it is well north of the Kimberley coast and we are unable to predict whether it will cross the coast at this stage,” a BoM spokesman said.

The build-up of a thunderstorm overlooking Roebuck Bay. Pictures: Jason Parkinson

A thunderstorm last Wednesday night recorded 31.8mm of rain – the first significant downpour of the wet season.

“We have definitely had a drier start to the wet season than average,” Mr Hegarty said.

“We are expecting for the rest of the wet season that the rainfall will probably be closer to average for the next few months at least.”

“The seasonal three-month outlook from January forecasts a late start to the wet season.”

