



CYCLONE GRETEL

Norfolk Island showed its usual strength and community mindedness prior, during and after cyclone Gretel.

We were extremely lucky that the cyclone moved further away from Norfolk Island before the anticipated destructive storm force winds. Even with the winds and rain that we received there were a number of trees and power poles that came down.

During the cyclone the Norfolk Island Meteorological office registered maximum wind gusts of ESE 47 knots (87 km/hr) on 16 March 2020 at 6.13am. Rainfall on Monday (16/3) at 9am was 43mm. Rainfall on Tuesday (17/3) at 9am was 20.2mm.

Gretel was the sixth tropical cyclone for the Australian region in season 2019-2020 and the first to pass over Australia's Eastern region.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Emergency Management Committee, Functional Service Coordinators, the Bureau of Meteorology, Council staff including the Electricity, Roads and Radio Norfolk teams and other sections placed on standby. These people worked throughout the cyclone in some tough conditions and many are volunteers.

I would also like to thank the community for their preparedness and for adhering to the media advice to seek shelter.

Nigel Greenup

Controller, Emergency Management Norfolk Island Committee (EMNIC)

18 March 2020