
Severe Weather Watch

SEVERE WEATHER WATCH FOR NORTHLAND, AUCKLAND, COROMANDEL PENINSULA, WAIKATO, BAY OF PLENTY ROTORUA, GISBORNE, TAUMARUNUI, TAUPO, TAIHAPE
ISSUED BY METSERVICE AT 1003hrs 13-Mar-2014

CYCLONE LUSI EXPECTED TO BRING SEVERE WEATHER TO MANY REGIONS DURING THE WEEKEND

>>

Cyclone Lusi is forecast to move out of the tropics on Friday, and is expected to track just west of the North Island on Saturday, before crossing the South Island late Sunday.

Rain and easterly gales are expected to spread onto northern New Zealand from later on Friday, and southwards across the remainder of the North Island on Saturday, then to the upper and eastern South Island later on Saturday and Sunday.

This Watch is for the likelihood of significant heavy rain in Northland, Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula late Friday or Saturday, and for Bay of Plenty and northern Gisborne on Saturday.

Easterly gales are also expected in these areas, and are also forecast to spread to Waikato (especially near the Kaimai Range) and the Central Plateau. This Watch also covers the likelihood of these becoming severe.

For the remainder of the North Island and upper/eastern South Island, expect a period of heavy rain during the weekend, especially in regions exposed to the east and northeast. Easterly gales are likely in many places, and the risk of these becoming severe is highest in the lee of ranges, such as the Tararuas, Richmond Range, and the Tasman Mountains. Although severe weather is likely, at this stage there is still uncertainty regarding the track of the low and exact areas that will be affected.

This will be a significant adverse weather event, affecting large parts of northern and central New Zealand. People are strongly advised to keep up to date with the latest forecasts, warnings and watches.

This Watch will be reviewed by 10 am Friday 14 March
Forecast prepared by: Mads Naeraa
Forecast checked by: Chris Noble

(C) Copyright Meteorological Service of New Zealand Ltd 2014