

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW FEBRUARY 2019

February 2019 was very dry and warm month.

The drought from previous months continued into February with just 15.2 mm of rain recorded for the month. There were no rain events with the only falls recorded from thunderstorms and light showers. It was Armidale's driest February since 1989 which recorded 13.8 mm.

Although day temperatures were well above the long term average, overnight minimums were slightly lower than the long term average. Maximums reached 30.0 degrees or higher on nine days, six more than the average. The very warm conditions came to an end on the 22nd with the final week of the month recording mostly below average temperatures. There were no notable temperature extremes.

Thunderstorm activity was much lower than normal with storms on only two days, and winds were mostly light to moderate easterlies.

Noteworthy events:

13th - Smoke and dust haze - A cold front and trough moving through north-east New South Wales produced hot gusty north-westerly winds fanning bushfires in the Tingha area resulting in a smoke haze over Armidale for most of the day. Mixed with the smoke was dust being blown in from the west of the state. Visibility was around 5000 metres at 12 noon, and 4000 metres at 6pm. Winds gusted to 70 kms per hour at Armidale airport, easing in the evening. The smoke and dust haze cleared during the evening as easterly winds developed behind the front.

19th - Smoke haze from early morning to 4pm approx. with visibility reduced to between 5 and 15 kms.

FEBRUARY 2019 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 15.2 mm (87.9 mm)

Rain days: 8 (10)

2018 rainfall total Jan to Feb: 84.8 mm (189.0 mm)

Average maximum temp: 27.5 deg (25.5 deg)

Average minimum temp: 11.9 deg (12.6 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 34.5 deg on 19th, 20th

Lowest maximum temp: 20.1 deg on 24th

Highest minimum temp: 16.4 deg on 1st, 2nd

Lowest minimum temp: 7.4 deg on 12th

Fine sunny days: 13 (13)

Ideal weather days: 3 (1)

Days with thunderstorms: 2 (5)

Days with frosts: 0 (0)

Days with fogs: 1 (1.5)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: E: 14, W: 6, NE: 2, SE: 2, S: 2, SW: 1, NW: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.7 mm (4.5 mm)

Thunderstorm details:

9th: 6.00-7.00pm - slight storm from west, 4.0 mm rain

20th: 4.50-6.20pm - thunder heard, no rain

6.20-7.30pm - slight storm from west, 1.4 mm rain