

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW

MAY 2025

May 2025 was an unusually cloudy and wet month with very little sunshine and unusually mild overnight temperatures.

The rainfall total of 73.8 millimetres on 21 days was 31 mm higher than the average. Most of the daily falls were light with the exception of 34.4 mm on the 22nd which was part of the rain event which caused flooding on the mid-north coast from the 19th to 22nd. See details below.

A high number of low pressure troughs affected New South Wales during the month generating a greater than normal number of cloudy days and nights. These conditions produced much higher than normal overnight minimum temperatures which in turn reduced the number of frosts for the month to just two. Maximum temperatures were mostly close to normal.

There were no notable temperature extremes.

The first frosts for the year were much later than normal occurring on the 24th and 25th, ending a frost-free period of 241 days since the last frost on 24th September 2024.

There were no thunderstorms or hail.

Winds were mostly light to moderate easterlies which is unusual for May when westerlies usually prevail.

Noteworthy events:

19th-22nd - An intense low pressure trough developed off the New South Wales Hunter coast on the 19th generating flooding rains to the Newcastle region. The trough moved north to the Mid-North Coast on the 20th producing further heavy rain on the 20th, 21st and 22nd resulting in severe flooding, particularly around the Taree area with over 300 mm recorded in some areas.

Armidale was on the northern edge of this system recording 46.6 mm of rain over the 19th to 22nd.

The following new records for May were created as a result of the excessive cloudy conditions.

Average minimum temperature for the month of 7.4C was the highest on record at the East Armidale site (long term average 3.0C from 44 years of records). The previous highest was 7.0C in 1989.

Frosts - only two frosts occurred, lowest on record (long term average 14 frosts from 44 years of records). The previous May lowest was 4 frosts in 1992. The first frost on the 24th also created a new record for the latest start to the frost season. The previous record was 22nd May 1989.

Sunny days - there were only 4 sunny days, lowest on record (long term average 15 days from 40 years of records). The previous lowest for May was 6 days in 1991 and 1995.

MAY 2025 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 73.8 mm (42.5 mm)

Rain days: 21 (8)

2025 rainfall total Jan to May: 479.8 mm (343.5 mm)

Average maximum temp: 16.3 deg (16.4 deg)

Average minimum temp: 7.4 deg (3.0 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 21.4 deg on the 26th

Lowest maximum temp: 13.0 deg on the 28th

Highest minimum temp: 11.6 deg on the 15th

Lowest minimum temp: 0.1 deg on the 25th

Fine sunny days: 4 (15)

Ideal weather days: 0 (4)

Days with thunderstorms: 0 (0.6)

Days with frosts: 2 (14) light: 2

Days with fogs: 4 (5)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: E: 17, W: 7, SE: 2, S: 2, NW: 2, NE: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 1.1 mm (1.6 mm)