

Guba gets stronger, but slower

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TROPICAL Cyclone Guba has been upgraded to category three, but is almost stationary in the Coral Sea.

The Bureau of Meteorology located the cyclone about 390km east north-east of Lockhart River and 480km north north-east of Cooktown about 4pm (AEST).

It was almost stationary, but was expected to drift southward for the next day or two while slowly intensifying.

It is not expected to cause gales on the Queensland coast within the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, in Papua New Guinea at least three people are dead and about 2000 villagers have been forced from their homes following four days of heavy rain and flooding associated with the cyclone.

Provincial Disaster Co-ordinator Copland Gewa said large areas of Oro Province were flooded and many villages under water.

He confirmed three deaths, nearly 40 houses swept away and around 2000 villagers displaced by flooding along the coast.

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