

Severe Weather Advisory for Tropical Cyclone Donna

Issued on Friday 5th May 2017 at 05:30 UTC.

Headline

There is a continued risk of a significant Tropical Cyclone impacting the Vanuatu Island chain this weekend or into the start of next week.

Impacts

This tropical system could bring a risk of damaging winds, flooding rains, storm surge flooding and enhanced landslide risk.

Discussion

Tropical Cyclone Donna was centered around 300 miles NNW of Port Vila, Vanuatu at 0300UTC today (Friday), with sustained winds of around 85KT (98mph), gusting to around 100KT (115mph). This is currently a Category 3 Tropical Cyclone using the Australian category system. This is similar to a Category 2 Hurricane in the Atlantic.

Donna is currently moving slowly westwards, before it is then expected to turn S'wards through Saturday, potentially curving slightly closer to Vanuatu on Sunday. There are a large spread of model solutions for Donna's track from Saturday through Sunday, with the GM consistently the most E'ward, bringing the Tropical Cyclone very close to Vanuatu. The GM has consistently taken Donna across Port Vila late Sunday/early Monday UK time with a similar intensity to that which it has today (Friday). However, it must be stressed that this is not supported by the EC or GFS and needs to be considered a low, but not insignificant risk.

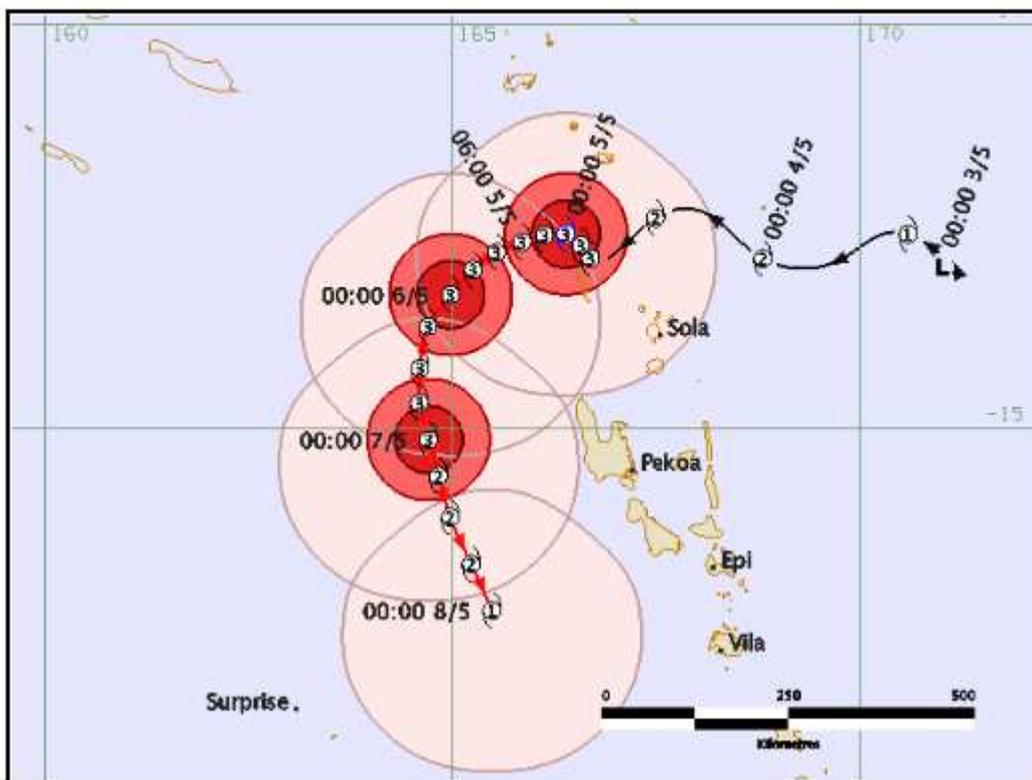
Up to 750mm of rain could fall in a 3 or 4 day period which would be around 3 times the May average rainfall. This magnitude of rainfall, coming at the end of the rainy season, would lead to flash flooding and an enhanced risk of landslides. Additionally there is potential for damaging hurricane force winds and a storm surge, leading to coastal flooding.

This forecast may be amended at any time

mailto: GGU@metoffice.gov.uk

Phone Duty Forecaster, Global Guidance Unit (GGU), Operations Centre, Met Office, Fitzroy Road, Exeter
VPN n6225 4319, BT 01392 884319

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Current and Past Cyclone Details	Forecast Cyclone Details (at 24, 48 and 72 hours from issue)
Current Location and Intensity Number  or L	Forecast Location and Intensity Number  or L
Very Destructive Hurricane Force Winds 	Very Destructive Wind Boundary 
Destructive Storm Force Winds 	Destructive Wind Boundary 
Damaging Gale Force Winds 	Gale Force Wind Boundary 
Past Track and Movement 	Most Likely Future Track 
Past Location and Intensity Number  or L	Range of Likely Tracks over 72 hours 

Figure 1. Latest official track from RSMC Nadi, Fiji. This track is further W than the previous official track, away from the Islands of Vanuatu

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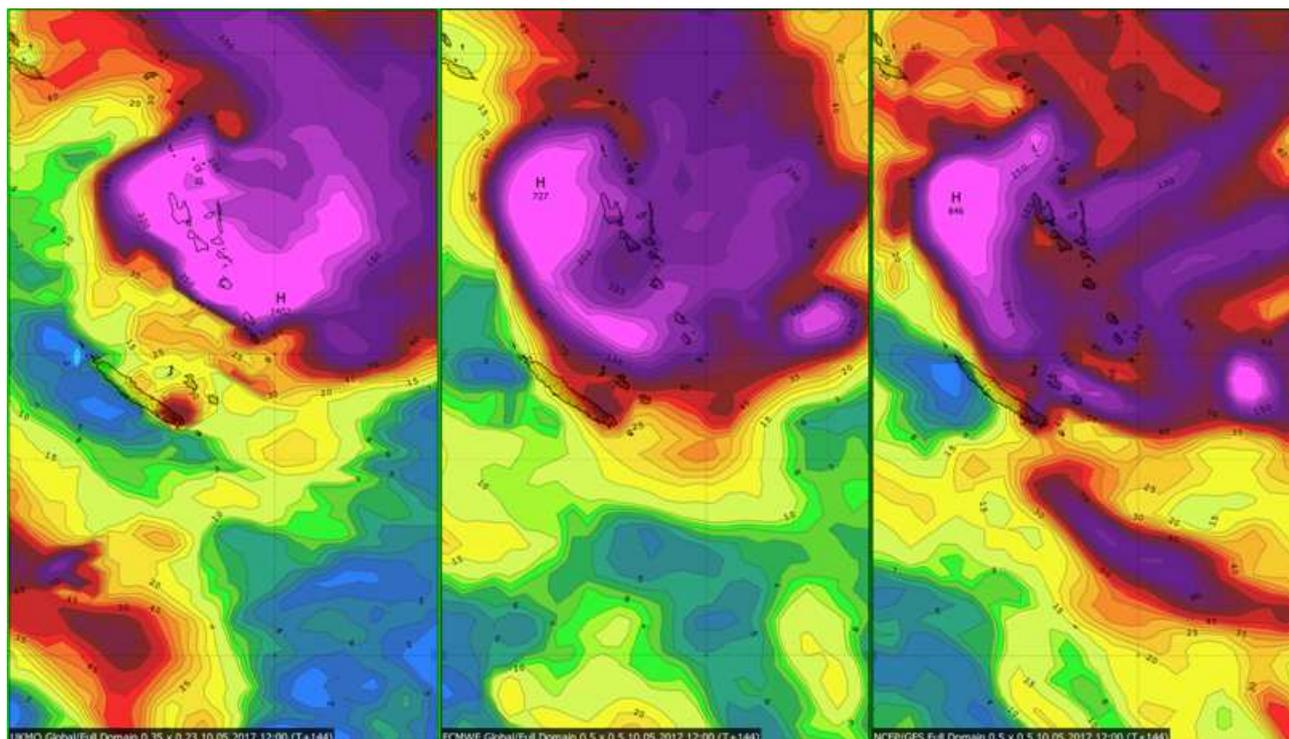


Figure 2. Accumulated rainfall from the 04/12Z runs of the GM (left), EC (middle) and GFS (right) up to 12Z on Wednesday – note the westwards shift of the peak rainfall accumulations in the EC and GFS models compared to the GM. This highlights the level of uncertainty regarding the likely severity of impacts across Vanuatu.

Sources

Met Office, ECMWF, NCEP, RSMC Nadi.

Issued at: 050530Z **Meteorologist:** Jenny Rourke **Global Guidance Unit**

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mailto: GGU@metoffice.gov.uk

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