

MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW
OCTOBER 2023

October 2023 was a warm, sunny and mostly dry month.

It was the seventh consecutive month with below average rainfall. The total of 46.8 millimetres was 21 mm lower than the average, with most of the rain (34.8 mm) falling overnight on the 26th/27th.

It was a very sunny month which caused daytime temperatures to be much higher than normal, while numerous clear nights resulted in lower than normal overnight minimums.

There were two notable temperature extremes - see below.

Winds were predominantly from the west and were stronger than normal for October.

Thunderstorms occurred on four days including a hailstorm in the early hours of the 27th - see below.

Noteworthy events:

24th-25th - The maximum temperatures of 30.5C on the 24th, and 30.7C on the 25th were the highest for the month of October since the drought year of 2019 which recorded two maximums in the low thirties.

27th - Hailstorm - Humid easterly winds feeding into a low pressure trough over north-eastern New South Wales caused the development of a large number of thunderstorms in the evening of the 26th and early hours of the 27th. Armidale experienced thunderstorms moving from the north from 10.40pm through until around 2am with hail from 12.55 to 1.10am. Hailstones 10 to 20 mm diameter were numerous enough to completely whiten the ground. Much needed rain during and following the storms totalled 34.8 mm for the 24 hours to 9am on the 27th.

OCTOBER 2023 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 46.8 mm (68.2 mm)

Rain days: 5 (9)

2023 rainfall total Jan to Oct: 457.4 mm (611.7 mm)

Average maximum temp: 23.6 deg (20.9 deg)

Average minimum temp: 4.6 deg (5.8 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 30.7 deg on the 25th

Lowest maximum temp: 14.6 deg on the 27th

Highest minimum temp: 13.8 deg on the 26th

Lowest minimum temp: -0.9 deg on the 6th

Fine sunny days: 24 (17)

Ideal weather days: 1 (2)

Days with thunderstorms: 4 (4)

Days with frosts: 5 (6) light: 4, moderate: 1

Days with fogs: 1 (2)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 10, SW: 7, E: 6, NW: 4, S: 2, N: 1, SE: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 5.1 mm (4.1 mm)

Thunderstorm Details:

2nd: 5.55-6.20pm - slight storm

4th: 7.25-7.35pm - slight storm from north-west

9.50-10.10pm - slight storm from north-west

26th: 10.40-11.10pm - slight storm from north

27th: 12.25-2.00am - moderate storm from north

12.55-1.10am - hailstones up to 2cm diameter - ground completely whitened