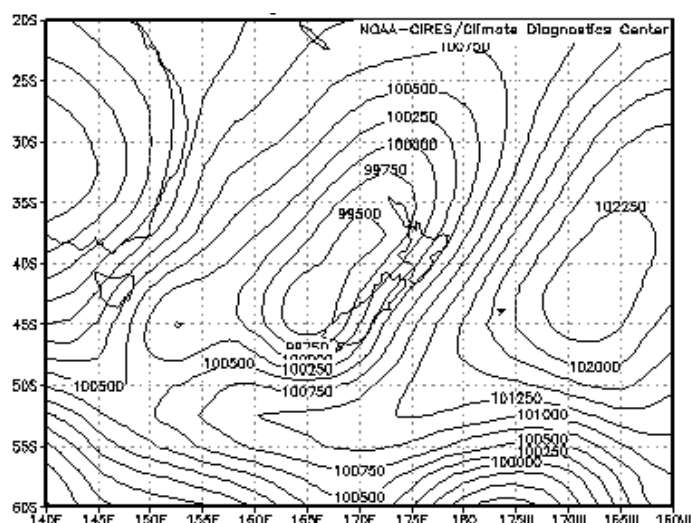


# Coastal Storm Database - Event Summary

Date: <b>17-19 May 1954</b>	Wind Direction: <b>NE</b>
Event Type: <b>Wind/Erosion</b>	Gisborne Duration (Hours): -
Location: <b>Gisborne</b>	Wellington Duration (Hours): -
Origin: <b>Australian Bight</b>	Pressure Gradient: <b>NE</b>
Type: <b>Anticyclonic</b>	

**19-May-1954 0:00**



## Synoptic Conditions

An anticyclone over NZ moved eastward while a subtropical low moved southward from near New Caledonia. On the 17th and 18th, the anticyclone was east of NZ and the cyclone west of Cook Strait and between them a strong NE airstream developed and swept over the North Island.

## Sea Conditions

Heavy seas along coast between East Cape and Gisborne

## Impact Area

Gisborne

Auckland

Wellington

## Impacts and Damages

- State highway between Tikitiki and Ruatoria closed due to washout near Mangaoporo bridge
- Heavy seas destroyed seawall at Tokomaru Bay (between Te Puka and Waima); foreshore bank behind wall eroded
- Flooding of streams damaged bridges between city and East Cape
- Telephone lines down around city
- Record low pressure reading of 972 hPa at 9.10pm
- Airport closed from low cloud and fog

## Data Source

- 1 Air Services Widely Disrupted: Dominion Post, 21/05/1954, p10

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- 2 Thames Cut off By Slips and Floods: Dominion Post, 19/05/1954, p10
  - 3 Flood Damage & Disruption in Three Districts: New Zealand Herald, 20/05/1954, p8
  - 4 Rain Aftermath: Waipatu County Pays Heavy Toll: Gisborne Herald, 21/05/1954, p6
  - 5 Storm Hits Communications: Farmlands are Still Menaced by Floodwaters: Gisborne Herald, 20/05/1954, p8
  - 6 NE Gale With Heavy Rain Soaks Coast: Gisborne Herald, 19/05/1954, p8
  - 7 Barometers Touch New Low Level: New Zealand Herald, 20/05/1954, p8
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