

Nation-wide heatwave kicks off as summer finally arrives in Australia

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Australians should prepare to swelter with every capital city set to have at least one day in the high 30s this week.

The nation-wide heatwave comes as a “hot air mass” moves across the country, Weatherzone meteorologist Craig McIntosh told 9news.com.au.

“A trough which will move across Australia, dragging hot air ahead of it,” Mr McIntosh said.

“Adelaide and Melbourne will be hottest on Wednesday, as a hot air mass is driven over the region by north North-West winds.

“Heaps of hot air is building up in the interior and it’s being pushed over Adelaide and Melbourne over the coming days peaking on Wednesday before a cold front brings relief.”

It won’t be too hot in Melbourne today with only a maximum of 23C expected, but that will change on Tuesday with the mercury expected to rise to 29C. It will jump again on Thursday to 36C.

In Adelaide tops of 30C, 36C and 37C are predicted for today, tomorrow and Wednesday respectively.

Both cities will have some relief by Thursday with a southerly change bringing the mercury back down to the mid-20s.

Mr McIntosh said the hot air mass will “push up into the ACT and NSW” after moving on from Adelaide and Melbourne.

In Canberra the mercury is expected to sit in the low- to mid-30s all week, and Sydney is already starting to warm up today with a high of 26C expected, but by Wednesday the mercury should rise to 29C, and again to 34C on Thursday.

“Eastern Sydney is not likely to go past the mid-30s at due to on shore winds,” Mr McIntosh said.

“However once you move west through Sydney and the wind starts getting blocked, that’s when we start seeing temperatures in the high-40s.”

Even Darwin is looking at slight warmer than average temperatures this week with maximums of 35C and 34C expected all week long, around 2C higher than the average for this time of year.

In Hobart the mercury is expected to jump to 29C on Wednesday, a hot day for the city for which the average temperature for this time of year is 20C.

Only Brisbane is missing out on the hot weather, with temperatures in the low-20s to mid-30s expected all week which Mr McIntosh said is “on the average scale”.

He attributed the cooler weather to “onshore winds” which are expected in Brisbane every day this week.

The hot air mass has just moved over Perth, which hit a high of 38C yesterday and is expecting a maximum of 35C today. The mercury is meant to drop a little from today, however

“Today is the last day of real heat for Perth, it should get to 35C today, but there’s a cold front approaching,” Mr McIntosh said.

“It’s going to bring relief to Perth – the same (cold front) that will eventually bring relief to the east.

“It’s all one big system, it just takes a fair while to move across.”