

**MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW**  
**SEPTEMBER 2019**

September 2019 was a severe drought month for Armidale with almost no rain, strong dry winds and day temperatures well above normal.

As the drought of 2018/19 continued to worsen the rainfall total of just 1.2 millimetres on 2 days was the third lowest on record for September (the lowest was zero millimetres in 1879), and the total for the year to the end of September of 194.2 mm was the driest on record (the previous driest January to September period was 243.4 mm in the drought year of 1874).

Along with the lack of rain day temperatures were much higher than normal with maximums reaching 20.0 degrees or higher on 23 days, while overnight minimums were lower than normal due to numerous calm clear nights. There were no notable temperature extremes.

Frosts continued throughout the month totalling 19, there were no thunderstorms, winds were mostly moderate westerlies, and bushfire smoke from the east reduced visibility on 6 days.

***Noteworthy events:***

**5th & 6th** - North-westerly winds ahead of an intense cold front produced unusually high early spring temperatures with maximums of 26.2C on the 5th and 26.4C on the 6th. Winds on the 6th became strong gusting to 80 kms per hour at Armidale airport in the late afternoon along with a dust haze reducing visibility to around 4 kms at 6pm. Along with the strong winds relative humidity was unusually low during the day dropping to just 8 per cent from 10am to 3pm.

**17th** - Although bushfire smoke affected Armidale on several days during the month, the most severe case was on the 17th when a thick smoke haze developed over the city from around 10am to 3pm. The smoke was at its thickest at midday with visibility reduced to just 2000 metres. The smoke was blown in by easterly winds from large bushfires in the Ebor area.

***SEPTEMBER 2019 STATISTICS*** (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 1.2 mm (50.7 mm)

Rain days: 2 (8)

2019 rainfall total Jan to Sep: 194.2 mm (543.2 mm)

Average maximum temp: 21.0 deg (17.8 deg)

Average minimum temp: 0.8 deg (2.6 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 26.4 deg on the 6th

Lowest maximum temp: 11.8 deg on the 9th

Highest minimum temp: 10.2 deg on the 20th

Lowest minimum temp: -4.3 deg on the 11th

Fine sunny days: 20 (19)

Ideal weather days: 1 (3)

Days with thunderstorms: 0 (2)

Days with frosts: 19 (15) light: 4, moderate: 14, severe: 1

Days with fogs: 1 (2)

Wind direction at airport at 3pm & number of days: W: 13, SW: 7, NW: 3, E: 3, SE: 3, NE: 1

Average daily pan evaporation: 4.4 mm (3.2 mm)

*Armidale weather on-line: [www.weatherarmidale.com](http://www.weatherarmidale.com)*