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## Snow Blankets NSW Northern Tablelands in Rare Weather Event

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A rare snowfall swept across the Northern Tablelands of New South Wales this weekend, bringing with it widespread wonder and unexpected disruption.

The towns of Guyra, Armidale, Black Mountain, and surrounding areas woke up to a white blanket on Saturday morning, following earlier forecasts that initially seemed unlikely to deliver. While drizzle dominated Friday, snow fell overnight, surprising residents and drawing visitors to the region.

By early Saturday, communities such as Guyra – sitting at 1,330 metres above sea level – experienced their most generous snowfall in years. Locals and tourists alike took advantage of the winter spectacle, building snowmen and capturing scenes reminiscent of alpine towns.

In Black Mountain, located between Guyra and Armidale, conditions were ideal for significant snow accumulation. Roads and highways turned treacherous, causing some motorists to become stranded in Glencoe until the New England Highway could be cleared.

The snowfall also impacted Armidale Regional Airport, where aircraft were left covered in snow and the runway was temporarily closed. The local council confirmed operations would resume no earlier than 9:00 am on Sunday.

Elsewhere, a NSW TrainLink service was delayed at Walcha Road Station due to snow-covered tracks, adding to the region's transport complications. Transport for NSW has been contacted for comment regarding ongoing delays.

Meanwhile, livestock across the region braved the harsh conditions. Photos from Glenavon Angus near Guyra showed cattle surrounded by snow, while sheep in Glencoe stood huddled together in icy paddocks. Despite the weather, some farming operations continued, including preparations for an upcoming bull sale.

Flooding also became a concern in Armidale, where Dumaresq Creek swelled and overflowed into Curtis Park and nearby roads. Local authorities are monitoring low-lying areas as weather conditions evolve.

While several sporting events were cancelled across the Tablelands due to either snow or flooding, rugby players at The Armidale School carried on with their matches, defying the chilly conditions.

The State Emergency Service (SES) described the snowfall as highly unusual, noting it had reached areas not typically affected by snow. The broader community response has been a mixture of excitement and caution, as residents navigate the beauty and challenges of an uncommon winter phenomenon.

As the region slowly thaws, attention now turns to clean-up efforts, transport recovery, and ensuring that farming activities remain on track amid ongoing cold snaps.