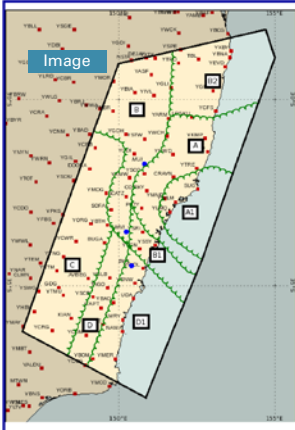




Aviation Meteorological Services GAF Reference Card




The **Graphical Area Forecast (GAF)** provides forecast weather information in the airspace between the surface and 10000 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in a graphical layout with supporting text.



Image

Graphical Area Forecast SFC - 10000FT NSW-E
 Issued at 1804040420Z - Valid 040500 to 041100Z
 Weather Features valid at 040500Z



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

AREA	SURFACE VIS AND WX	CLOUD, ICING AND TURB	FZLVL
A	>10KM NIL	BKN ST 2000/6000FT FM 07Z BKN CU 3000/8000FT	ABV 10000FT
	4000M SCT SHRA (WDSPR IN A1)	BKN ST 1500/3000FT BKN CU 3000/ABV10000FT	
	2000M ISOL TSRA	ISOL CB 3000/ABV10000FT BKN ST 1000/3000FT BKN CU 3000/ABV10000FT	
	0500M ISOL FG LAND FM 10Z	BKN ST 1000/2000FT	
B	>10KM NIL	BKN ST 2000/8000FT FM 09Z (IN B1 AND B2 FM 07Z) SCT SC 3000/8000FT (BKN B1 AND B2 FM 07Z) SCT CU 6000/ABV10000FT	ABV 10000FT
	5000M ISOL SHRA	SCT ST 1500/3000FT BKN CU 3000/ABV10000FT	
	0500M ISOL FG LAND IN B1 AND B2 FM 10Z	BKN ST 1000/2000FT	
		MOD TURB BLW 5000FT W OF YTFD/YBTH FM 09Z	
C	>10KM NIL	SCT CU 6000/10000FT MOD TURB BLW 5000FT N OF YPKS/YBTH FM 09Z	ABV 10000FT
	>10KM NIL	BKN ST 2000/6000FT FM 09Z (IN D1 FM 07Z) SCT CU 6000/10000FT (BKN AND BASES 3000FT D1)	ABV 10000FT
D	>10KM NIL	BKN ST 2000/6000FT FM 09Z (IN D1 FM 07Z) SCT CU 6000/10000FT (BKN AND BASES 3000FT D1)	ABV 10000FT
	0500M ISOL FG LAND IN D1 FM 10Z	BKN ST 1000/2000FT	

REMARKS:
 CRITICAL LOCATIONS (HEIGHT AMSL)
 MLI [2300FT] 9999 SCT CU 6000FT, BECMG 0408/0410 9999 SCT ST 3000FT
 MV [3700FT] 9999 SCT CU 5000FT, BECMG 0407/0409 BKN ST 3700FT [CLD ON GND]
 BWL [2200FT] 9999 SCT CU 5000FT, BECMG 0407/0409 BKN ST 2200FT [CLD ON GND]

Legend

All heights AMSL

TS / CB / TCU implies SEV ICE and SEV TURB
 CU / SC / AC implies MOD CLD ABV FZLVL implies MOD ICE

Speed of movement in KT ● refers to Critical Locations

— refers to Limit of Forecast

Check AIRMETS, SIGMETS and NOTAMS

GAF Layout

The **image** shows weather areas, which are separated by green scalloped lines and are labelled with alpha or alphanumeric characters.

The **legend** specifies some critical information denoted within the GAF.

The **remarks** field includes additional information of operational relevance, including forecasts for critical locations and a summary of any GAF corrections.

The **header** contains the title of the product, GAF area name, issue time and validity times.

The **table** provides weather, cloud, visibility, icing, turbulence and freezing level forecasts, and is separated into areas labelled with alpha characters.

Approved Units

Distance Nautical Miles (NM)

Speed Knots (KT)

Horizontal visibility Metres (M)

Cloud Height Feet (FT)

Base and top of areas of icing and turbulence Feet (FT)

Freezing Level Feet (FT)

Time UTC (Z)

Symbol	Weather feature
↘	Cold fronts
L	Significant low pressure systems
⋮	Significant surface troughs
↙	Direction-of-motion arrows
🌀	Tropical cyclones (severe and non-severe)

Approved Abbreviations (Abbr) and Terms used in GAFs

Abbr/ Term	Description
ABV	Above
AC	Alto cumulus
AS	Altostratus
BECMG	Becoming
BLW	Below
BL	Blowing
BKN	Broken
BR	Mist
CAVOK	Ceiling & Visibility OK
CLD	Cloud
CLD ON GND	Cloud on ground
COR	Correction
CB	Cumulonimbus
CU	Cumulus
DR	Drifting
DU	Dust
DS	Dust Storm
DZ	Drizzle
E	East
ELEV	Elevation
EMBD	Embedded
FEW	Few
FC	Funnel Cloud
FG	Fog
FT	Feet
FU	Smoke
FZ	Freezing
FZ LZR	Freezing Layer
FZLVL	Freezing Level
FRQ	Frequent
FM	From

Abbr/ Term	Description
GR	Hail
GS	Small hail or snow pellets
HZ	Haze
+	Heavy
ICE	Icing
IMPR	Improvement in conditions
INTER	Intermittent conditions
ISOL	Isolated
KM	Kilometres
KT	Knot
-	Light
L	Low pressure
M	Metres
MOD	Moderate
MTW	Mountain Waves
NM	Nautical mile
NIL	Nil
NS	Nimbostratus
N	North
NE	Northeast
NW	Northwest
OBSC	Obscured
OCNL	Occasional
OVC	Overcast
PL	Ice Pellets
PO	Dust Devils
RA	Rain
SA	Sand
SG	Snow Grains
SS	Sandstorm

Abbr/ Term	Description
SCT	Scattered
SEV	Severe
SH	Shower/s
SN	Snow
S	South
SE	Southeast
SW	Southwest
SQ	Squall
SQL	Squall Line
STNR	Stationary
SC	Stratocumulus
SFC	Surface
ST	Stratus
TEMPO	Temporary conditions
TL	Until
TS	Thunderstorm
TOP(S)	Cloud Top(s)
TCU	Towering cumulus
TRANS ERR	Transmission error
TURB	Turbulence
TYPO	Typographical error
VAL	Valley/s
VA	Volcanic Ash
VIS	Visibility
W	West
WDSPR	Widespread
WI	Within
Z	Zulu

