

# Enabling pilots to steer clear of volcanic ash

Ash ejected high into the atmosphere from volcanic eruptions presents a serious safety risk for aviation. If ingested into jet engines it can cause serious damage and even power failure. The Bureau of Meteorology operates one of the world's nine Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres, which provide pilots with real-time information on volcanic ash hazards. The Bureau reports on possible and active eruptions and the distribution and movement of volcanic ash in the atmosphere. Qantas pilots use the Bureau's volcanic ash advisories to navigate safe routes through the Asia-Pacific region, where there are more than 150 active volcanoes.



Indonesia's Sangeang Api erupted in June 2014. Domestic and international flights from Darwin were grounded until conditions were safe to fly.

Image: Sofyan Effendi,  
Barcroft Media/Getty Images

*The active Indonesian volcanic archipelago presents challenges for air travel over this region. The Bureau's volcanic ash monitoring and forecasting service provides essential information necessary to allow Qantas to determine how it will operate safely and efficiently.*



## **Graham Rennie**

Principal Advisor  
Global Operations Development  
Qantas



**Australian Government**  
Bureau of Meteorology