Radar Images

User guide – version 1.3 – updated 5 November 2025

This user guide provides a summary of the radar rainfall reflectivity images available to Registered Users via FTP and cloud (S)FTP. A mosaic of rainfall intensity levels is also available to Registered Users as a WMS layer in the Bureau's GIS2Web service.

Products

Table 1 provides a list of the radar image products included in the radar image bundle (IDBRA000).

Product Code	Product Description
IDR00004	National Radar Mosaic (incorporating data from all available radars)
IDR*nnn*1	Broad Scale 512km x 512km Composite Radar Image
IDR*nnn*2	Mid-Scale 256km x 256km Radar Image
IDR*nnn*3	Local Scale 128km x 128km Radar Image
IDR*nnn*4*	Local Scale 64km x 64km Radar Image
IDR*nnn*I*	Doppler Velocity Radar Image
IDR*nnn*A*	Rainfields - 5-minute accumulation
IDR*nnn*B*	Rainfields - 1 hour accumulation
IDR*nnn*C*	Rainfields – rainfall since 9am local time
IDR*nnn*D*	Rainfields – rainfall in the previous 24 hours to 9am local time
IDR999*nnn*	Radar Status Report – issued when radars have planned or unplanned outages

Table 1 Radar image products included in the radar image bundle (IDBRA000), where *nnn* is the individual radar ID.
* Please note that these products are not available for all radars (see the Radar Images section of the Radar Product Matrix for a list of available products for each radar).

File Location

Files are available in the /radar subdirectory of Registered Users' directories.

These products are available via cloud FTP (ftp-reg.cloud.bom.gov.au), SFTP (sftp-reg.cloud.bom.gov.au) and ftp.bom.gov.au.

Files are also available via anonymous FTP at: ftp://ftp.bom.gov.au/anon/gen/radar/. Please note that use of data from anonymous FTP should be in accordance with the copyright notice and disclaimer.

File Naming Conventions

National radar mosaic files conform to the following naming convention:

IDR00004.T.*yyyymmddhhmm*.png

Radar image files for individual radars conform to the following naming convention:

IDR*nnnx*.T.*yyyymmddhhmm*.png

IDR*nnnx*.gif (latest image)

Radar status reports conform to the following naming convention:

IDR999*nnn*.html

File-name key	
ID*Rnnnx*	Product Code as listed in Table 1
nnn	is the radar ID
yyyymmddhhmm	refers to the date and time in UTC

Radar Transparencies

Radar image coordinates can be found at:
ftp://ftp.bom.gov.au/anon/gen/radar_transparencies/coordinates/

Due to most browsers no longer supporting FTP, it is generally necessary to use an FTP client such as Filezilla to retrieve the files. Alternatively, they can be accessed via Windows File Explorer by pasting the above link into the address bar.

Files conform to the following naming convention:

IDR*nnnx*.map

File-name key	
nnn	is the radar ID
x	refers to the image radius (1 = 512km, 2 = 256km, 3 = 128km, 4 = 64km)

Radar image transparencies can be found at:

ftp://ftp.bom.gov.au/anon/gen/radar_transparencies/.

Files conform to the following naming convention:

IDR*nnnx.map_feature*.png

File-name key	
nnn	is the radar ID
x	refers to the image radius (1 = 512km, 2 = 256km, 3 = 128km, 4 = 64km)
map_feature	refers to the radar image transparency layers listed in Table 2

Table 2 provides descriptions of the available radar image transparency layers

Map_feature	Radar Image Transparency Layer Description
background	Land masses and state/territory boundaries.
catchments	River catchments from the Geoscience Australia dataset Australia's River Basins (1997), with some additional boundaries supplied by the State Water Agencies.
locations	A subset of the localities (bounded and unbounded) in the Gazetteer of Australia (2006) supplied by Geoscience Australia. Place names were chosen to assist in relating areas of rain to landmarks, and not because of the size of a town. In some cases where there are two places close to one another, one name is on the 128 km range map and the other on the 256 km range map.
rail	The primary source of the Railways layer is Geoscience Australia TOPO250K (2006) Series 3. The Mandurah railway line was supplied by TransPerth.
range	Radial distances from the radar location.
roads	Subsets of the Geoscience Australia TOPO 250K (2006) Series 3 product. The 64 km and 128 km transparencies include display dual carriageway, principal and secondary roads. The secondary roads are not shown on the 256 km and 512 km transparencies.
topography	The Topography or elevation data are from the Global Digital Elevation Model (GTOPO30) developed by United States Geological Survey (1996). The data has been resampled to a 2 km grid. The topographic colour scale is shown in Figure 1.
waterways	The Geoscience Australia TOPO 250K (2006) Series 3 product is the source of the Lakes & Major Rivers (waterways) layer. Only named lakes and named watercourses are shown.
wthrDistricts	Public Weather Forecast Districts (as shown on the maps for Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory).

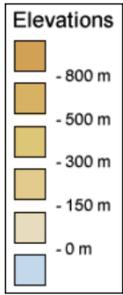Table 2 Descriptions of radar image transparency layers.

Figure 1 Topographic colour scale

Radar IDs

Please see the Radar Images section of the radar product matrix for a list of available products for each radar ID: http://reg.bom.gov.au/catalogue/radar_product_matrix.pdf

Further Information

About Weather radars | The Bureau of Meteorology

Contact us

For enquiries about real-time data please email webreg@bom.gov.au