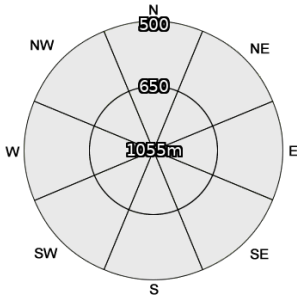


**Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Thu 15/03/2018 TO 18:00HRS Fri 16/03/2018**



Hazard Level	Avalanche Probability
<b>Very High</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. Numerous very large, often extremely large natural avalanches can be expected.
<b>High</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches will occur. In some cases, numerous large, often very large sized natural avalanches can be expected.
<b>Considerable</b>	Natural and human triggered avalanches possible, in some cases large, in isolated cases very large sized natural avalanches are possible.
<b>Moderate</b>	Very large sized natural avalanches are unlikely. Human triggering possible in indicated steep places.
<b>Low</b>	Only small and medium sized natural avalanches are possible. Human triggering possible in steep, extreme terrain.

**Forecast Weather Influences**

Easterly gales will persist throughout the period. A largely dry day is expected with cloud becoming more broken through the day allowing some bright spells to develop. Freezing around 700 metres.

**Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

The snowpack will remain well consolidated and stable throughout. It will continue to become patchy, particularly at lower elevations, with significant bare areas on previously windward slopes. The slow thaw will continue on lower slopes but some firming up of the snow will occur above 700 metres. The avalanche hazard will be Low.

**Observed Avalanche Hazard - Thu 15/03/2018**

**Observed Weather Influences**

A dry, cloudy and very windy day, with summit gusts in excess of 70mph. Gale force East-South-East winds persisted throughout the period. Cloud bases around 900 metres on more inland mountains, brighter spells nearer the coast. Generally mild, but freezing around summit level.

**Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

The snowpack has generally good stability throughout and continues to consolidate. A slow thaw continues at most elevations, with some surface softening occurring. The snowpack is becoming patchy with significant bare areas, although reasonable and firm snow cover exists above 650 metres. The avalanche hazard is Low.

**Mountain Conditions**

**Observed Mountain Travel Conditions**

Diminishing snowpack at lower elevations, good above 650 metres. Cloudy on the tops with some bright spells. Winds 20 -30 mph, with progress difficult at times with stronger gusts.

**Comments**

The gales will continue into the weekend. Becoming colder but little to no precipitation is forecast. Expect significant windchill at summit levels.