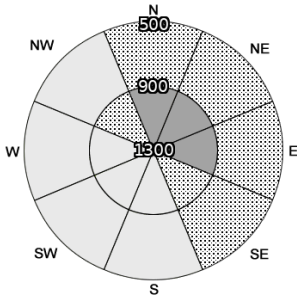


# Northern Cairngorms - Issued 16/02/2020

## Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sun 16/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Mon 17/02/2020



| 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

Stormy conditions will continue with persistent snowfall above 500 to 700 metres. Gale to storm force South-Westerly winds will ease strong to gale force through the day and veer to the West-South-West. The freezing level will generally be around 700 metres.

### Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Moderate to poorly bonded windslab will become more widespread on Northerly to Easterly aspects above 900 metres where avalanches are likely. Steep and convex terrain will be especially affected. Localised unstable windslab will be present in these areas on steep banks below 900 metres. Other aspects will be affected in wind sheltered terrain features due to cross loading. Cornices will be unstable. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

## Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sun 16/02/2020

### Observed Weather Influences

Snow showers above 300 metres became persistent and heavy through the afternoon on gale to storm force South-Westerly winds. The freezing level was around 600 metres.

### Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

The old snowpack has developed a widespread crust and is stabilising in the cooler temperatures. New accumulations of moderate to poorly bonded windslab have developed on Northerly to Easterly aspects above 900 metres. Moderately bonded windslab is present on steep sheltered banks below 900 metres. North-West and South-East aspects are affected by cross loading. Cornices are unstable. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

### Mountain Conditions

#### Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Deep snow drifts developing - some exposed ridges scoured. Whiteout conditions with poor visibility at all levels especially during the afternoon. Winds approx 75 mph and above, serious and challenging conditions.

#### Comments

Snow showers and Severe gales expected to continue up until midweek.