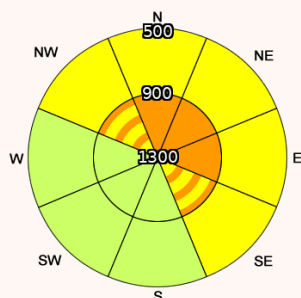


# Northern Cairngorms - Issued 18/02/2020

## Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Tue 18/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Wed 19/02/2020



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

Strong West to South-Westerly winds will back to the South by the afternoon. Snow showers will peter out overnight. Dry though the morning then further snow showers in the afternoon. The 600 metre freezing level will steadily rise towards the summits by the end of the day.

### Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Moderate to weakly bonded windslab will become more widespread on North through East to South-East aspects especially above 900 metres. As the wind backs to the South, North-West facing slopes will also be affected. On these aspects avalanches are likely within areas of steep terrain. Localised windslab will be present on steep banks below 900 metres. Cross loading onto other aspects. Cornices will be unstable. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

## Observed Avalanche Hazard - Tue 18/02/2020

### Observed Weather Influences

Strong Westerly winds with squally snow showers throughout the day. The freezing level was around 600 metres.

### Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Significant drifting with moderate to poorly bonded windslab continuing to develop on North through East to South-East aspects. Most widespread accumulations are above 900 metres with steep sheltered and convex areas being most affected. Windslab is also present on North-West aspects due to cross loading. On these aspects below 900 metres localised unstable windslab has developed on steep sheltered banks. Fragile cornices overhang these areas. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

### Mountain Conditions

#### Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Variable underfoot conditions, breakable crust, deep drifts, icy ridges. A mix of clear spells and whiteout conditions with poor visibility at all levels during squally snow showers. Winds approx 30 - 60 mph progress very difficult with potential to be taken off your feet during the gusts.

#### Comments

A lot of drifting snow and swirling wind in the corries especially during the squally showers.