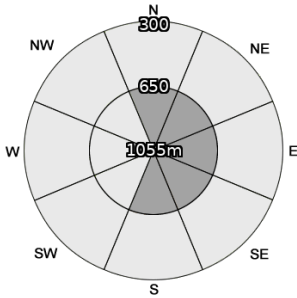


**Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Thu 20/02/2020 TO 18:00HRS Fri 21/02/2020**



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**

Snow showers will peter out overnight turning to rain at all levels in the morning, returning to scattered showers later, wintry on the highest summits. The freezing level will rise above the summits overnight, lowering to 1000 metres in the afternoon. The wind will generally be strong West-South-West, strengthening to severe gale force for a time in the morning.

**Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

There will be a period of heightened snowpack instability in the morning as a rapid thaw and rain affects existing unstable windslab. Most affected will be steep ridge flanks, coire rims, backwalls and gullies, North through East to South aspects, above 650 metres, where avalanches are likely. Cornices will be prone to collapse. Some snowpack consolidation expected later in the period. Windward aspects will be scoured and stable. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

**Observed Avalanche Hazard - Thu 20/02/2020**

**Observed Weather Influences**

Frequent blustery showers, wintry to low levels, with bright spells between the showers, blown on a strong Westerly wind. The freezing level remained around 400 metres.

**Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard**

The existing snowpack is generally well consolidated and stable. Large areas of fresh unstable windslab are accumulating in steep wind sheltered locations. Most affected are ridge flanks, coire rims, backwalls and gullies, North-East to South-East aspects above 650 metres. Cross loading is affecting other aspects. Fragile cornices are forming above similar locations. Windward slopes are scoured. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

**Mountain Conditions**

**Observed Mountain Travel Conditions**

Deep snow drifts at all levels - some exposed ridges scoured. Good visibility, poor during showers and in spindrift. Winds 10 - 20 mph fresh and cooling, much stronger at higher elevations.

**Comments**

Another freeze-thaw cycle tomorrow, followed by a cold showery airflow thereafter. Hard going through deep drifts of soft snow particularly at lower elevations.