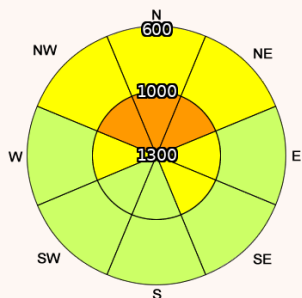


# Northern Cairngorms - Issued 14/03/2020

## Avalanche Hazard Forecast - FOR PERIOD 18:00HRS Sat 14/03/2020 TO 18:00HRS Sun 15/03/2020



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 expected throughout the forecast period. Strong to gale force South-South-Westerly winds will ease moderate to strong during the day and veer West to North-North-Westerly. The freezing level will rise to above the summits briefly during the early evening before falling to 800 metres, then 600 metres by mid afternoon.

### Forecast Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Snowpack instabilities will persist on NW to NE aspects mainly above 1000 metres. Most affected will be in steep terrain around ridge flanks, coire headwalls and gully exits. Cornices will be unstable. As it turns cooler the snowpack will begin to consolidate at lower altitudes; however some instabilities will persist above 800 metres mainly in steep convex locations. Localised windslab will develop through the day on E to SE aspects above 900m. The avalanche hazard will be Considerable.

## Observed Avalanche Hazard - Sat 14/03/2020

### Observed Weather Influences

Snow showers throughout the day on gale force Southerly winds. The freezing level rose to 900 metres by midday.

### Observed Snow Stability and Avalanche Hazard

Poorly bonded windslab has developed on NW to NE aspects mainly above 900 metres. Steep and convex areas such as gully exits, ridge flanks and coire headwalls are mostly affected. E aspects are becoming eroded, however localised instabilities persist here. Unstable cornices overhang these areas. W facing slopes have been affected by cross loading. Deep accumulations of moderately bonded windslab have developed on steep banks and slopes below 900m. The avalanche hazard is Considerable.

### Mountain Conditions

#### Observed Mountain Travel Conditions

Deep snow drifts above 600m - some exposed ridges scoured. Whiteout conditions with poor visibility above 800m. Winds approx 50 - 60 mph progress very difficult with potential to be taken off your feet

#### Comments