



**Australian Government**  
**Bureau of Meteorology**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A  
REVIEW OF THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**

**Objective**

The objective of the Review is to assess the ability of the Bureau of Meteorology to sustainably fulfil its role as Australia's National Meteorological and Hydrological Service.

**Conduct**

The Review will be conducted by a Panel that will:

- (a) include five independent experts: an expert in management, an expert in finances, an expert in meteorology, an expert in corporate transformation and an expert in scientific commercialisation;
- (b) involve broad consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- (c) be supported by a Secretariat provided by the Bureau of Meteorology in consultation with the Department of the Environment and Heritage; and
- (d) make recommendations on the activities the Bureau should undertake, and the financial, operational and structural implications of pursuing those activities, and the required actions to ensure the long-term vitality and sustainability of meteorological and related services.

The Panel to report to the Minister, the Parliamentary Secretary and the Bureau of Meteorology on or before 31 March 2007.

**Scope**

The scope of the Review is guided by the role and functions of the Bureau of Meteorology as described in the Meteorology Act (1955)

**Considerations**

The Review will consider:

- (a) The general vision for creating a world leading 21<sup>st</sup> century meteorological organisation.
- (b) The impact of the Bureau on the Australian community and the ways in which this impact could be increased and linked transparently to the mechanism by which funding is allocated.
- (c) The changing needs and expectations of users of climate and weather services in Australia.
- (d) Resourcing of the Bureau with reference to its current business model and, in particular, its relationship to and impact on the delivery and maintenance of Bureau of Meteorology core infrastructure and services, including completion and extension of radar and related networks for Australia.
- (e) The implications of the Australian Government's accrual and cash management frameworks, and Government policy measures such as the Efficiency Dividend, Risk Management and the like on the operations of the Bureau of Meteorology, given its unique role and responsibilities.
- (f) The human and financial resources underpinning the basic infrastructure and systems of the Bureau of Meteorology, such as observing networks and information and communications technology.
- (g) The benefits and impacts of efficiency drives and resourcing cycles over the last decade and the scope for future efficiencies within the supporting infrastructure of the Bureau of Meteorology.
- (h) The service model of the Bureau of Meteorology in relation to resources and assess the risks arising for key stakeholders such as defence, aviation, public safety and well-being, Australian government agencies, industry and the private sector.
- (i) The management of both human resources and financial arrangements.
- (j) The factors that have an impact on the Bureau's capacity to expand its client base and increase revenue. It will look at those aspects that can be sustained through cost recovery and commercial arrangements and those that require public funding.
- (k) The effectiveness of the Bureau in meeting its objectives under its existing business model, governance arrangements and management structure, and scope for future improvements in effectiveness.

- (l) The capacity of the Bureau to contribute to monitoring of and preparation for climate change and related weather events.
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### **MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY REVIEW PANEL**

**Chaired by:** Prof Mary O’Kane

**Members:** Mr Len Early  
General Jack Kelly  
Dr James Moody  
Ms Siobhan McKenna