

AVIATION STATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM

New South Wales

Submission date: 27/04/2021

TITLE	Information: Sydney Airport Meteorological Unit (SAMU) closure and transfer of services to the Aviation Forecast Centres (AFC)
SUBMITTED BY	Ashwin Naidu – Bureau of Meteorology (ashwin.naidu@bom.gov.au)
CONSULTATION SUMMARY	To advise members of the formal closure of Sydney Airport Meteorological Unit (SAMU) effective from Thursday, 28 April 2021.
KEY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Thursday 29 April 2021, the Bureau of Meteorology will formally close Sydney Airport Meteorological Unit (SAMU). • Services provided by SAMU will be transferred to the Bureau's Aviation Forecast Centres (AFCs) and the Network Coordination Centre Meteorological Unit (NCCMET). • The attachment outlines the changes in responsibilities, communication channels and new contact details.
CONTACT	Ashwin Naidu, Bureau of Meteorology
CLOSE DATE	12 May 2021
ATTACHMENTS	1. Background to closure and transfer of SAMU services to the AFCs.

After extensive discussion and agreement with the Aviation community, the Bureau of Meteorology will formally close Sydney Airport Meteorological Unit (SAMU) on **Thursday 29th April 2021**. Services provided by SAMU will be transferred to the Bureau's Aviation Forecast Centres (AFCs) and the Network Coordination Centre Meteorological Unit (NCCMET).

This communication outlines the change in services, update to contact numbers and background information (Appendix A) on the transformation and consultation with industry.

Service Changes

The table below outlines changes in responsibilities and services with the transfer of SAMU's Services to the AFCs and NCCMET.

<u><i>SAMU Services (before transfer to AFCs).</i></u>	<u><i>SAMU Services (after transfer to AFCs).</i></u>
Routine Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAFs) and related airport warnings for - YSSY, YSBK, YSHW, YSCN, YSHL .	Service provided by the NSW-East desk in the AFCs. No change to issue time and frequency.
<i>Sydney Airport Weather Briefing (AWB) issued at 00Z, 06Z, 12Z and 18Z.</i>	Sydney AWB issued at 18Z and 06Z by the NSW-East desk in the AFCs. Issued twice a day in line with the other major airports.
<i>Issue and monitor TAFs and warnings at YSRI and YWLM, when the Defense base is not staffed by the Bureau forecaster (weekends and public holidays).</i>	Service provided by the NSW-East desk in the AFCs. No change to issue time and frequency.
<i>Verbal weather briefings relating to TAF/GAFs, current weather, and related products to the Aviation Community (i.e., Pilots, Airline Dispatch).</i>	Verbal weather briefings to be provided by the NSW-East desk forecaster. No change in service.

<i>Attend and provide weather briefings for the Sydney region at the Airservices Australia 6:20 am industry teleconference.</i>	NCCMET meteorologist to attend and provide required weather briefings at the industry teleconference.
<i>Weather-related decision support services to Airservices Traffic Managers for airport operations and Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM).</i>	NCCMET meteorologist is responsible for providing specialist and decision support services relating to airport operations and ATFM. Airservices Traffic Managers will still have access to forecasters preparing the TAF if required.
<i>Real-time weather intelligence critical for airport operations, such as wind observations/trends relevant to runway selection, airport warnings and immediate high impact weather.</i>	NSW-East desk meteorologist is responsible for real-time/immediate high impact weather intelligence. AFC and NCCMET meteorologists will work together in delivering a consistent and responsive service.
<i>Ad-hoc Airservices industry teleconferences for ATFM revisions and Ground Departure Program (GDP) updates.</i>	NCCMET meteorologist is responsible for providing weather briefings and decision support during ad-hock industry teleconferences.

Table 1 SAMU Services responsibilities and changes.

For Sydney basin TAFs, warnings and weather briefings, please contact the Aviation Meteorologist on the **NSW-East desk on 02 9296 1526.**

For Airport and ATFM decision support services, please contact the Aviation Meteorologist in **NCCMET on 02 6268 4448.**

SAMU's direct number (02 9296 1636) will be diverted to the NSW-E desk for the next few months, but please update your contact numbers.

As a key stakeholder of the Bureau of Meteorology, we appreciate any support you can give by advising your colleagues or networks about this important upcoming change. We welcome feedback on our services at any time.

Attachment 1: Background to closure and transfer of SAMU services to the AFCs.

- 1 The Bureau has specialist aviation teams embedded at Airservices facilities in Sydney and Canberra; the Sydney Airport Met Unit (SAMU) and Network Coordination Centre Meteorology Unit (NCC-Met). The previous consolidation of aviation services to the Melbourne and Brisbane Aviation Forecast Centres (AFC) excluded changes at SAMU and NCCMet.
- 2 A formal review and consultation with internal and external stakeholders were completed in 2019 and focused on meteorological services at major airports and the tailored services provided to support Airservices' air traffic management functions.
- 3 A recommended high-level target operating model, including the primary design features and parameters, was prepared and approved by the Bureau's Executive Team in April 2020.
- 4 The high-level model identifies changes to the roles and responsibilities of the aviation teams embedded at Airservices Australia facilities in Sydney and Canberra, in particular, the transfer of SAMU services to the Aviation Forecast Centres in Brisbane and Melbourne.
- 5 The model had the following implications for the Bureau's teams:
 - a. SAMU responsibilities are transferred to the Melbourne and Brisbane Aviation Forecast Centres, and the Sydney Airport office is de-staffed.
 - b. NCC-Met will move from extended hours to 24/365 operations with responsibilities to evolve in line with Airservices traffic management initiatives. Extensions to operational coverage will occur as required as the aviation sector recovers from the impacts of COVID-19.
 - c. The concept of operations at the Melbourne and Brisbane AFC's will be refined to accommodate the additional responsibilities with communication and collaboration channels to be enhanced to Airservices teams.
- 6 The "Transformation of Major Airport Services" project will define a detailed concept of operations and the activities and timelines required for a successful and seamless service transition.
- 7 The transfer of SAMU duties to the AFCs is the first step in this transformation, aiming to provide for the smooth transition of SAMU's services to the AFCs with the central aim of maintaining service resilience and quality for Sydney Airport and surrounding aerodromes, including meteorological support to Sydney Airservices traffic manages
- 8 SAMU has been operating as a "virtual" team over the last six months, comprising staff from SAMU, Melbourne and Brisbane AFCs. The graduated transition of duties to the AFCs is aiding knowledge and skills transfer from the SAMU team to AFC staff, supporting a smooth transition of services.
- 9 The Bureau will continue to refine major airports and ATFM specialist services. It will strive to implement an operational concept that can adapt to future organisational developments and changing Airservices requirements.