

AVIATION STATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM

QUEENSLAND

Submission date: 29/04/2022

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| TITLE | Information: New Taroom Weather Radar |
| SUBMITTED BY | Cathy Kingston – Bureau of Meteorology (cathy.kingston@bom.gov.au) |
| CONSULTATION SUMMARY | To advise members of a new weather radar at Taroom, Queensland |
| KEY ISSUES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Friday 29 April 2022, images from the newly installed Taroom weather radar will be live on the Bureau of Meteorology's website (http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDR983.loop.shtml#skip) and the BOM Weather app. • Taroom is a dual-polarised Doppler radar - one of the best technologies for observing real-time rainfall and wind conditions across large areas. • The new radar will provide improved coverage across the Fitzroy, Condamine and Burnett River catchments, benefitting communities as far as Woorabinda, Baralaba, Moura and Biloela to the north, Mundubbera and Gayndah to the east, Miles, Surat, Tara and Chinchilla to the south, and Injune and Roma to the west. |
| FEEDBACK TO | Bureau of Meteorology: weatherquestions@bom.gov.au |
| CLOSE DATE | 29 May 2022 |
| ATTACHMENTS | NIL |

OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Meteorology is committed to providing an outstanding service to the Australian community.

Weather radars play an important role in providing situational awareness to local communities. While radars are important tools, the Bureau's forecast and weather warning service is resilient and not dependent on any one piece of equipment. The new Taroom radar is one part of a comprehensive weather observation network of more than 11,000 assets including satellites, upper atmosphere monitoring, automatic weather stations, ocean buoys and flood warning networks.

The Taroom radar is the second of 4 new radars being delivered for Queensland, with \$77.2 million funding from the Australian Government. The Bureau will deliver the remaining 2 new Queensland radars in Richmond and the Darling Downs. The existing radar in Moree (New South Wales) will also be relocated to provide increased coverage into southern Queensland.

This is part of the most significant upgrade to Australia's radar and observation network in a generation. By June 2024, the Bureau is delivering 8 new radars, plus upgrades to 46 radars, almost 700 automatic weather stations and 200 flood warning network sites across the country.

From **Friday 29 April 2022**, images from the newly installed Taroom weather radar are live on the Bureau of Meteorology's website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/radar/> and BOM Weather app.

Taroom is a dual-polarised Doppler radar - one of the best technologies for observing real-time rainfall and wind conditions across large areas.

The new radar will provide improved coverage across the Fitzroy, Condamine and Burnett River catchments, benefitting communities as far as Woorabinda, Baralaba, Moura and Biloela to the north,

Mundubbera and Gayndah to the east, Miles, Surat, Tara and Chinchilla to the south, and Injune and Roma to the west.

The benefits of the new radar include:

- tracking of the location and strength of wind changes
- improved rain image quality
- improved severe storm prediction by detecting weather systems such as tornadoes and intense rain during storms that can cause damage
- enhanced information for emergency services with better fire plume height estimation and detection of fire-generated thunderstorms
- increased accuracy and reliability of the radar.

As a key stakeholder of the Bureau of Meteorology, we appreciate any support you can give to advise your colleagues or networks about this new radar.