

# Supporting operations in Antarctica

The Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) operates a significant ongoing scientific research campaign in Antarctica that requires complex logistical support. This involves regular shipping, boating, aviation and overland movements that are subject to considerable weather hazards. Operations on the icy continent can be hampered for days by harsh weather conditions, including poor visibility, extreme cold and high wind speeds. To operate safely, Antarctic expeditioners rely on specialised weather observations and forecasts provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. Support is provided 24/7 by Bureau weather observers and forecasters based at three Australian bases in Antarctica and by our specialist Antarctic meteorology team, based in Hobart.



Wilkins ice runway near Casey station, Antarctica, with the AAD's Airbus 319 and specialised vehicles.

*The Bureau gave excellent forecasting support during the rescue and evacuation of three people injured in a helicopter incident on the Amery ice shelf. The evacuation process was complex, lengthy and highly constrained by narrow 'windows' of safe weather conditions. The injured expeditioners were brought to Davis station and then flown to Hobart. The Bureau provided continuous and detailed weather intelligence, enabling the response team to safely plan and execute the emergency rescue.*



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