



FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MEDIA RELEASE No.70

3pm, Wednesday, 18 April 2018

TROPICAL DISTURBANCE (14F) EXPECTED TO AFFECT FIJI

A trough of low pressure that was affecting Rotuma for the past few days is slowly drifting southwards towards Fiji Group. Within this trough, a low pressure system has developed and has intensified into a Tropical Disturbance today and numbered 14F.

Tropical Disturbance (TD14F) was analysed to the north of Fiji near Rotuma at 12pm today. It is slow moving and expected to drift south towards the Group and has the potential to further intensify into a Tropical Depression as it moves closer to the Group by Friday. The chance of TD14F developing into a Tropical Depression is *moderate* and the chance of it developing into a Tropical Cyclone is *low*.

The associated trough of low pressure with cloud and rain will start affecting the northern parts of the Group from tomorrow spreading to rest of the country by Friday. Generally fine weather conditions today, with rain and squally thunderstorms developing over the northern parts of the Group from tomorrow, becoming frequent and heavy at times from tomorrow night.

In anticipation of this, a “**Heavy Rain Alert**” is now in force for Yasawa, Vanua Levu, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands.

The system is anticipated to bring heavy rain and the chances of rainfall exceeding 100mm in 24 hours is high especially in areas of localised and frequent heavy rain. There is also risk of flash flooding of low-lying areas with the forecasted rainy conditions for the rest of the week leading into the weekend.

The situation in the low lying and flood prone areas can be exacerbated with a high tide of about 2 meters predicted this week, which further elevates the risk of flooding of low-lying areas.

A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remains in force for all land areas and waters of Fiji and Rotuma.

Mariners can expect, southeast winds 20 to 25 knots, gusting to 35 knots with rough to very rough seas and moderate southerly swells.

The current situation will be closely monitored and any alert and warning will be issued as and when appropriate. All communities are advised to remain alert and updated with the latest weather information. There are further advised to take alerts and warnings seriously.

For more details and the latest on weather, please contact the National Weather Forecasting Centre on 6736006, 9905376 or visit the Fiji Meteorological Service’s website, www.met.gov.fj. You can also visit the Fiji Meteorological Service official Facebook page for latest updates.

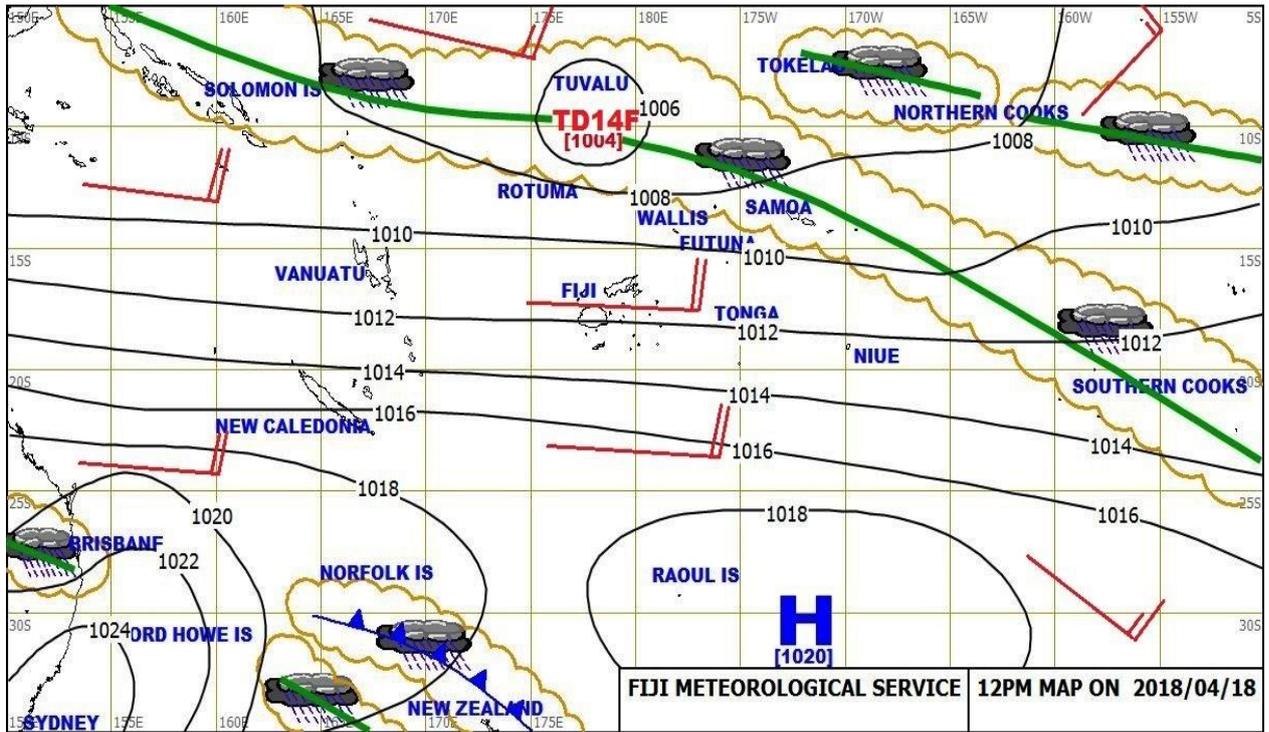


Figure 1: Weather Map at 12pm today on 18 April 2018.

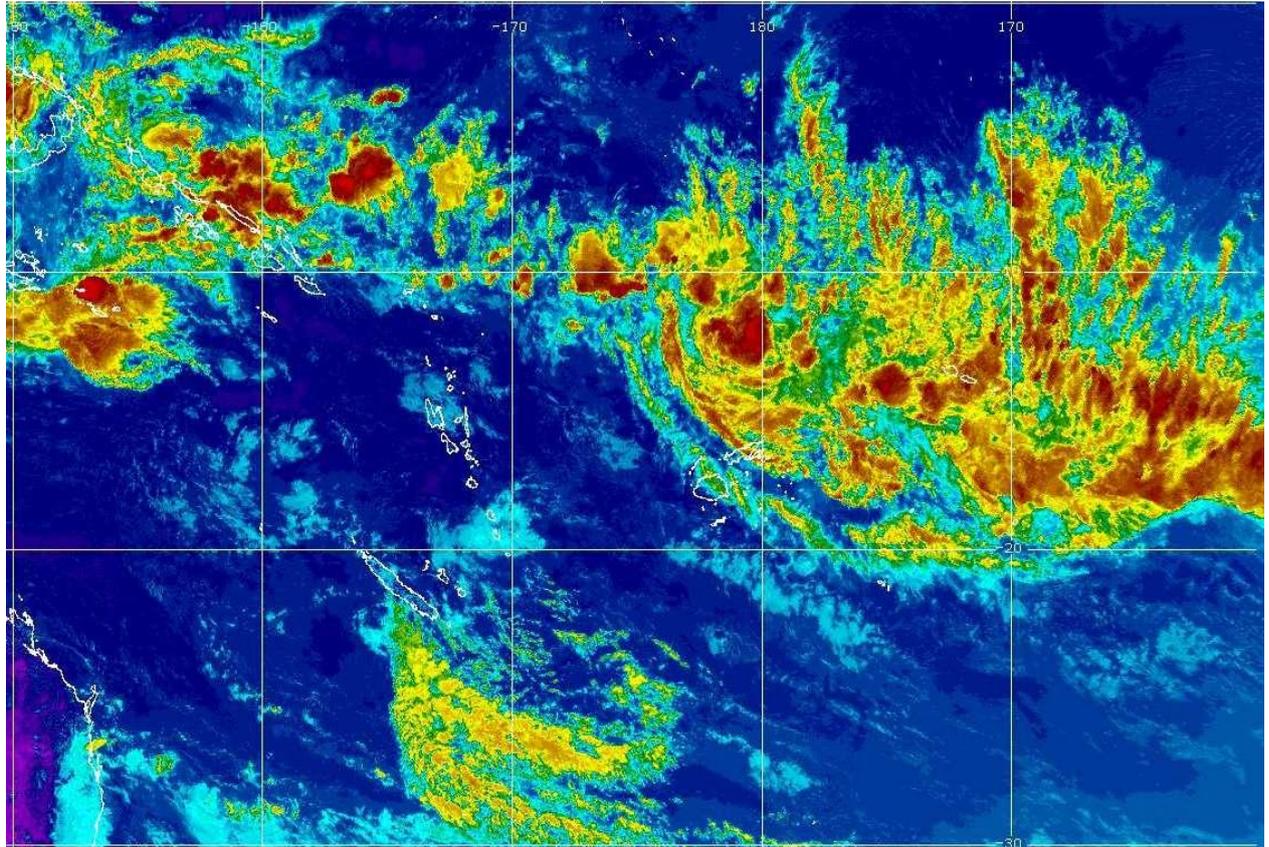


Figure 2: Satellite image at 1pm today on 18 April 2018.

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