



The Ministry Of Infrastructure & Transport

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3pm Friday 10th February 2017

EXPECT HEAVY RAIN AND STRONG WINDS THIS WEEKEND

The Tropical Disturbance 10F has been upgraded to Tropical Depression and currently lies slow moving to the far southwest of Fiji and not expected to develop into a tropical cyclone. As anticipated, the weather has started to deteriorate and the change in weather is due to the approaching active trough of low pressure associated with TD10F. The cloud and rain from the system has started to affect the country from this afternoon. The system will bring another spell of heavy rain and also strong winds over the land areas in most parts of the country. In anticipation of trough moving onto the group, the following alerts and warnings are now in place:

- A “**Heavy Rain Warning**” remains in force for the whole of Fiji;
- A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remain in force for the land areas of Fiji;
- A “**Strong Wind Warning**” remain in force for all Fiji waters;
- A “**Flood Alert**” remains in force for low lying areas and small streams adjacent to major rivers for whole of Fiji; and
- A “**Flood Alert**” is now in force for low lying areas and small streams adjacent to Emuri and downstream of Semo River.

From this afternoon, expect periods of rain and few squally thunderstorms. Winds are also anticipated to increase and become strong and gusty as the active trough moves onto the group. Therefore strong northwest winds with average speeds of 45km/hr to 60km/hr with gusts of up to 75km/hr over the land areas can be expected.

Mariners can expect northwest winds 20 to 30 knots gusting to 40 knots with very rough seas and moderate northerly swells. Visibility will be poor in areas of heavy rain and thunderstorms.

All communities are advised that the country is not out of the danger yet, as heavy rain and strong winds are heading our way which is expected to extend through the weekend. The chances of flash flooding including low lying areas remains high given the ground is extremely saturated and more rain predicted this weekend. The rivers and streams can very quickly rise with localised heavy rain. In this regard, you are requested to take alerts, warnings and advisories seriously whenever it is issued and remain prepared at all times.

Meanwhile another Tropical Disturbance, TD11F has developed to the far west of Fiji and likely to be upgraded to Tropical Depression in next 24 hours. Your weather Office will closely monitor the situation and provide an update as any significant changes are observed or expected in the coming days. 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

ENDS.

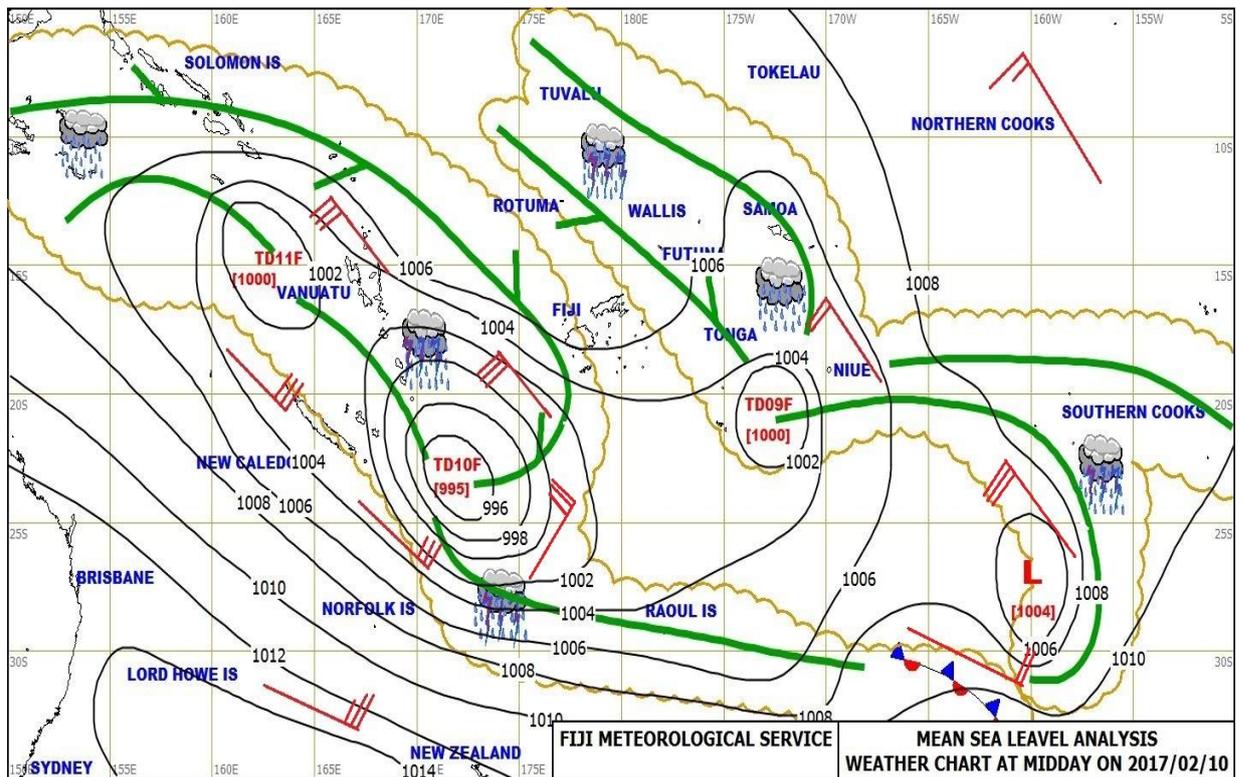


Figure 1: Weather Map at 12.00pm on 10 February 2017.

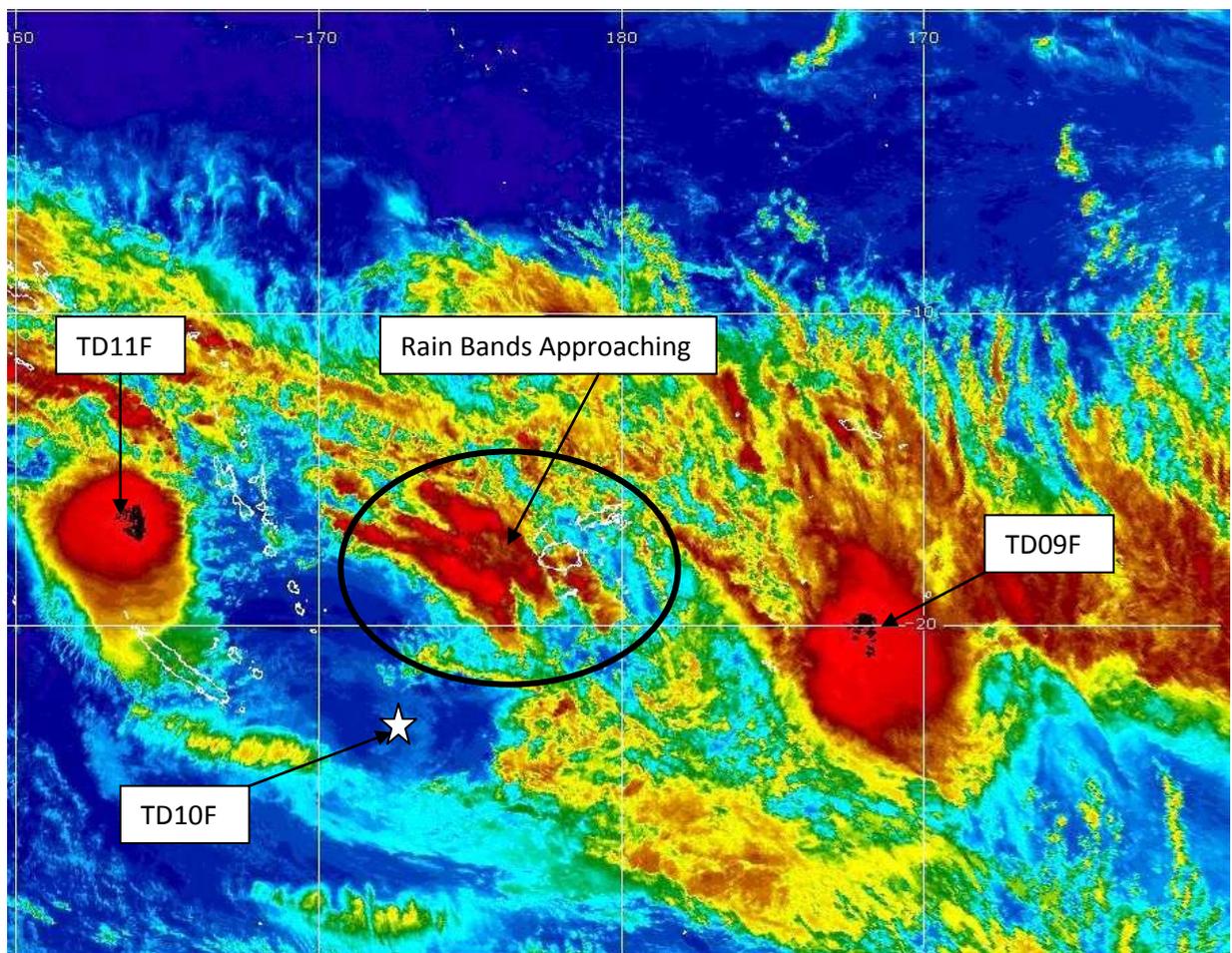


Figure 2: Satellite image at 12.30pm on 10 February 2017. TD10F located to the far Southwest of Fiji while TD11F as developed to the north of New Caledonia.

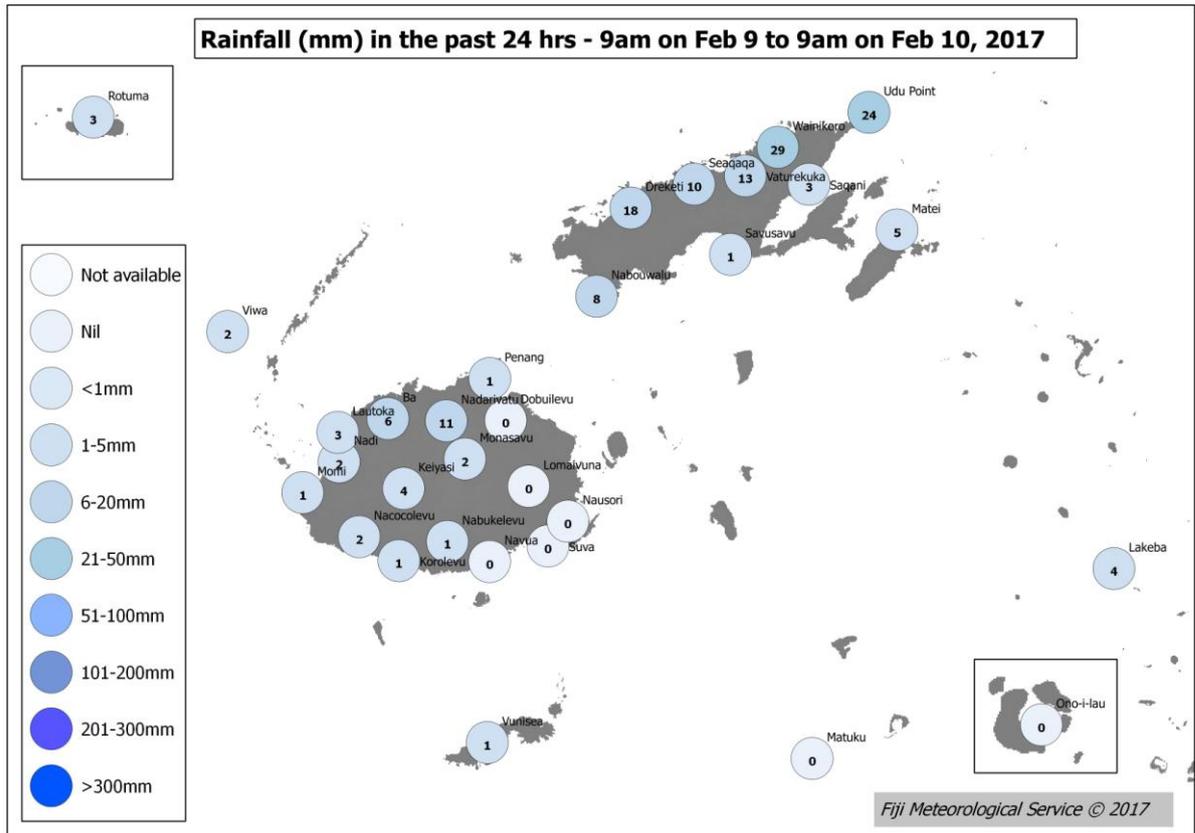


Figure 3: Rainfall for the past 24 hours from 9am yesterday to 9am this morning.

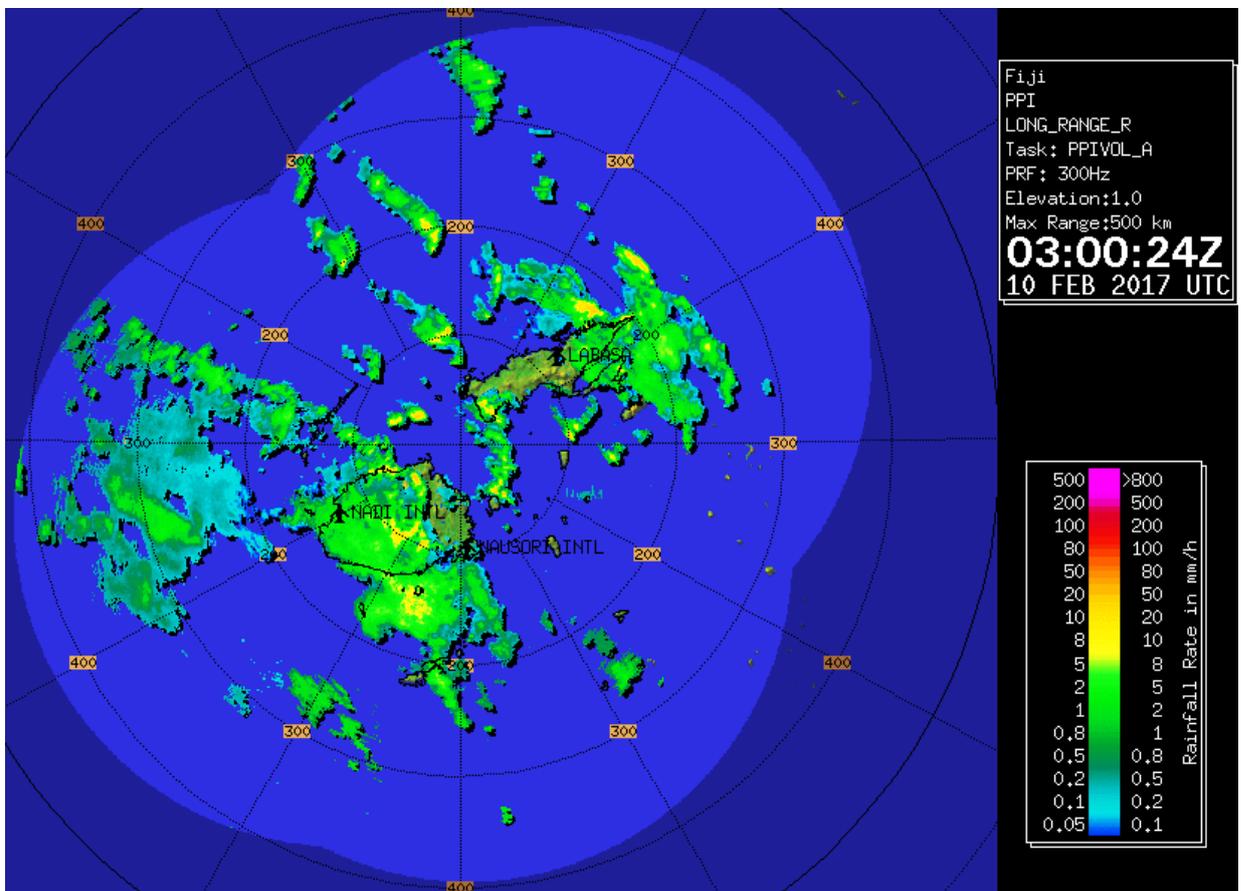


Figure 4: Radar Image at 03.00pm on 10 February 2017. Rain bands affecting Western and Northern Divisions.