



FIJI GOVERNMENT

FIJI METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE  
GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF FIJI

**MEDIA RELEASE No. 4**

**A TROPICAL DISTURBANCE ANALYSED NEAR SOLOMON ISLANDS, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO DRIFT TOWARDS FIJI BY EARLY NEXT WEEK**

**Issued at 5.30pm Saturday, 11 November 23**

**Key Messages:**

- A tropical disturbance, TD02F, was analysed near Solomon Islands today, which is expected to drift towards Fiji by early next week.
- While the chances of TD02F to form into a tropical cyclone is low for today and tomorrow, it becomes moderate to high by Tuesday next week.
- Heavy Rain Alert continues for the Northern Division, Yasawa, Mamanuca, Lau and Lomaiviti Groups.
- Rain and thunderstorms with isolated heavy falls likely to develop and become frequent over these areas from later tonight. This is expected to spread over the rest of the country from later tomorrow.
- A Strong Wind Warning is currently in force for the land areas of Yasawa, Lau and Lomaiviti Groups, coastal areas from Sigatoka to Suva to Rakiraki, Kadavu and nearby smaller islands, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands, southern Bua, Cakaudrove and eastern Macuata.
- A Strong Wind Warning remains in force for all Fiji Waters.

**Details:**

A tropical disturbance, TD02F, was analysed 650 kilometres east-northeast of Honiara, Solomon Islands at mid-day today. This disturbance is expected to drift towards the Fiji Group by early next week. While the chances of TD02F to intensify into a tropical cyclone is low for today and tomorrow, it increases to moderate to high by Tuesday next week. The Fiji Meteorological Service will continue to monitor the situation as the system develops and will issue advisories as and when necessary.

Meanwhile, a **Heavy Rain Alert** remains in force for the Northern Division, Yasawa, Mamanuca, Lau and Lomaiviti Groups. Rain and thunderstorms with isolated heavy falls expected over these areas from later tonight. This is expected to spread over the rest of the country from later tomorrow. This rain is due to a trough of low pressure with associated cloud and rain that lies slow moving to the north of Fiji. It is expected to drift south and affect the northern and eastern parts of the group from later today.

The following risks are expected, especially for areas under heavy rain alert:

- Localised flooding of low-lying and flood-prone areas;
- Localised flooding of minor roads, Iris crossings and bridges with some disruption to traffic flow; and

- Poor visibility out at sea and as well as on land with increased risk of motor vehicle accidents due to slippery roads.

A strong wind warning is current for the land areas of Yasawa, Lau and Lomaiviti Groups, coastal areas from Sigatoka to Suva to Rakiraki, Kadavu and nearby smaller islands, Taveuni and nearby smaller islands, southern Bua, Cakaudrove and eastern Macuata. Strong southeast winds with speeds up to 45 kilometres per hour and gusts up to 55 kilometres per hour is expected over these land areas. These winds are driven by a high-pressure system to the far south of Fiji that is generating and directing a fresh to strong southeasterly wind flow over Fiji.

A **Strong Wind Warning** remains in force for all Fiji Waters. Southeasterly winds with speeds up to 20 to 25 knots, gusting to 30 knots, with rough seas is expected over Fiji Waters. Over open waters, sea conditions are potentially hazardous for small crafts. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions.

For more information and clarification, please contact the Acting Director of Meteorology, Mr. Bipen Prakash on 9905379 or [Bipen.Prakash@met.gov.fj](mailto:Bipen.Prakash@met.gov.fj).

For latest forecasts, you can visit the Fiji Meteorological Service website at [www.met.gov.fj](http://www.met.gov.fj) or you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Click on the link to access the Heavy Rain Alert Bulletin:

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=warn1#20014.txt>

Click on the link to access the daily Public Forecast updates:

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=public>

Click on the link to access the latest Strong Wind Warning (over waters) update:

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=marine>

Click on the link to access the 5-Day Tropical Cyclone Outlook:

<https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=5dayoutlook>

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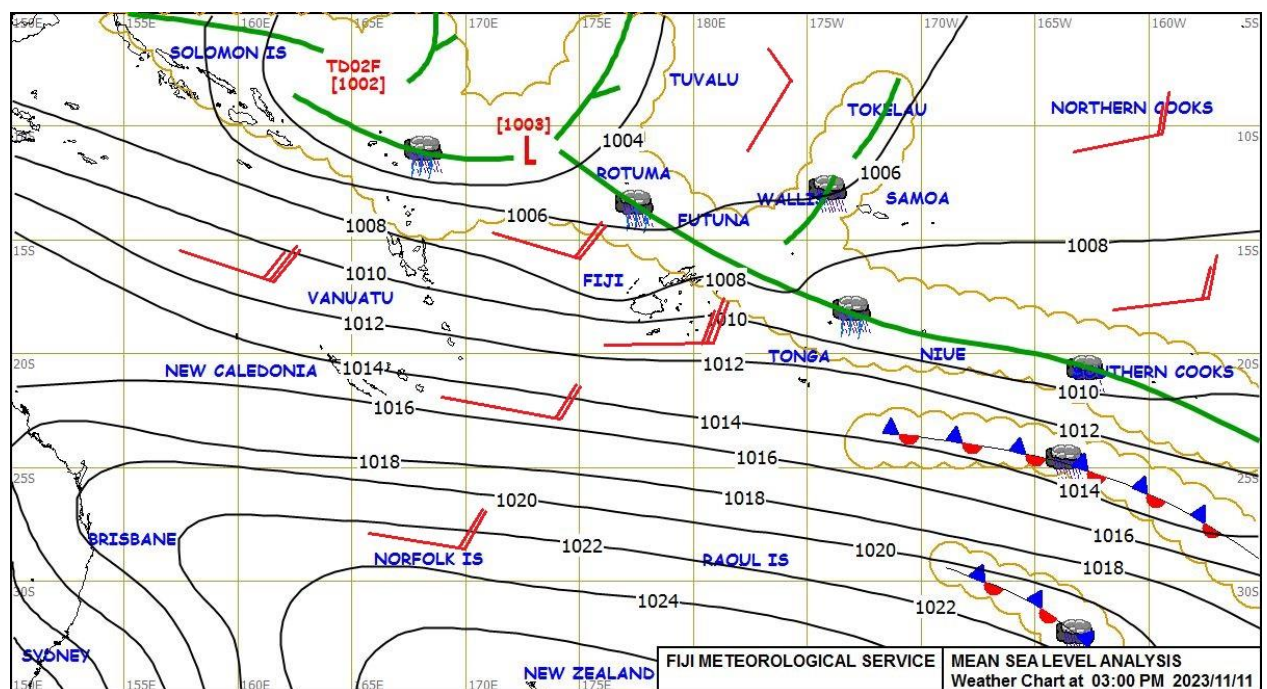


Figure 1: The weather map as at 3pm on Saturday, 11 November 2023.