

International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO

WORKING PAPER (WP/11)

ICAO ASIA AND PACIFIC (APAC)
THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY
SUB-GROUP (MET SG/30)

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 - 24 July 2026

Agenda Item 4: Regional Guidance Material**UPDATES TO THE ROBEX HANDBOOK & ANP**

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper requests updates to the APAC ROBEX Handbook & Table MET II-2 of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Plan Volume II to align with Australia's aerodrome services.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Regional Air Navigation Plans (ANPs) provide a bridge from the global provisions contained in the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) and Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) to the Member States' national plans and actual implementation of aerodromes and air navigation facilities and services for international civil aviation.

1.2 The Table MET II-2 within the ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) ANP Volume II defines the services provided by each AOP aerodrome meteorological office.

1.3 The ICAO APAC Regional Operational Meteorological Bulletin Exchange (ROBEX) scheme provides a systematic framework for APAC States to exchange meteorological information, in the form of operational meteorological (OPMET) bulletins, within the APAC region and inter-regionally with other ICAO regions.

1.4 The Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange (ROBEX) Handbook defines the responsibilities and procedures for the ROBEX centres and the content and format of the ROBEX bulletins.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Australia generates METARs and TAFs for over 200 aerodromes and distributes a subset of these services internationally via the ROBEX system.

2.2 Australia is opening a new aerodrome, Sydney/Nancy-Bird Walton (YSWS), which will commence operations on the 9 July 2026.

Changes to ANP Table II-2

2.3 Australia has submitted a Proposal for Amendment (PfA) to include YSWs in Table AOP I-1, including consequential amendments to Table MET II-2 and other tables in Volume II as appropriate.

Changes to ROBEX Handbook

2.4 Australia has also received requests for the inclusion of the following additional aerodromes in its OPMET bulletins.

- Ayers Rock/Connellan (YAYE)
- Mackay (YBMK)
- Ballina/Byron Gateway (YBNA)
- Proserpine/Whitsunday Coast (YBPN)
- Esperance (YESP)
- Hervey Bay (YHBA)
- Kingscote/Kangaroo Island (YKSC)
- Mildura (YMIA)
- Newman (YNWN)
- Karratha (YKPA)

2.5 The changes to international bulletins are scheduled to be implemented on the 9 July 2026 AIRAC date, with METNO planned for issuance on 2 July 2026. Refer to Appendix A – Table 1 for the changes to the OPMET bulletins.

2.6 Australian OPMET bulletins also contain some Australian Defence Force (Defence) aerodromes. At some aerodromes, including Defence aerodromes, Australia generates Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs) 3-hourly (TAF3), rather than the typical 6-hourly.

2.7 At Defence aerodromes, the hours of TAF3 service aligns with the needs of their local Defence users, rather than routinely issued 24 hours a day. The current ROBEX handbook was intended to represent the typical service, however variation of services hours has been highlighted as an issue through OPMET Performance Indices. As a result, at Defence locations, it is proposed that the ROBEX Handbook represent the routine TAF service and not include the TAF3 hours.

2.8 The corresponding update to the ROBEX Handbook is defined in Appendix A – Table 2.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) endorse the proposed changes to the ROBEX Handbook as defined in Appendix A; and
- c) request ICAO Secretariat to make the required changes to the ROBEX Handbook.

APPENDIX A – PROPOSED CHANGES TO ROBEX HANDBOOK APPENDIX A & B

The following additions should be made to ROBEX Handbook Appendix A (METAR) and Appendix B (TAF)

Location Code	Location Name	TAF Bulletin	METAR Bulletin
YAYE	Ayers Rock/Connellan	FTAU33	SAAU33
YBMK	Mackay	FTAU34	SAAU34
YBNA	Ballina/Byron Gateway	FTAU34	SAAU34
YBPN	Proserpine/Whitsunday Coast	FTAU34	SAAU34
YESP	Esperance	FTAU35	SAAU35
YHBA	Hervey Bay	FTAU34	SAAU34
YKSC	Kingscote/Kangaroo Island	FTAU35	SAAU35
YMIA	Mildura	FTAU34	SAAU34
YNWN	Newman	FTAU33	SAAU33
YPKA	Karratha	FTAU33	SAAU33
YSWS	Sydney/Nancy-Bird Walton	FTAU32	SAAU32

Table 1 – Additions aerodromes to be included

FTAU36	YAMB	AMBERLEY	0235 (M-F)	0300 (M-F)	24	BANGKOK	VTBBYPYX
	YPEA	PEARCE	0535	0600	18	BRISBANE	YBBBYPYX
	YPTN	TINDAL	1135	1200	24	NADI	NFFNYPYX
	YBTL	TOWNSVILLE/Townsville Intl	1735	1800	24	SINGAPORE	WSZZYPYX
	YWLM	WILLIAMTOWN	2035 (M-F)	2100 (M-F)	24	TOKYO	RJTDYPYX
			2335	0000		Beijing	ZBBBYPYX
						Hong Kong	VHZZYPYX
						Jakarta	WIZZYPYX
						Manila	RPLLYPYX
						Mumbai	VABBYPYX
						Wellington	NZZZYPYX

Table 2 – Changes to FTAU36 to remove the TAF3 services.