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ADMINISTRATIVE FIX TO QNH CALCULATIONS AT THIRD-PARTY AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) owns and operates a large network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) across Australia.
- 1.2 When installed at airports, the AWS operates as the source of the authorised weather report for that airport (*c.f. the definitions of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 (CASR)*), providing METAR/SPECI and, where available, the Automatic Weather Information Service (AWIS).
- 1.3 At some airports, the AWS is owned and operated by a third party.
 - 1.3.1 Third-party AWS providers are required to hold a certificate of approval, provided by the Bureau, to make weather reports for the purpose of CASR for use by aviation.
- 1.4 The observational weather data from the Bureau and third-party AWS is collected centrally by the Bureau to support the generation of METAR/SPECI and AWIS.
 - 1.4.1 At some airports, there is a direct data feed from the third-party AWS to the local AWIS VHF broadcast. This data does not flow through the Bureau's central systems.
- 1.5 This AIC provides notification of an administrative correction to address a minor discrepancy between the value of QNH (atmospheric pressure adjusted to mean sea level) reported between third-party AWS and Bureau systems at 12 identified locations (as listed in Appendix 1), which will take effect on 22 October 2025.

2. QNH CALCULATION DISCREPANCY

- 2.1 The Bureau's Quality Management System has identified a small discrepancy between the value of QNH calculated at source by third-parties and those calculated centrally by the Bureau.
- 2.2 The difference between both QNH values remains within the *ICAO Annex 3* required accuracy for QNH observations (± 0.5 hPa), with the issue further mitigated by the value of QNH being made available in whole hectopascals only in METAR/SPECI and AWIS products, following a rounding down method.
 - 2.2.1 For example, calculated values for QNH of 1013.1 hPa and 1013.9 hPa are both expressed as a QNH of 1013 hPa.
- 2.3 The discrepancy between QNH calculations can present when comparing the QNH, accessed via AWIS VHF broadcast at a third-party AWS location, to centrally calculated METAR/SPECI and AWIS provided via telephone for the same aerodrome.
- 2.4 The Bureau will permanently resolve the QNH discrepancy on 22 October 2025. No action is required from users.

3. CANCELLATION

- 3.1 This AIC self-cancels one month after its issuance date.

4. DISTRIBUTION

- 4.1 Airservices Australia website only.

Appendix

- 1. Locations affected by QNH value discrepancy

1. Locations affected by QNH value discrepancy

- Bunbury (YBUN)
- Christmas Creek (YCHK)
- Eliwana (YEWA)
- Fortescue Dave Forrest (YFDF)
- Gruyere (YGRM)
- Gudai-Darri Mine (YKDD)
- Iron Bridge Mine (YIBO)
- Koolan Island/Koolan Central (YKLC)
- Solomon (YSOL)
- The Granites (YTGT)
- Tropicana (YTRA)
- West Angelas (YANG)