

**IPS Radio and Space Services
- Bureau of Meteorology**

Portfolio or Agency mission/charter

The Bureau of Meteorology is Australia's national weather service. The purpose of the Bureau is to contribute to Australia's social, economic, cultural and environmental goals through the performance of the functions of a National Meteorological Service in the public interest generally and for the purposes of the Defence Force, navigation and shipping, civil aviation, and supporting primary production, industry, trade and commerce.

Key objective/s with respect to space-related activity

- To provide timely radio propagation and space weather advice that customers rely on to perform their operations, that is appropriate to the needs of the Australasian community, and that uses best technical and business practices.

Current space-related activities/responsibilities

- Provision of space weather services to customers in government and private sectors;
- Monitoring of the space environment;
- Policy advice relating to the influence of the space environment on technology;
- Australian space forecast centre;
- Archival of space environment data for the purpose of research and services; and
- Training in the mitigation of space weather effects on systems.

Recent major achievements

- Closed Vanimo ionosonde station, in Papua New Guinea, opened an ionosonde station at Cocos Island, a magnetometer station at Norfolk Island and placed GPS receivers at Weipa and Lord Howe Island.
- Continued co-operative ionospheric observations at Niue.
- Will re-locate the Mundaring ionosonde to Perth Observatory and re-name the station Perth Ionosonde Station.

Portfolio/Agency budgets and expenditure on space-related activity

- IPS, the space weather agency within the Bureau of Meteorology, provides space weather services based on data collected from its network of monitors and from data exchanged globally. The funding of space-related activities may be partitioned across the monitoring of space weather and the provision of space weather services.

	Space weather monitoring	Space weather services
2009-10	\$ 1 497 000	\$ 2 753 000

Legislation administered by agency

- Nil

International space-related agreements

- Agreement between USA and Australia on the operation of a solar observatory at Learmonth (Western Australia).

Agency involvement in other space-related arrangements

- International Living with a Star program (Australian contact and member of Working Group).
- MOU between US National Solar Observatory and IPS over the operation of a helioseismological observatory at Learmonth (WA).
- MOU between the Chinese Institute of Radio Propagation and IPS over exchange of ionospheric data.
- MOU between Japanese Kyushu University (Space Environment Research Centre) and IPS on cooperation and exchange of geomagnetic data.
- MOU between the Niue Meteorological Office and IPS to support ionospheric observations from Niue.
- Member of the AAS National Committee for Space Science.

Contact

Dr Phil Wilkinson
Assistant Director, IPS Radio and Space Services
Bureau of Meteorology
Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
PO Box 1386
HAYMARKET NSW 1240
Ph: (02) 9213 8000
Fax: (02) 9213 8060
Email: phil@ips.gov.au
<http://www.ips.gov.au>

Last updated May 2010.