



25 APR REC'D

The Hon Greg Hunt MP

Minister for the Environment

MC16-003675

Mr Eric Hutchinson MP
Member for Lyons
PO Box 50
PERTH TAS 7300

18 APR 2016

Dear Mr Hutchinson

Thank you for your representation of 21 March 2016 on behalf of Mr Clive Stott, of Grindelwald, in relation to making real-time data for lightning strikes available to the general public.

Mr Stott is correct in that, the Bureau's current arrangements for lightning data provision prevent it from making lightning data available to the public. The Bureau currently uses lightning information internally to supplement information from other sources used in thunderstorm detection and forecasting and in the issuing of warnings, such as radar and satellites. It also uses the data in lightning climatology studies and in the validation of thunderstorm prediction software.

I am pleased to advise that the Bureau's preference is to provide lightning data to the public and it is currently working to make this happen. The Bureau has a tender process underway for high-resolution lightning services. The Bureau expects that the outcomes of this tender will give the Bureau greater flexibility in the use and publication of real-time lightning data. The tender requests a high resolution lightning data services solution which can support the Bureau's thunderstorm warning service, increase the public's awareness of the risk of lightning through thunderstorms and be capable of integration by the Bureau for customer applications. The detail for this tender is available from AusTender under Approach to Market identification number 125-2014-15 and is available from: www.tenders.gov.au/.

Subject to negotiation with the successful tenderer, the Bureau anticipates making lightning observations available through its website later in 2016. The tender documentation contains all relevant information regarding the Bureau's requirements with regards to lightning services. Whilst this competitive tender process is active, I am not able to provide any information over and above the publicly available tender information.

Thank you for bringing Mr Stott's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Greg Hunt