



Australian Government

## Joint Agency Coordination Centre

### MH370 Operational Search Update

26 November 2014

This operational report has been developed to provide regular updates on the progress of the search effort for MH370. Our work will continue to be thorough and methodical, so sometimes weekly progress may seem slow. Please be assured that work is continuing and is aimed at finding MH370 as quickly as possible.

#### Key developments this week

- *Fugro Discovery* arrived at Fremantle on 23 November for resupply. Following calibration testing on 25 and 26 November, it is expected that the vessel will continue on to the search site.
- *Fugro Equator* arrived in the search area on 21 November and commenced bathymetric survey operations. An additional 4,000 square kilometres have been surveyed so far.
- *GO Phoenix* continued to conduct underwater search operations in the assigned search area this week and is due to depart the search area today to return to Fremantle for resupply.
- Over 7,000 square kilometres of the seafloor have been searched so far.

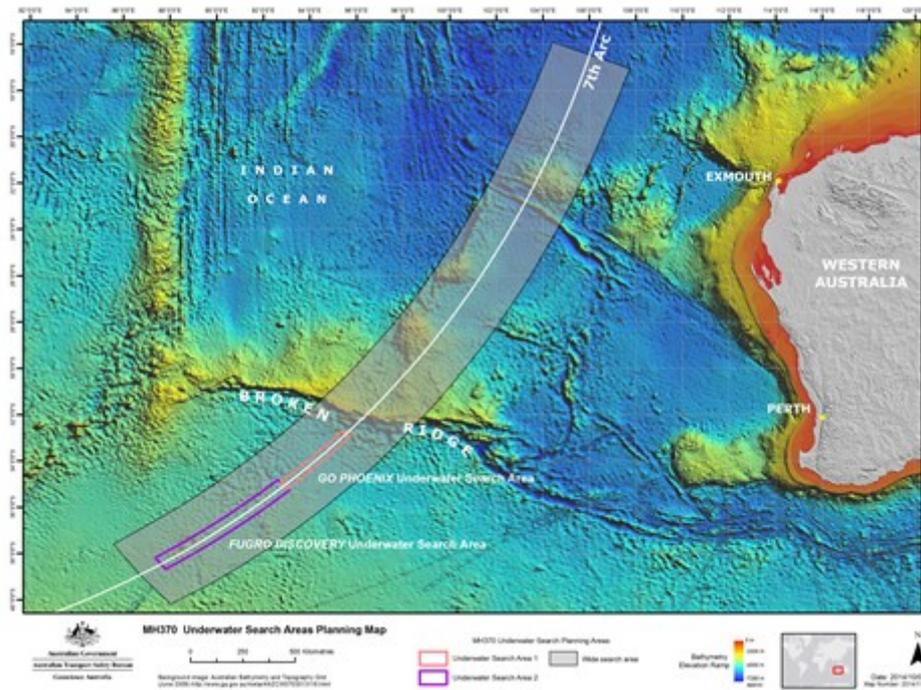
#### Bathymetric Survey

*Fugro Equator's* mobilisation to conduct underwater search activities has been postponed due to delays in the supply of the new deep tow winch and cable. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has therefore taken the opportunity to utilise the vessel effectively by continuing the bathymetric survey work.

*Fugro Equator* arrived in the search area on 21 November and commenced survey operations. Since then, the vessel has surveyed over 4,000 square kilometres, bringing the total area surveyed to over 170,000 square kilometres.

## Underwater search

Over 7,000 square kilometres of the seafloor have been searched so far.



In addition to locating the aircraft, the underwater search aims to map the MH370 debris field in order to identify and prioritise the recovery of specific aircraft components, including flight recorders, which will assist with the Malaysian investigation. The ATSB has utilised the data from the bathymetric survey work to prepare the initial plan for the underwater search, to be followed and referred to by all parties involved. The plan includes search timings, methods, procedures, safety precautions and the initial search areas for the various vessels.

## Ship movements

*GO Phoenix* continues to conduct underwater search operations in the assigned search area.

*Fugro Discovery* arrived at Fremantle on 23 November for resupply. Following calibration testing on 25 and 26 November, it is expected that the vessel will continue on to the search site.

## Weather

Sea states in the area are anticipated to range from 1 to 4 over the next four days, providing good working conditions. Conditions are expected to continue to improve over the summer months.

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