



Australian Government

Joint Agency Coordination Centre

MH370 Operational Search Update

4 January 2017

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

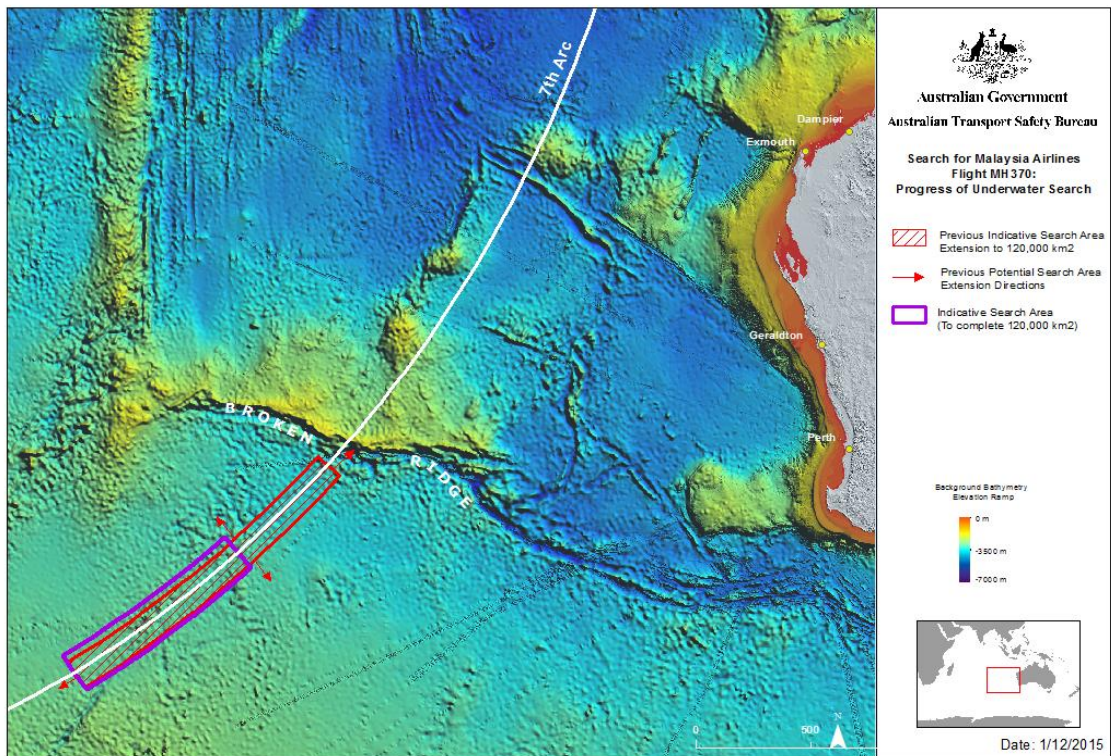
- *Fugro Equator* continues to conduct underwater search operations using the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). Since 21 December 2016 *Fugro Equator* has completed 10 AUV missions with an average duration of 23 hours.

Search Status

At a meeting of Ministers from Malaysia, Australia and the People's Republic of China held on 22 July 2016, it was agreed that should the aircraft not be located in the current search area, and in the absence of credible new evidence leading to the identification of a specific location of the aircraft, the search would be suspended upon completion of the current search area.

Ministers have reiterated that this does not mean the termination of the search. Should credible new information emerge that can be used to identify the specific location of the aircraft, consideration will be given to determining next steps.

It is expected the search operations currently being undertaken by *Fugro Equator* may be completed in January 2017.



Weather

Poor weather prior to Christmas impacted on search operations. Weather has improved during the past week, although a cold front is moving across the search area today. A ridge of high pressure will briefly dominate the search area on Thursday with another frontal passage expected on Friday. This may impact AUV operations.

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