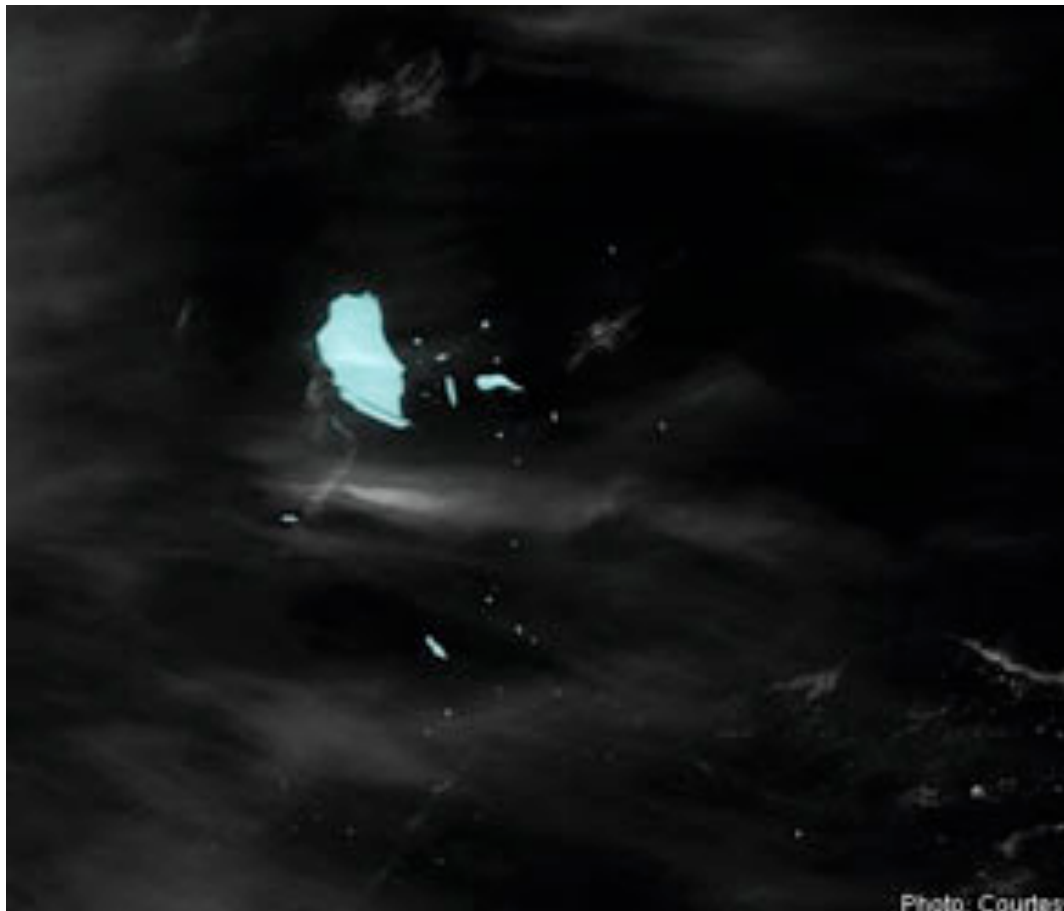


The West Australian

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Massive iceberg heading to WA

JANE HAMMOND, The West Australian December 9, 2009, 10:15 am



Australian Antarctic Division ©

A massive iceberg covering more than 140sqkm is heading towards the West Australian coast.

The 19km long, 8km wide block is drifting slowly north from Antarctica.

It is one of the biggest icebergs ever seen so far north and calved from the eastern end of the Ross Ice Shelf almost a decade ago.

The mountain of ice is 1700km south-south-west of WA and being carried north by ocean currents.

Known as B17B, the iceberg was spotted by Australian Antarctic Division glaciologist Neal Young using satellite images.

Dr Young said the iceberg was slowly breaking into hundreds of smaller icebergs as it entered warmer waters.

"B17B is a very significant one in that it has drifted so far north while still largely intact. It's one of the biggest sighted at those latitudes, now 48.8 degrees south and 107.5 degrees east," Dr Young said.