

# Giant Antarctic iceberg heads towards N.Zealand: experts

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Arctic iceberg. Image: Florida State University

A giant iceberg twice the length of Beijing's "Bird's Nest" Stadium has been spotted floating off Australia and could be headed for New Zealand, scientists said on Thursday.

The [ice](#) chunk, measuring some 700 metres (2,300 feet) long with an estimated depth of 350 metres, caused a stir when it was sighted by experts based on Australia's remote Macquarie Island.

"I've never seen anything like it -- we looked out to the horizon and just saw this huge floating island of ice," said fur seal biologist Dean Miller.

Australian Antarctic Division glaciologist Neal Young said the flat-

topped slab could break into dozens of smaller icebergs as it moves in the direction of [New Zealand](#), causing a possible shipping hazard.

"It's rare to make a sighting like this -- it's certainly impressive-looking," Young told AFP.

He said the [iceberg](#) had probably split from a major Antarctic ice shelf nine years ago, and said more could be expected in the area if [global warming](#) continues.

"If the current trends in global warming were to continue I would anticipate seeing more icebergs and the large ice shelves breaking up," he added.

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