

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



Minutes of Meeting
Consultative Committee Meeting
9:30am – 11:45am 11 August 2020
3 Queens Wharf Wellington

Present:

Name:	Agency:
Carl van der Meulen (Chair)	NZSAR
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR
Alannah Taylor	NZSAR
Rhett Emery	NZSAR
Alita Bigwood	NZSAR
Jeff Lean	NZSAR
Don Robertson	AREC
Chris Emmett	SLSNZ
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Ian Duncan	FENZ
Rachel Roberts	NZSAR
Pete Theobald	NZ Police
Mike Ambrose	LandSAR
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Kevin Banaghan	RCCNZ
Mike Daisley	MSC
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard
Jonty Mills	WSNZ
Meryl Jupp	DOC
Natasha Rave	MOT
Mike Hill	RCCNZ

1. Welcome

Carl van der Meulen opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Apologies

Name:	Agency:
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
Don Bogie	DOC
John Pine	NZ Police
Paul Craven	RCCNZ
Brendan Comerford	MOC
John Garton	NZDF

3. Minutes of Meeting held [insert date of last meeting]

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

#	Item	Actions & Decisions	Responsibility	Status
7	NZSAR Planning	Email items/ideas for NZSAR 2020/2021 work programme.	All Agencies	Complete
12	NZSAR Awards	NZSAR to work with agencies regarding award presentations.	NZSAR	In Progress

5. Sector update

Agencies provided brief updates with a focus on any Covid-19 (March/April) related impacts.

AREC

Operationally, AREC activity was quiet during the Covid lockdown. AREC is planning the implementation of the Crown funding they have received, starting with developing competency training. AREC are also looking to create online material and would like to collaborate with other agencies if they are interested.

SLSNZ

Volunteer training was affected significantly during Covid-19; SLSNZ feel they are better prepared if Covid-19 does come back and believe they have come out of Covid-19 positively.

FENZ

FENZ kept their domestic capability for operational responses up during the outbreak. FENZ have been asked to support Papua New Guinea with Emergency Medical Team support. The planned USAR reclassification exercise has been postponed.

NZ Police

NZ Police are back to business as usual now. Initially the supply of PPE was an issue however now have good stock. NZ Police also have capacity to supply PPE to SAR volunteers during SAROPs.

Ambulance NZ

General demand decreased by about 15-20% although workload did not increase, due to additional requirements with use of PPE. Sourcing PPE supplies was problematic at the start of the lockdown.

PPE fatigue - PPE has an effect on mental health, a new application called 'Channel' is about to be launched, this application will check in with individuals as to how their mental health is by asking the user simple questions. These answers will then be provided and escalated where required.

Finding PPE that is suitable for the outdoors and getting it onto patients has proven difficult. Guidelines have been updated to include a change on CPR for suspected Covid-19 patients.

RCCNZ

RCCNZ were completely operational during the Covid-19 period. There were 471 operations down from around an average of 1,000. RCCNZ are working on an E-

learning project for SARO training. They are also working with NZSAR to create Helicopter Air Operator training. They are also working on a summer beacon campaign.

MSC

There has been a lot more engagement with safety material online. A significant amount of modelling has taken place for both local and regional Councils to observe the increase of participation in the outdoors. Avalanche awareness is still ongoing, the climbing season has been a little longer this year.

LandSAR

LandSAR volunteer groups were prepared to conduct operations during the lockdown. The biggest concern was sourcing PPE for the groups, with some uncertainty if the PPE would be supplied by Police. Proactive messaging was supplied to the volunteers to help them operate safely if they were called out.

LandSAR training decreased during the lockdown (as training courses could not be conducted), however the backlog is almost cleared now.

LandSAR have noticed an increase in wander-related operations.

Coastguard

Coastguard operational activity is back to where they would normally be prior to Covid-19. Coastguard is busy with America's Cup preparations ramping up; this includes up to 60 volunteers having signed up to drive chase boats. This may impact the availability of some Units to have enough skippers/crew for operations.

The organisation is very busy implementing Project Horizon, and now has HR and finance for the whole organisation in the National Office.

WSNZ

From a revenue and media perspective Covid-19 did not affect WSNZ significantly. There were no drownings during the official lockdown period. Funding levels have been maintained, leaving WSNZ in good shape.

DOC

Southern region floods caused issues for DOC; Covid-19 also proved to be a difficult time. There are strong booking numbers for summer meaning New Zealanders are responding to promotions by other agencies to complete recreational activities and holidays in New Zealand. There is strong demand for the great walks.

MoT

During Covid-19 the Ministry of Transport's focus was on response and recovery and looking at the Maritime security strategy.

6. Secretariat changes

Duncan Ferner updated the group on the additional positions NZSAR are looking to appoint. They are Principal Advisor, Senior Communications Advisor, and a monitoring position. These positions will be advertised over the next three months.

Duncan also outlined how the various workstreams are divided in the Secretariat, and that three-year workplans and roadmaps are being developed.

7. NZSAR Risk Matrix

There was a discussion on the articulation of the description, causes, impacts, and treatments for the SAR Demand risk. The treatment to produce an environmental scan has been completed but will need to be ongoing to respond to new events, such as Covid-19. There was some discussion whether treatments B and C could be combined as they are similar, and if treatment E is still required.

Action: The Secretariat will outline these discussion points to the NZSAR Council for decisions.

8. New sector investment

The Consultative Committee was updated on the Crown investment into the search and rescue and frontline water safety sectors for the three-year period beginning on 1 June 2020. This information will be made public.

The NZSAR Consultative Committee **noted** the following:

- Crown investment in the SAR sector for the three-year period beginning 1 July 2020 is \$50.313 million, representing a 172% increase on the previous three-year period.
- Crown investment of \$45.368million for frontline water safety services for the three-year period beginning 1 July 2020.
- The accountability obligations for the Crown investment, and the associated business case development, planning, reporting, and monitoring requirements on all funded organisations.
- The opportunities the Crown investment provides for the SAR and frontline water safety sectors.
- Commit to collaborating and working together to make the most of the opportunities afforded by the Crown investment.

9. Meeting structures & frequency

There was a discussion about the structure and frequency of NZSAR Consultative Committee meetings. The purpose of the Consultative Committee is to act as a clearing house for the SAR sector, to provide advice to the NZSAR Council, and provides an opportunity for engagement with SAR sector agencies. However, some issues and challenges do not apply across the whole sector and are better addressed in smaller issue-specific meetings rather than being included in a Consultative Committee meeting. Currently there are three Consultative Committee meetings and one combined meeting with the NZSAR Council each year.

The consensus is that the current structure and frequency of Consultative Committee meetings is suitable for the needs of the member organisations, though slightly fewer meetings each year could also work for the sector. Virtual meetings are not a preferred option for the Consultative Committee.

Advice: No change to the current structure and frequency of NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting.

10. SAR Data & Information Group

Jeff Lean presented a proposal to develop a SAR Data and Information Group. This Group will identify gaps and opportunities within the sector's collective information systems and provide a forum to consider future research and analysis projects. The Consultative Committee endorsed the development of a SAR Data & Information Group.

Action: Organisations are to nominate a representative for the SAR Data & Information Group to Jeff Lean by 30 September 2020.

11. Innovation & Technology Panel

Carl van der Meulen updated the NZSAR Consultative Committee on the establishment of a SAR sector Innovation & Technology Panel. The Crown investment in the SAR sector for the three-year period beginning 1 July 2020 includes an initiative to *establish and facilitate a SAR system-wide Innovation and Technology Panel*.

A technology workshop is being planned and is included in the 2020/21 NSSP. A separate workshop notice will be sent to NZSAR Consultative Committee members.

Action: Organisations are to nominate a representative for the SAR Data & Information Group to Carl van der Meulen by 30 September 2020.

12. SAR Training 2020

Funding arrangements

NZSAR is awaiting confirmation of funding from the Ministry of Education for 2021 onwards.

2020 Training Delivery

To the end of June, LandSAR have delivered 30 courses to 369 volunteers.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic have delivered 6 courses to 111 volunteers.

Both training providers are on track to deliver their full schedule of courses for 2020.

13. SARdonyx

Jeff Lean provided the committee with an update on SAR activity during quarter 4 April-June of FY 2020, and the full year ending June 2020.

Current records (as of 05 August 2020) show a total of 393 incidents reported during Q4 2020. This compares with 532 incidents in Q4 2019 - a reduction of 26%.

There was a total of 2,349 incidents recorded during YE Jun 2020. In YE Jun 2019, there were 2,456 incidents recorded. This is an approximate reduction of 4%.

More detailed statistics were provided in the quarterly and annual summary reports.

Analysis of the SARdonyx database has found some potential errors in data entry, for example:

- Incorrect classification of some records regarding SAR outcomes – specifically lines assisted.
- Incorrect classification of wanderer incidents – some incidents have been identified where reporters have selected the “Other” option from the selection

of Land Activity instead of selecting “Wanderer”. This meant that the additional data fields associated with Wanderer incidents were not populated.

14. Operational Framework

Carl van der Meulen provided a brief update on the review of the Operational Framework for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region. None of the identified amendments or updates are expected to have any material impact on either the shape of the SAR sector, or the delivery of SAR services, in New Zealand. Some of the areas identified for requiring updates include:

- An explanation of the International expectations for having national SAR arrangements for New Zealand, with reference to the IMO Global SAR Plan.
- Updating the section about distress alerts, with the addition of a section about managing false alerts and our expectations of commercial providers of alerting systems.
- Updating the section on New Zealand legislation once the Civil Aviation Bill is enacted.
- Adding a section on the role and responsibilities of the NZSAR Senior Officials Group.
- Aligning the two sections on Coordinating Authorities, particularly the role of National Antarctic Programmes.
- Updating the section on international cooperation, explicitly noting that the boundary of the NZSRR does not prejudice the delimitation of boundaries between states.
- Clarification in the section relating to body recovery.
- Updating the section about Nationally Significant SAR Incidents.
- Updating the section relating to New Zealand’s SAR Guidelines.
- Removing some of the details about search suspension, as they are now contained in the Guidelines.

15. National SAR Support Programme 2020/21

Rhett provided the Consultative Committee with an outline of the National SAR Support Programme (NSSP) for 2020/21. The NSSP is organised by theme, with an identified NZSAR Secretariat lead for each theme.

16. Reviews Register

Rhett provided an update on the NZSAR Reviews Register, which was distributed with the meeting packs. The Register includes a summary of the recommendations by various themes. Actions to address the recommendations are ongoing.

17. NZSAR Awards

The table below outlined completed and upcoming NZSAR Awards ceremonies that are being run in place of the cancelled function at Parliament, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Date	Location / Venue	Awards
15 July (Complete)	Auckland / <u>Royal Akarana</u> Yacht Club	Gold Operational Award & Certificate of Achievement, Operation (Multi - Agency)
30 July (Complete)	<u>Turangi / Tokaanu</u> Coastguard	Certificate of Achievement, Support (Coastguard)
11 August	Wellington / 3 Queens Wharf	Certificate of Achievement, Operation (NZ Police)
12 August	Christchurch / Sumner SLSNZ Club	Certificate of Achievement, Operation (SLSNZ)
19 September	Wellington / Te Papa	Gold Support (SLSNZ)
TBC	Northland / (TBC)	Certificate of Achievement (LandSAR)
TBC	Wellington / (TBC)	Certificate of Achievement (LandSAR)

18. ANZDEM Conference

The ANZDEM Conference due to be held 1-2 October 2020 on the Gold Coast will be run as a hybrid event, to support e-delegate attendance and participation from NZ.

19. General Business

- a. The date of the next meeting to be advised.

Action and Decisions Table

#	Item	Action (A) / Decision (D)	Responsibility	Status
7	Risk Matrix	A The Secretariat will outline the risk matrix discussion points to the NZSAR Council for decisions.	NZSAR Secretariat	
9	Meeting structures & frequency	[Advice] No change to the current structure and frequency of NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting.	Nil	No Action
10	SAR Data & Information Group	A Organisations are to nominate a representative for the SAR Data & Information Group to Jeff Lean by 30 September 2020	All	
11	Innovation & Technology Panel	A Organisations are to nominate a representative for the SAR Innovation & Technology Panel to Carl van der Meulen by 30 September 2020	All	
19	General Business	A Date of next meeting to be advised	NZSAR Secretariat	