



New Zealand Search and Rescue Council Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

**New Zealand Search and Rescue Council Meeting
Held at 1pm on Tuesday 22 November 2011
Te Waka Room Ministry of Transport
Level 6, 89 The Terrace Wellington**

Attendees:

Chief Executive Officer - Martin Matthews - MoT – Chair
Executive Director Steve Douglas - CAA
Inspector Gerard Prins – NZ Police
General Manager Safety Services Nigel Clifford - MNZ
Group Captain Andrew Clark – NZDF
General Manager David Jane - DoC

Present:

Duncan Ferner - NZSAR
Carl van der Meulen - NZSAR
Rachel Roberts – NZSAR
Bruce Johnston - NZ Police
Mike Davies - DOC
Vivienne Bracefield - NZSAR

Attending

Amy Russell – TEC

Apologies

Executive Director Catherine Taylor - MNZ
Commissioner Peter Marshall – NZ Police
Director General Al Morrison – DoC
Lieutenant General Richard Rhys Jones – NZDF
Air Commodore Peter Port - NZDF

1 Welcome

Martin Matthews (Chair) extended a welcome to everyone present.

2 Apologies

As listed above.

3 Minutes from previous meeting

The Minutes from the previous NZSAR Council Committee meeting held on 3 August 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising from Minutes of 3 August 2011 meeting

NSSP Coordinator

Secretariat is to recruit a NSPP Coordinator Status: Complete.

Preventative Messaging

Share Police Model.

Responsibility; Police.

Status: Under action.

Foster a collaborative SAR approach

Responsibility; Secretariat.

Status: Implemented.

Map "Preventative" responsibilities

Responsibility; Secretariat.

Status: Under Action.

TEC Funding

Secretariat is to examine the funding of SAR training, explore the risks imposed by TEC changes and make recommendations to the Council at the next NZSAR Council meeting

Responsibility; Secretariat.

Status: Complete.

5 Service Level Agreements

Carl van der Meulen NZSAR Secretariat reported that it had been a quiet quarter.

Service Level Agreement Partners

Summary for the 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 Quarter

All reporting requirements for the Quarter have been met by the SLA Partners

Outputs	Coastguard	LandSAR	AREC	SLSNZ	Totals
SAROPS Attended	111*	88	9	3	--
Volunteers Involved	874	773	35	5	1,687
Volunteer Hours	2,748	9,476	624	16	12,864

*CNZ reported 41 incidents which did not include Police event numbers.

2,293 Coastguard volunteers responded to 407 non-SAR related calls for assistance during the quarter.

Coordinating Authorities

Summary for the 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 Quarter

Measures	POLICE	RCCNZ	TOTALS
SAROPS	226	141	367
Lives at Risk	204	857	1,061
Lives Saved	18	0	18
People Rescued	80	9	89
People Assisted	106	19	125
LandSAR Taskings	53	1	54
Coastguard Taskings	61	2	63
AREC Taskings	6	0	6
SLSNZ Taskings	7	0	7
Performance of SLA Partners	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Aviation assets were tasked 83 times during the quarter.
3 NZDF Taskings during the quarter (all P3K)

Comparison with last year's quarter. There was a 17% decrease in the number of SAROPS, with a 64% decrease in the number of people at risk

Issues and Updates

Coastguard

- Recruitment for a new CEO is underway as incumbent finishes his term at the end of February 2012.
- Graeme Hull has been appointed as Regional Manager for Coastguard Eastern Region.
- Coastguard Northern Region restructure is almost complete

LandSAR

- Governor General has accepted an invitation as Patron for LandSAR.
- LandSAR AGM & Forum will be held 26th November 2011.
- LandSAR has developed a Group Planning Tool that will be used to identify a Group's operational capability and training needs.

SLSNZ

- Following the recent AGM SLSNZ has three new Board members.
- Pat Waite is the interim CEO. Recruitment for new CEO is commencing.
- SLSNZ season and patrols started at Labour weekend.
- SLSNZ Leadership Strategy is now being implemented with the assistance of a \$250,000 Prime Minister's grant.
- Andy Kent commenced as Lifesaving Services and Education Manager and will be actively involved with NZSAR & the sector.

AREC

- No Issues.

6 Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Review of funding arrangements for SAR Training.

Duncan Ferner (Manager NZSAR Secretariat) advised the Council that the TEC SAR review is one of two reviews currently occurring around education funding arrangements. He noted that Government wishes to achieve cost effective "NZ growth" oriented outcomes with its tertiary education spend and that SAR (and EM in general) does not fit very well at all into TEC goals and objectives.

However, TEC acknowledges the "public good" of SAR and a wide range of SAR and emergency management organisations have made submissions to TEC (due 18 November 2011). Additionally - some non SAR organisations also regard they have a stake in this process.

The NZSAR Secretariat submitted a response document to TEC which included the following principles:

- The provision of SAR services is a public good, not a commercial operation. Services are delivered at no cost to the users.
- SAR organisations with operational or service delivery responsibilities must be able to exert control over the nature, type and quantity of training for their member personnel.
- The training of all SAR people must remain free of charge to individuals.
- It is vital that SAR people train together where possible, not separately within organisational silos. This will support and enable the NZSAR goal of achieving a culture of “one SAR body” amongst the many organisations who deliver SAR services.
- Training for SAR people needs to provide them with sufficient skills so that the coordinating authorities have confidence that they can perform their designated role(s) effectively and safely. SAR organisations with operational or service delivery responsibilities are responsible for establishing and maintaining this level of confidence.
- SAR training may or may not lead to some form of qualification for individuals.

Important Elements

The NZSAR Secretariat paper also noted that the following elements are important for any new SAR training funding arrangements that may be established:

- Be fit for the whole of search and rescue sector (Sector as defined by NZSAR).
- Ensure SAR operational agencies are able to control and direct the training of their personnel.
- Ensure SAR training organisations meet the needs of SAR agencies with operational responsibilities.
- Ensure that individual SAR members are not required to pay for their training (irrespective of the employment status of the individual).
- Require SAR operational agencies to present an evidence based, objective case for training need, leading to a collective annual SAR training plan.
- Ensure SAR operational agencies own and can develop and share all relevant intellectual property. The free flow of information is important to the NZSAR goal of promoting continuous improvement within the SAR Sector.
- Sustain engagement with government funded tertiary education systems.
- Be efficient in the use of resources.
- Utilise TEC funding and reporting mechanisms.

- Be used for initial or advanced skill acquisition training.
- Ensure SAR training funded by TEC will be standards based where possible.
- Result in nationally recognised skills from the SAR training.
- Result in a recognised NZ qualification for some SAR people who complete significant SAR training.

The Secretariat manager outlined several different possibilities including:

- TEC establish a separate fund for SAR training which would be managed by TEC
- NZSAR to manage collation of training needs but not training money.
- NZSAR to take a more central role, including management of funding with corresponding additional responsibilities.

The Secretariat also presented a flow diagram of possible organisational relationships and responsibilities and summarised the submissions of several other organisations, most of whom broadly favoured the NZSAR Secretariat's submission. Risks were noted around access to funding and continuity & sustainment training.

NZSAR Council Discussion: Following the initial presentation by the Secretariat Manager, the Council and Ms Amy Russell from TEC discussed the various options and implications.

NZ Police and MNZ noted their preference for NZSAR to have a more central role in planning for training across the sector. They also acknowledged that this option would create a heavier workload for NZSAR Secretariat.

Amy Russell (TEC) explained that TEC are currently examining the various submissions and will put a paper to the TEC Board and Minister in early 2012. Amy noted that the TEC policy environment has changed and that it had concerns about funding training where people were not gaining qualifications. TEC hoped the review would lead to sustainable "fit for purpose" training for SAR volunteers. TEC recognises the "One SAR" approach and the need for shared training and need to explore if organisations who have paid SAR employees should be required to contribute.

The Council discussion was wide ranging and noted:

- The outcome needs to be constructive, create the best outcome for the sector and is not simply a funding issue.
- Specific SAR centric CIMS training is needed.
- Skills attainment is the main priority with qualifications attainment being somewhat of a by-product.
- A ring fenced pool of SAR training funding is preferred.
- It would be preferable for SAR organisations to coordinate and control potential trainees so the training is prioritised, in line with identified needs and avoids over-training of individuals.

- It would be preferable for NZSAR to define the training need and for TEC to arrange the funding.

Council emphasised that outcome of the review must be fit for the purpose and will require robust prioritisation. The Chair thanked Ms Russell for her time and consideration in attending the Council meeting. Ms Russell departed the meeting at 3pm.

Action:

The NZSAR Council **endorsed** the NZSAR Secretariat submission to TEC.

7 Secretariat Update

The Secretariat Manage updated the Council on a range of issues:

National SAR Support Programme.

- RWC 2011 has delayed overall implementation.
 - Air observer training has been planned
 - The Marine SAR workshop is complete (80 people – Auckland)
 - SAR Incident/Controller /Manager training redevelopment continues. It will be broken into modules - splitting the initial response from formal search planning.
- SAREX support to Police Districts continues
- Marine and alpine study proposals currently being developed.
- Scope for video conference trial complete.

Recruitment

- Mr. Phil Burgess commences 7 December 2011.
- Phil has extensive training and exercise development experience.
- Two rounds of recruitment were required.
- Appreciate assistance of Police and RCCNZ.
- Position and programme will be reviewed in 18 months.

Prevention

- AdventureSmart redevelopment & outdoor intentions process is complete & is now being promoted
- Some organisations not demonstrating fully cooperative and/or collaborative behaviours with many examples of inconsistent message delivery.

Following a short discussion led by the Chair, the NZSAR Council re-affirmed its commitment and that of its member organisations to the various safety codes and to consistent safety messaging.

The Council encouraged the Secretariat to promote consistency and collaboration in safety messaging throughout New Zealand organisations with

safety responsibilities in order to reduce the numbers of preventable search and rescue incidents.

8 NZSAR Consultative Committee

The report from the NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting of 9 November 2011 circulated before the meeting was discussed. The Council noted the desire by the major voluntary SAR providing agencies; LandSAR, Coastguard & Surf Life Saving NZ for enhanced direct engagement with the Council.

Decision: The Council:

- **agreed** that representatives from LandSAR, Coastguard & Surf Life Saving NZ will be individually invited to engage with Council members prior to Council meetings in 2012.
- **agreed** the membership and composition of the Council should not be changed.
- **agreed** the annual combined NZSAR Council and NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting should remain.
- **directed** the NZSAR Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements.

9 General Business

Rena – Implications for SAR. MNZ outlined the rapid (2 hr) oil spill response to the Rena incident and that the SAR response was minimal due to the nature of the incident and the responsibilities of the vessels crew and salvors.

However, the incident highlighted the wider issue of a future mass rescue and how NZ might prepare for a large scale SAR incident. SAR agencies have some plans in place, especially around mass rescue operation in Cook Strait. Additionally, International Maritime Rescue Federation is looking at mass rescue and the challenge of implementing a timely and appropriate response.

The Council noted the need for rapid escalation and fast deployment for MRO incidents. The control and coordination arrangements for such incidents would be situation dependent but would likely involve a number of agencies. It may also require the early activation of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCCMC) in Wellington in case some form of emergency declaration is required to access national level resources as well as to inform political and media interests.

The Council also noted some of the need to engage with MCDEM and discussed the limitations of mass rescue simulations.

Action. The Council asked the NZSAR Secretariat, together with RCCNZ and NZ Police to continue to explore SAR mass rescue issues including:

- strategic policy

- operational guidelines
- command and control
- exercising
- media engagement

CDEM Engagement

NZSAR continues to engage with the CDEM sector. A Tsunami warning meeting was hosted and ongoing engagement with the CDEM regions is being planned for 2012.

Police SAR Review

The Police noted that their internal review of SAR arrangements has attracted additional feedback from Police Districts and subsequently remains a work in progress.

Australia

In November, the Secretariat Manager attended the annual NATSAR meeting in Adelaide. A report will be prepared and presented to the Council.

Annual Report

The NZSAR 2010-11 Annual Report has been well received.

Other Business

MNZ is completing a value for money review and RCCNZ is developing a multi year budget plan. MoT and Treasury have been advised of the preliminary financial requirements to develop a ground station to support the new MEOSAR 406MHz distress beacon system.

The Council noted that the MetService is under increasing financial pressure which may affect both mountain and marine free weather forecasts. Any alterations to these services may have an impact upon SAR.

Following discussion, the Council directed the next Council meeting should have discussions about the assessment of SAR risk. This should be looked at from the strategic perspective (such as economic conditions), not the operational.

Action. SAR Risk assessment will be the strategic discussion topic at the next NZSAR Council meeting.

Farewell

Martin Matthews acknowledged that this ought to have been the final meeting for Ms Catherine Taylor, Executive Director of Maritime New Zealand. Unfortunately Ms Taylor was unable to attend the meeting due to her MNZ commitments to the Rena incident off Tauranga.

The Council expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation for the contribution that Ms Taylor made to search and rescue over many years and to the NZSAR Council more recently. Ms Taylor has been active in her contribution and

constant in her presence. This has been an area of interest and Ms Taylor has been a strong supporter of Maritime New Zealand and of search and rescue in general.

Next Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 29 February 2012

Meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Martin Matthews
Chair
NZSAR Council

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Responsibility
6.	The NZSAR Council endorsed the NZSAR Secretariat submission to TEC.	Council
8.	Arrange direct engagement between the NZSAR Council and representatives of LandSAR, Coastguard & Surf Life Saving NZ	Secretariat
9.	Continue the development of mass rescue issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strategic policy• operational guidelines• command and control• exercising• media engagement	Secretariat RCCNZ NZ Police
9.	Risk assessment to be next meeting strategic discussion topic	Secretariat

MOSR 1-7

16 November 2011

NZSAR Council

**Joint Service Level Agreement monitoring report:
1 July – 30 September 2011 Quarter**

1. **Provision of Services.** Services have been provided by the SLA partners as described in the table of outputs.

Outputs	Coastguard	LandSAR	AREC	SLSNZ
Provision of expert services				
Provision of expert advice				
Provision of IMT Members			Not Required	
Summary of non-SAR activity		Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
Up to date details available				
Participation in joint SAREX				
Attendance at Forums				
Nominations NZSAR Awards	One	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. A summary of activity by the SLA partners for the quarter.

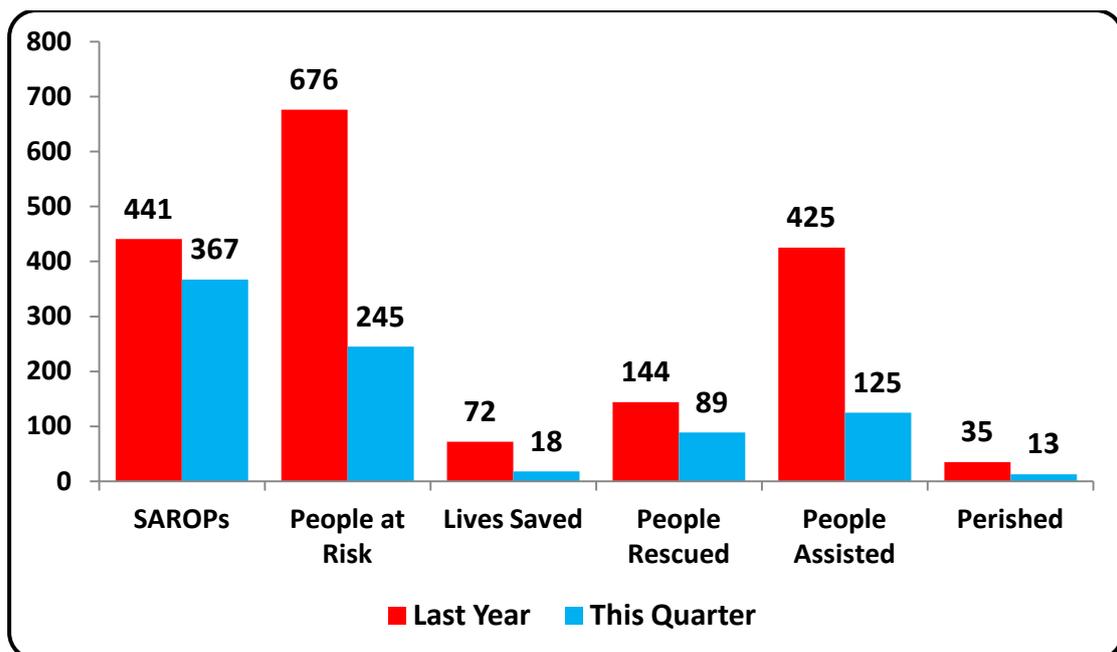
Outputs	Coastguard	LandSAR	AREC	SLSNZ	Totals
SAROPs Attended	111	88	9	3	--
Volunteers Involved	874	773	35	5	1,687
Volunteer Hours	2,748	9,476	624	16	12,864

3. **Activity for the Quarter.** A summary of overall activity for the quarter, as reported by the two coordinating authorities.

Measures	Police	RCCNZ	Totals
SAROPs	226	141	367
Lives at Risk	204	857	1,061
Lives Saved	18	0	18
People Rescued	80	9	89
People Assisted	106	19	125
LandSAR Taskings	53	1	54
Coastguard Taskings	61	2	63
AREC Taskings	6	0	6
SLSNZ Taskings	7	0	7
Performance of SLA Partners	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

4. A comparison of this quarter with the same period (graph on following page) for last year shows that there was a 17% decrease in the number of SAROPs, with a 64% decrease in the number of people who required help from the SAR sector.

5. I have been unable to identify why there has been such a large decrease in the number of people requiring help when compared to the number of SAROPs for the quarter.



Summary of Issues and Updates

6. Coastguard is currently recruiting a new CEO, as the incumbent's term will finish in February 2012. Graeme Hull has been appointed as the Regional Manager for Coastguard Eastern Region, and the management restructure of Coastguard Northern Region is almost complete. The Coastguard conference will be held 25-27 November in Nelson.
7. LandSAR NZ has developed a Group Planning Tool that will be used to identify a Group's operational capability and associated training needs. The LandSAR forum and AGM will be held 26 November in Wellington. The Governor General is the new patron of LandSAR NZ.
8. Surf Life Saving New Zealand's Board stood down at their recent AGM. Three members were reappointed to the Board, along with three new members. Pat Waite continues in his role as the interim CEO of SLSNZ. Recruitment for a new CEO has started. SLSNZ received a Prime Minister's Grant of \$250,000 which will be used to implement a Leadership Strategy.
9. AREC have no issues or updates to report to the Council.

Carl van der Meulen
Senior Advisor
NZSAR Secretariat



MOSR3-1

16 November 2011

NZSAR Council

Search and Rescue Sector Update

The Search and Rescue sector update for the NZSAR Council from the meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee dated 9 November 2011 is contained below.

AREC

AREC have formed two new sections in Auckland, including one based in the former Music Point Telecom building. Ongoing roll out of replacement of equipment continues. Auckland manager Richard Gamble is trialling a new device which may make a difference to some communications issues. AREC provided communications support to the recently held Southern Mountain Race.

Mountain Safety Council

A link to the AdventureSmart website is now included on the MSC website, and MSC remains highly involved in further developing the site. MSC have been involved with the Department of Labour Adventure Tourism Review, and with the outcomes of the review.

SARINZ

SARINZ have been busy during this last quarter, with half of their training year being performed during this period, There have been more than 60 training events held, and over 2,000 students have undertaken SARINZ training during the year.

Coastguard

Coastguard activity has increased. Coastguard received an extra \$250,000 from the LGB Outdoor Safety Committee, from an increase in the overall amount of funds the committee had available for distribution. This is likely the result of the approach from the sector during the year.

Fatalities are climbing as there are still people who venture out without lifejackets. Coastguard has received feedback from members of the public that people who ignore safety advice, don't wear lifejackets, and put themselves into danger should be charged for the cost of their rescues.

Coastguard is working with the GIS team at Massey University, and is completing Unit audit reports, and an evaluation report. The vessel refurbishment/replacement project is on track, with 61 out of 71 vessels having been replaced or upgraded since the start of the project.

Maritime Operations Centre

In July activity was down 25% on historical average, and is now returning to normal trends. Team is now at full strength, with training of four new Operators. Some new equipment has been rolled out in the ops room. Following a visit to Canada it is apparent that the NZSAR sector compares favourably with international operations.

There are two available technologies that the NZ SAR system needs to be aware of: AIS SART which uses the AIS system to notify a distress situation; and VHF DSC which is used to a major extent in other parts of the world.

LandSAR NZ

The Search Management Support Group concept which came out of the review of the Christchurch earthquake operation is being rolled out. The Post Incident Review Project is now available on the website.

Insurance is an ongoing issue for LandSAR. There are training occasions where volunteers are not covered by the insurance arrangements with the coordinating authorities.

An arcGIS project is being carried out, and will be presented at the upcoming LandSAR Forum.

The TEC review is a big focus as LandSAR will be directly affected by the outcome of the review. LandSAR has developed a Group Planning Tool that will be used to identify a Group's operational capability and training needs. Group Planning Tool looks at Training needs and wants and Operational issues.

Department of Conservation

The Aoraki Mount Cook team are fully staffed for the summer season with four permanent and four part-time staff. They are undergoing a three week training course, with training on large avalanche sites. The climbing season has started as usual. Implementation of the outdoor intentions system is being rolled out. DOC thanked NZSAR and NZMSC for the funding and work on the AdventureSmart website and the outdoor intentions system.

Ambulance NZ

SAR operations remain at 5% of workload. There is concern in the sector that any national tendering of services could affect some aviation resources. The Air Ambulance / Air Rescue standard has been in place for some months, and some providers have been audited. The AIA has signed up to the existing Standard. Ambulance NZ has released a National Response plan.

RCCNZ

During the last three months there has been a steady increase in the number of activities, but less than same period last year. Beacon related activity is increasing on last year. Alongside this, PLB registrations are double EPIRB and ELT registrations.

RCCNZ is currently supporting Maritime NZ activities in Tauranga since the grounding of the RENA. As a consequence many tasks and projects have been delayed and the incident has affected planning to at least New Year. Some RCCNZ staff are involved on site in Tauranga.

RCCNZ attended the 47th Session of the COSPAS-SARSAT Open Council Meeting in Montreal, and were brought up to date with the progress of the MEOSAR system, and the situation with the current space segment. NZ is working with Australia in developing the ground networks required for our area, and it is expected that it could be 2018 before the MEOSAR system is operating in the South Pacific.

RCCNZ has been liaising with various cruise ship operators to educate them on the SAR system in NZ, and to ensure the correct lines of communication are in place.

Police

The Police SAR Review is with the Police Executive. Police are involved in the redevelopment of the Land and Marine SAR management Courses.

Next year's Air Observers Courses are being planned with RCCNZ, with a meeting later this month to finalise next year dates and course content.

The AdventureSmart website has now been approved to be on the Police website and Intranet, and will also feature in the Police internal magazine.

Police National HQ staff will be attending the Water Safety NZ Conference, LandSAR Forum and AGM, and Coastguard Conference.

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand

The winter has been quiet for SLSNZ at the operational level. The season started at Labour weekend with a series of drownings by people net fishing and rock fishing. SLSNZ has provided Counselling and Peer Support for the volunteers who have been involved.

The risk assessment project of 30 marine bars is underway. This is a project being undertaken with Coastguard, and supported by ACC.

The RENA grounding has had an effect for the local SLS Clubs. Some beach education programmes have had to be cancelled, and while some beaches remain closed, members of the public are still swimming in these locations.

The insurance costs for SLSNZ have almost doubled.