

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa ● ● ● ——— ——— ——— ● ● ●

## **NZSAR Consultative Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, 15 November 2022, 9.30am to 12 noon

3 Queens Wharf, Wellington and MS Teams

## 1. Present

Name	Agency
Duncan Ferner (Chair)	NZSAR
Craig Rendel	NZ Police
Kate Weinberg	RCCNZ
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Scott McKenzie	Aviation NZ
Callum Gillespie	CNZ
James Fryday	AMSA
Grant Redevers	Antarctica NZ
Nigel Dickson	NZDF

Name	Agency
Don Robertson	AREC
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Mark Bailey	NASO
Brendon Comerford	MOC
Rob Hewitt	
Don Bogie	DOC
Janet Hughes	AMSA
Mick Kearney	SLSNZ

## 2. In attendance

Name	Agency
Dan Clearwater	NZSAR
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR
Evan Hughes	NZSAR
Tania Seward	NZSAR

Name	Agency
Rhett Emery	NZSAR
Alita Bigwood	NZSAR
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR
Wendy Harrison	NZSAR

## 3. Apologies

Name	Agency
Ian Duncan	FENZ
Nick Paterson	MoT
Andrew Greig	NZSAR

Name	Agency
Chris Lind	NEMA
Mike Daisley	MSC
Adam Wooler	SLSNZ

## 4. Welcome

Duncan Ferner opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

## 5. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 16 August 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

## 6. Summary of actions from previous meetings

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
8.	<b>NZSAR Risk Matrix</b> <b>a. Volunteering</b>	<b>Action:</b> Duncan will come up with some wording about volunteers and better search and rescue outcomes if have diverse and inclusive approach.	Duncan Ferner	Has been updated

## 7. Sector Updates

Agencies provided brief sector updates.

### **Ambulance NZ**

#### **No report provided. AMSA**

Jim Fryday reported that the NATSAR Council went very well with lots of action points coming through. Five new SAROs will be finishing their training in December. Jim covered off two events that had recently happened – a ship that had run out of power that was drifting and a yacht that ran into bad weather.

Janet Hughes gave thanks to Evan Hughes for discussions about the environmental scan. Work has started on this and on how to improve the way data is presented. This is complicated with States and Territories.

### **Antarctica NZ**

The summer research season is in full swing. There has been the usual weather delays and plane technical issues. Sea ice was late forming this winter, so this created a challenge for the Italian programme with their runway. The redevelopment of Scott Base is a major focus and construction phase starts next year. There is currently COVID circulating at McMurdo station.

### **AREC**

Training courses are continuing to be developed and putting these online. There has been a good uptake of these courses. The replacement website is hoping to go live prior to Christmas. There has been a lot of work with SAREXs and the new Police repeaters have worked well.

### **Aviation NZ**

The UAV NZ Conference was held virtually yesterday. This was well run by Civil Aviation. There is a backlog of organisations getting certified.

District plans are being reviewed and there are significant changes with helicopters putting in four movements in a seven-day period. This is also affecting Defence. There is an out clause in case of emergency for SAR but this does not affect training.

As part of the assessments and insurance work, there is a pattern forming that equipment is out of date and is still being utilised. Post COVID systems are still being caught up on.

### **CAA**

No report provided.

### **Coastguard NZ**

There were 32 SAR operations and 167 Coastguard OPs in the last month where 16% have been SAR which is higher than usual. Events in the period included quite a bit of tragedy.

A meeting is being held with the Associate Minister of Transport next Wednesday. The topics of conversation will be around how Coastguard is faring and lifejacket legislation.

Well prepared for summer and activity which is increasing on the water. Response capability in Bay of Islands has been an issue for a long time. This is being addressed with a new base being established at Opuia and are formally opening the new headquarters in February next year.

Old4New Life Jackets campaign kicks off on 8 December and runs through until 14 January.

Fuel reimbursement figures have gone up from \$280.00 an hour to \$350.00.

The volunteer strategy is progressing well and grateful for NZSAR for their support. Have gained 200 volunteers in the process.

The Coastguard brand is evolving, will be running two brands for a while.

### **Department of Conservation Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team**

Early pre-season training has been completed ready for the climbing season. Two of the highest winching operations were done in New Zealand.

The Natural Hazard Management systems are being worked on and are happy to share these. There has been a growth in international participants.

### **Fire and Emergency New Zealand (supplied by FENZ)**

Industrial Action continues however communications are encouraging that this may end very soon. The industrial action relates to not taking part in certain non-emergency activities, however still responding to emergency events. A series of one-hour stoppages have been notified, however these have been progressively cancelled as negotiations proceed.

The USAR reclassification will be held in 2024. Our heavy team remains internationally Classified despite the delay.

Working Safely in Water project is progressing to the stage of scoping out the FENZ response equipment and capability structure (location, size, deployment processes). Still in early stages.

## **LandSAR**

Continues to look like a busy summer. Participation rates are up but SAROPs remain stationary. There has been more work in the urban environment. Training has been busy. People have been to Germany, working with Texas Border Controls and attending the Iceland Conference.

## **Land Safety Forum**

No report provided

## **Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia**

Back to 2019 levels as the public are back out on the water. There is an increase in the number of vessels coming back from the Islands as the cyclone season approaches.

There has been a multi-generational upgrade of the WAVE platform. Kordia is a significant partner in the Public Safety Network for the whole of government.

## **Ministry of Transport**

The Major Transport Incident Platform framework is recommencing to look at the infrastructure and understand where responsibilities lie.

## **Mountain Safety Council**

No report provided.

## **NEMA**

No report provided

## **New Zealand Defence Force**

Continue to experience maintenance challenges and having to manage and prioritise training due to lack of personnel.

## **New Zealand Police**

Talked to Defence last week to clarify process for tasking. The action plan strategy is complete and also an action plan for DSARACs. This will be submitted soon along with the Letter of Intent.

Rauora exercises went very well and had really good engagement from DLTs. Planning is underway for 2023.

Consultation has been completed around the proposed training structure and is with PAC for approval with intent to deliver in April 2023.

District engagement is kicking off, Craig and Dave Grace have been around the districts and part two is focussing on cultural competency and isolated rural communities. RCC have been invited to join.

Developing a brand for Police in the form of manaia which will tell the story of SAR within Police.

## **Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (provided by Kate)**

Operationally fairly steady, nothing out of the ordinary.

90% of RCCNZ and Safety Systems Refresh positions have now been filled. We expect to get to 100% by end of Q3.

Final month of our second SARO induction course this year, with graduation on 16 December.

Summer roster will commence from 01 December with increased minimum staffing for day shifts (from 2 to 3).

Commissioning of LUT continues (preparation for next generation beacons (GADDs and Return Link Service beacons)).

RFI period for Radio and Distress Information contract has closed and applicants are being assessed.

A lot of work underway developing engagement and training plans for Q3 and Q4.

Associate Minister of Transport - Kieran McAnulty MP (Wairapa), Ginny Anderson MP (Hutt South), Greg O'Connor MP (Ōhāriu) and Barbara Edmonds MP (Mana) visited us yesterday.

### **St John**

No report provided.

### **Surf Life Saving NZ**

It has been quiet in the last quarter, which is down from last year. Preventative actions are up about two thirds. Last weekend there were two fatalities and were disappointed with the press who put Surf in a bad light.

Radio Operations Centre is up and running. Need to bring the Northern public network onto a private network. All GPSs are turned on.

Flood work has been busy with courses being done.

Adam Wooler has moved to Special Operations and Chris Emmett has stepped in.

Patrols are refreshed and are up and running. Water is 2-3 degrees warmer at present meaning people are going out earlier and for longer.

### **Te Whatu Ora**

NASO has an interim manager. Health reforms are having a significant impact on the air commissioning programme. In Northland, a spare helicopter has been decommissioned. Due to reduced capacity are looking to use more fixed wing aircraft.

### **Water Safety New Zealand**

No report provided.

### **NZSAR Secretariat**

The Consultative Committee are invited to note the status of the activities and projects the NZSAR Secretariat is undertaking in the National SAR Support Programme for 2022-23 (item 14).

## **8. NZSAR Risk Matrix – Health, Safety and Wellbeing**

Duncan reported that this risk was last looked at over two years ago and have made some modest changes to this risk. These treatments drive our work programme.

Some risks relate to the availability of FED money. Allan mentioned that the fatigue pamphlet that was made available from NZSAR is having a major impact on his staff. LandSAR's policy has gone in front of the Health, Safety and Wellness Committee and looks like it will be adopted across the sector. Police have adopted LandSAR's fatigue programme of work. Need sector consistency but changes re time are required for on the water operations.

The Council, at its last meeting, discussed health and safety at length and also wanted to understand the PCBU aspects. Andy Greig is putting together a paper outlining health, safety and wellness issues as we want the Council confident in this area given the active steps being taken.

Duncan asked if there are plans in place to manage HSW incidents, as described in the risk treatment? Do agencies have plans in place should the worst happen? Allan advised that Surf are working on a significant disaster management plan with both a corporate and operational focus. Kate advised that RCC are currently developing a paper with a focus on helicopters. Carl advised that LandSAR have a plan, and this is tested annually and forms part of their health & safety system. AREC do have a plan which is being put into the appropriate format.

Carl mentioned that PCBU duties go beyond those in the sector and perhaps need to add members of the public into the risk treatment.

Don observed the need to update the risk assessments in line with the risk descriptors.

Don also noted DOC is working on PCBU guidance and will share the work the department is doing in this area.

### **Actions**

- Andy to include HSW incident planning in the next HSW SLA audits.
- Don to share DOC PCBU guidance

## **9. Trifecta Brief**

Charlotte Connell and Rebecca Newton gave a presentation on the Trifecta review.

- Acknowledged the system needs to change to improve outcomes for all.
- System to be more modernised and more inclusive - communities, Iwi and Māori participation, emergency management system and impacts of emergencies.
- Trifecta programme involves three projects – develop emergency management Bill, review of national civil defence emergency management plan and designing a roadmap to deliver the national disaster resilience strategy.
- There are five different workstreams.
- Timelines - keen to have Bill introduced into House pre-Christmas or early next year. Will run in parallel with the National Emergency Plan review and implementation steps while the Bill is in the House, but process can't be kicked off in earnest until comes into law. Election will pause everything.

- The Bill builds on policy decisions made over the last three years and is not a fundamental transformation of the emergency management system.
- National CDEM Plan and Guide review – updating planning arrangements, support and enable the implementation of changes to the emergency management system and legal framework, ensure the form and function of the plan is fit for purpose.
- Why is change needed? – current CDEM plan has been in place since 2015, and there is some confusion around roles and responsibilities. Current plan is lacking in flexibility so hard to change around lessons learnt. Stakeholders will like plan to be more modern and user friendly.
- Priorities – community resilience, Pasifika and ethnic minorities, system capability, disproportionately impacted people, enabling regional and local level CDEM arrangements, Iwi and Māori participation.
- The review of the Plan needs to happen alongside the development of the new Emergency Management Bill to ensure we can implement the policy changes that are being made within the Bill.

## **10. Independent Review of Management of Spontaneous Volunteers**

This review was undertaken in 2021. A project is proposed to address the recommendations in which will involve support from Police and RCC. Comments were made around the implications for health and safety, this needs to be considered alongside PCBU work and additional members who are tagged onto teams.

## **11. Tiaki Resources Update**

Rhett advised this is an initiative for travellers coming into New Zealand. A video has been completed for Air NZ for their inflight viewing as well as short targeted videos of safety messages.

Rob Hewitt has been involved with the filming as the kaihautū. He wanted the film to uphold the mana to New Zealanders, and he talked with the production team about manufacturing a korero that New Zealanders can see themselves in and love their country.

The video, along with the backstory video, was shown to the Committee

## **12. Summer Prevention Update**

Tania Seward showed a campaign that will be going live this week promoting hiring beacons. NZSAR and Maritime NZ have worked with Consumer NZ to provide a buyer's guide to PLBs, SENDs, EPIRBs and lifejackets. This will be released in early December and as a result of our investment, is free to read and not behind a paywall.



### 13. Public Rescue Equipment

Mick Kearney shared a presentation where he sought support for the placement of public rescue equipment at beaches. As people are going in the water for rescues, it has been proven safer for people to take floatation devices if they do rescues.

Mick is asking for support and Duncan is happy to take this through to the Wai Ora Leaders on behalf of this Group. The only negative is the risk that equipment will be stolen but providing equipment is still worth doing.

### 14. Awards

Tania advised that the NZSAR Awards will be held on 16 May next year. She would like people to think more about the recognition of individual volunteers or people in the wider SAR sector. Tania also advised that both herself and Dan Clearwater are happy to help with writing nominations. Nominations close on 31 January 2023.

### 15. Noting paper - Quarterly Activity Report

The Quarterly Activity Report provided a summary of AR activity during the period 1 July to 30 September 2022.

### 16. Noting paper – National SAR Support Programme 2022-23

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the status of the activities and projects the NZSAR Secretariat is undertaking in the National SAR Support Programme for 2022-23.

### 17. Noting paper – Beach Access Update

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the outcome from the working group established to address the risk from marine animal encounters for people recreating in or on coastal beaches.

### 18. Next meeting

14 February 2023

### 19. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Action Status
8.	<b>NZSAR Risk Matrix – Health, Safety and Wellbeing</b>	<b>Action:</b> Include HSW incident planning in the next HSW SLA audits	Andy Greig	Under action

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Action Status
		<b>Action:</b> Share DOC PCBU guidance	Don Bogie.	Complete