

New Zealand Search and Rescue

**Minutes of the NZSAR Council Meeting
Thursday 25 February
1.00pm – 3.00pm
Level 6, Te Waka Boardroom, Novell House
89 The Terrace**

Attendees: Martin Matthews (MoT), Tony McLeod (Police), Air Commodore Kevin Short (NZDF), Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)

Present: Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat), Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR Secretariat), Roger Brown (MoT), Gerry Prins (Police), Mike Davies (DOC), Kevin O'Conner (DOC), Rachel Roberts (NZSAR)

1. **Welcome:**

Martin Matthews (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first for 2010.

2. **Apologies:** Steve Douglas (CAA), Catherine Taylor (MNZ), Viv Rickard (Police)

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the previous NZSAR Council meeting held on 9 December 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record subject to the correction of a minor typing error.

4. **Matters arising from the previous Minutes:**

5. Implement the agreed recommendations from the NZSAR Core Curriculum Recommendations were agreed and are being implemented.

7. Complete a detailed review of the SLA funding and expenditure every three years. To be addressed in item 7.

11. Defer strategic discussion on SAR volunteers Issues to a later meeting
Item was deferred.

5. **Service Level Agreements Monitoring Report**

Summary of LandSAR NZ Report

LandSAR have experienced slight problems with their website.

- LandSAR proved assistance for 56 SAROPs
- 559 LandSAR volunteers used during the Quarter
- 4,544 volunteer hours provided
- 82 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 76 people were rescued
- 6 people perished.

Summary of Coastguard Report

Coastguard has had a busy summer period.

- Coastguard provided assistance for 178 SAROPs
- 1,268 Coastguard volunteers used during the Quarter
- 2,263 volunteer hours provided
- 373 people were designated as being at risk during the SAROPs
- 11 people were saved
- 127 people rescued
- 228 people assisted
- 7 people perished.

Summary of SLSNZ Report

SLSNZ report every half year.

- SLSNZ proved assistance for 46 SAROPs
- 157 SLSNZ volunteers used during the Quarter
- 261 volunteer hours provided
- 69 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 5 people were saved
- 17 people rescued
- 46 people assisted
- 1 person perished.

Summary of AREC Report

- AREC provided assistance for 16 SAROPs
- 34 AREC volunteers used during the quarter
- 205 volunteer hours provided
- 11 people designated as being at risk
- 4 people were saved
- 3 people rescued
- 3 people assisted
- 2 people unaccounted for.

The Secretariat asked the Council to note that the service level agreements will be renegotiated shortly. Other reporting measures may be included as it is important that the SAR sector is able to clearly show where money is being spent and to what effect.

6. Department of Conservation Presentation and Discussion

Kevin O'Connor and Mike Davies presented to the Council on how DOC can work more effectively with the SAR sector. The presentation was well received and wide ranging discussion ensued.

DOC noted intense funding pressures for its range of services. DoC remains committed to the continued provision of the Aoraki Mount Cook Alpine Cliff Rescue team but it is finding it difficult fund anything other than the core SAR services in that location. DoC noted that funding support would be required for any expanded role or function of the Aoraki Mount Cook Alpine Cliff Rescue team.

It was **agreed** that the NZSAR Secretariat would be informed and possibly participate in any future meetings to discuss SAR services based at Aoraki Mount Cook.

The Council discussed the provision of SAR services at Aoraki Mount Cook, including funding, role clarification, memorandums of understanding (MOU) and service level agreements. It was noted that the Police – DoC MOU in place for Aoraki Mount Cook is working well and is frequently reevaluated to ensure its ongoing relevance.

It was **agreed** that it would be helpful to have an expanded MOU for SAR at a national level between Police/RCCNZ and DoC describing capabilities, communications and responsibilities.

Visitor notification systems were discussed. It was noted that such systems were a sometimes used as a SAR resource. The Council noted many practical concerns about the development, cost and responsibilities for such systems.

It was agreed that further discussions on visitor notification systems were required to see if a practical and affordable system could be developed.

7. **Strategic Funding Review**

The Council was informed that funding for SAR purposes to replace the 2 year interim appropriation and recreational boating education has been requested as part of a LTMA Section 9 (1) initiative.

It was noted that Minister Guy may wish to take the opportunity to use the NZSAR Awards function on 21 April to make a funding announcement should it be approved in time. Roger Brown is to include information about this LTMA Section 9(1) initiative in the Ministry of Transport's weekly report to the Minister.

8. **NZSAR Awards 2009**

The NZSAR Awards for 2009 will be held on Wednesday 21 April at Parliament following the joint NZSAR Consultative Committee and Council meeting. The evening will be hosted by Associate Minister of Transport – Hon Nathan Guy.

Nominations for the awards were considered by an Awards Sub-Committee of the NZSAR Consultative Committee. The Sub-Committees recommendations were considered by the Council and approved.

The Awards Sub-Committee recommended and the Council **approved** the presentation of:

- 1 Gold Award
- 5 Certificates of Achievement
- 11 Letters of nomination

Following discussion, the Council agreed that recipients would receive their award while a short citation is read out.

The Secretariat informed the Council that an Australian Search and Rescue representative has been invited to attend the joint Consultative Committee and Council meeting being held on 21 April and the NZSAR Awards being held later than day.

9. **General Business:**

Consultative Committee Report

Most organisations noted a quiet summer. The Secretariat noted the Consultative Committee meeting had smaller attendance than usual.

Strategic Goal Implementation

Strategic Goal Implementation guideline was distributed to Council members before the meeting. The Council was asked to agree the proposed plan outlined in the paper.

The council **approved** the proposed plan outlined in the Strategic Goal Implementation guideline.

Research

NZSAR continues work on improved GIS research and is initiating distress beacon research.

NZSAR Senior Advisor has nearly completed his research on volunteer issues.

Prevention

The 5 key outdoor safety messages that were rolled out before last Summer were well received, especially by the media. More sectors are very interested of the effective work being done in this area.

Core Curriculum Delivery

NZSAR are currently looking for a contractor to begin implementing this work.

Documentation Study

The NZSAR documentation study is nearly complete and will be available for consideration at the next meeting.

Workshops

SAR for People who Wander

This workshop is aimed to share ideas and improve the conduct, management and coordination of SAR incidents for people who wander in New Zealand due to some form of incapacity.

The workshop is being held on 21 & 22 March 2010 (Sunday and Monday) in Wellington.

Marine SAR

The aim of this workshop is to improve management and coordination of marine SAR incidents in and around New Zealand. This will be held on 16 & 17 May (Sunday and Monday) in Wellington.

*Minister Guy may be attending the Marine workshop.

Avalanche SAR

This workshop is aimed to improve the conduct, management and coordination of SAR for avalanche incidents in New Zealand. Being held on 1 & 2 June (Tuesday and Wednesday) in Twizel.

SAREX Plan 2010/2011

SAREX planning meeting – 10 March 2010. A national SAREX plan will be established at this meeting. The plan will be maintained by NZSAR Secretariat. The plan will contain a list of SAR events which will be maintained online. The

SAREX plan will be accompanied by SAREX guidelines other SAREX enabling resources for the sector.

The Chair requested that a briefing prepared for Minister Joyce providing information on what is being achieved within the SAR sector.

NZSAR Website

Website traffic is increasing. The new website is proving to be popular.

Possible Strategic Discussions for 2010

Possible strategic discussions for 2010/2011 for future Council meetings include:

- Volunteer issues
- SAR and Civil Defence
- Value for money
- LGB funding for SAR agencies, risks and issues
- Penalty/payment issues for false / hoax / unnecessary SAR
- Strategic responsibility for the prevention of Dementia related SAR.

It was agreed by the Council that the Volunteer Issues topic would be discussed at the joint meeting in April. It was also agreed that a discussion regarding Value for Money and Penalty/Payment issues for false / hoax and unnecessary SAR would be held at the August 2010 Council meeting.

10. **Next Proposed Meeting**

21 April Combined Consultative Committee and Council meeting
21 April NZSAR Awards 2009

11. **Other**

The Chair asked the Council to consider inviting DOC to attend the Council meetings on a permanent basis. Council members are to think about this and bring it back to the next meeting for discussion.

NZSAR Council meeting concluded at 3.00pm

Martin Matthews
Chair

Action Tasks

Action	Responsibility
6. Develop and expanded MOU for SAR at a national level between Police/RCCNZ and DoC describing capabilities, communications and responsibilities. NZSAR Secretariat to be informed and possibly participate in any future meetings to discuss SAR services based at Aoraki Mount Cook.	Police/RCCNZ/DoC Police/Doc
7. Paragraph relating to section 9.1 initiative to be included in Ministry of Transport's weekly report to Minister.	Roger Brown (MoT)
9. Volunteer issues are to be discussed at the next combined meeting with Value for Money and Penalty/Payment issues for false / hoax and unnecessary SAR being discussed at the August 2010 Council meeting	Secretariat