



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

## Minutes of Meeting

**New Zealand Search and Rescue Council Meeting  
Held at 1pm on Wednesday 29 February 2012  
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  
Commissioner Peter Marshall - NZ Police  
Executive Director Keith Manch - MNZ  
General Manager David Jane – DoC  
Group Captain Andrew Clark – NZDF

### **Present:**

Duncan Ferner - NZSAR  
Carl van der Meulen - NZSAR  
Rachel Roberts – NZSAR  
Philip Burgess - NZSAR  
Mike Davies - DoC  
Inspector Gerard Prins – NZ Police  
General Manager Safety Services Nigel Clifford - MNZ  
Vivienne Bracefield - NZSAR

### **Apologies**

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 and particularly to those attending for the first time.

- Phil Burgess - NZSAR
- Commissioner Peter Marshall - NZ Police
- Executive Director Keith Manch - MNZ

### **2. Apologies**

As listed above.

### **3. Minutes from previous meeting**

The Minutes from the previous NZSAR Council Committee meeting held on 22 November 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### 4. Matters Arising from the meeting of 22 November 2011

- **Item 8**

Arrange direct engagement between the NZSAR Council and representatives of LandSAR, Coastguard and Surf Life Saving NZ.

*Comment:* This requirement has been implemented with direct engagement occurring prior to Council meetings.

- **Item 9**

Continue the development of mass rescue policy.

*Comment:* To be discussed at Item 9.

The topic of “risk assessment” is to be strategic discussion topic for next NZSAR Council meeting.

*Comment:* To be discussed at Item 6.

#### 5. Service Level Agreements

Carl van der Meulen from the NZSAR Secretariat reported that it had been a relatively quiet quarter for search and rescue operations. All reporting requirements for the Quarter have been met by the SLA Partners

##### Service Level Agreement Partners

A summary of SLA partner SAR activity is contained in the table below for the 1 October 2011 to 31 December 2011 quarter

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Coastguard</b>	<b>LandSAR</b>	<b>AREC</b>	<b>SLSNZ</b>	<b>Totals</b>
SAROPS Attended	135	77	11	3	--
Volunteers Involved	987	595	20	25	1,627
Volunteer Hours	2,956	2,840	126	63	5,985

A variation between CNZ/SLSNZ and Police event numbers was noted. Additionally, 2,285 Coastguard volunteers responded to 925 non-SAR related calls for assistance during the quarter.

##### Coordinating Authorities

A summary of coordinating authority SAR activity for the 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 quarter is contained in the table below:

<b>Measures</b>	<b>POLICE</b>	<b>RCCNZ</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
SAROPS	330	171	501
Lives at Risk	296	239	535
Lives Saved	40	7	47
People Rescued	105	27	132
People Assisted	151	57	208
LandSAR Tasks	75	0	75
Coastguard Tasks	73	3	76
AREC Tasks	12	0	12
SLSNZ Tasks	10	0	10
Performance of SLA Partners	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Additionally, aviation assets were tasked 56 times during the quarter.

A comparison with the same period last year shows that this is the second successive quarter demonstrating a 17% decrease in the number of SAROPS as recorded by the Coordinating Authorities. Possible attributions include unseasonably poor weather, high fuel prices and the Rugby World Cup.

## **SLA Partner Issues and Updates**

### Coastguard

- Patrick Holmes has been appointed the new CEO. Patrick will take up this position effective 5 March 2012.
- Maritime NZ has conducted a review which has led to unbudgeted safety and audit charges for Coastguard.
- Coastguard Southern Region (CSR) has identified a gap in SAREX/IMTEX activity which is being addressed by CSR. If adopted nationally this will impact national training funds.

### LandSAR

- LandSAR has raised a concern about the conduct of land based beacon searches (addressed at a meeting with the Coordinating Authorities and NZSAR on 8 February 2012).
- LandSAR would like to see the development of a specific Air Observer's course for land based searches (addressed at a meeting with the Coordinating Authorities and NZSAR on 8 February 2012).
- LandSAR is concerned about IP principles for public good activity.

### SLSNZ

- Recruitment is underway for a new Chief Executive and three General Managers.

### AREC

- No Issues.

## **6. Strategic Discussions**

### **Risk Management**

Following the Council's direction at its previous meeting, the Secretariat Manager introduced the discussion and sought direction about risk management from Council. A separate paper describing previous statements of risk and some environmental factors was presented to inform the discussion.

Following wide ranging discussion, the Council agreed on the need to create some formal structure around strategic risk management. The Council also agreed that operational SAR risks were largely the purview of operational SAR agencies.

The Council **directed** that the Secretariat, in conjunction with the wider SAR sector, is to:

- Develop a proposed process to identify and register strategic search and rescue risks as they may affect the purpose and goals of the Council.
- Outline the means by which the identified risks are mitigated for Council endorsement.
- Consider including “Risk Management” as a standing item at future NZSAR Council meetings

## **Prevention**

Dave Jane from the Department of Conservation then introduced a paper titled *Coordinated approach to prevention initiatives in the outdoor sector*. The Council discussed this issue at length and noted that:

- From a SAR perspective, there is a strategic value in providing safety information services to the public as it can assist in reducing the need for SAR responses.
- Funding for and support of safety information services has become difficult in these financially constrained times. Some services, such as avalanche forecasting, are imperilled due to a lack of funding. Other services, such as weather forecasting, are being scaled or changed due to financial pressures.
- Responsibility for the provision of safety information services is spread across a range of government and non governmental agencies. These organisational responsibilities are sometimes self-adopted, imposed (through mechanisms such as legislation) and in some cases are refuted.
- The absence of clear lines of responsibility and accountability has led to a fractured approach where it is difficult to prioritise effort and funding.
- A collaborative approach to prevention can and does work well but it requires active participation and shared resource allocation.

The Council **agreed** to share information regarding safety information services and inform Ministers as appropriate. Ministers are frequently approached to support specific safety information services and should be supported with contextual advice.

## **7. 2011 NZSAR Awards**

Fourteen nominations were received. A non-conflicted sub committee drawn from the NZSAR Consultative Committee considered the nominations for the 2011 NZSAR Awards and has made the following recommendations to the Council for approval.

It is recommended that:

- The **NZSAR Gold Award** is awarded to Dean Herrick, Geoff Taylor and Stephen Smith from Hawke's Bay Helicopter Rescue trust for the rescue of the sole crew member from the yacht Kawa on 11 October 2011.
- **NZSAR Certificates of Achievement** are awarded to
  - Nelson Colyer, Coastguard Canterbury for his efforts during the rescue of the tug Rakanui on 23 April 2011.
  - Brook Rapson and Murray Phipps-Black, Worsler Bay Surf life Saving Club, for their efforts in responding to the stricken East by West ferry on 2 March 2011.
  - Wayne Keen, LandSAR Waimate, for his persistent efforts in bringing closure to two unresolved search operations.
  - Shane Beech, Coastguard Maketu, for his efforts in the rescue of two surfers in Kaituna Cut on 23 January 2011.

The NZSAR Council **approved** all award recommendations.

The NZSAR Secretariat was **directed** to notify the intended recipients, organise the awards ceremony and arrange the certificates.

## 8. SAR & CDEM Cooperation

Secretariat reported that the two sectors are looking to enhance engagement at all levels. A paper describing how enhanced cooperation may be achieved was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting. The paper:

- Outlines how enhancements to the relationships between SAR and CDEM sectors will be achieved.
- Promotes effective engagement at the local, regional and national levels.
- Noted that the SAR and CDEM sectors are organised differently which result in inherent variations in engagement throughout country.
- Offered practical engagement guidance for those who want and/or need it.
- Incorporates extensive feedback from the Police CDEM and the SAR sector.
- Has been endorsed by the NZSAR Consultative Committee.

The Council briefly discussed the paper, then **approved** it.

The Council **directed** the Secretariat, in conjunction with the wider SAR and CDEM Sectors to implement it and for the Secretariat to monitor progress.

## 9. Mass Rescue Operations

A draft paper titled 'Strategic Policy Development Proposal for Mass Rescue Operations for NZSRR', circulated prior to the meeting was introduced. The paper proposes to:

- Fill the policy gap at strategic level.
- Clarify responsibilities for planning at the operational level
- Address questions being asked about MROs by other agencies

The paper was discussed by the Council which noted the difficulty in preparing to MRO's. The Council also discussed mass rescue exercise options and indicated an expectation that one or more table top mass rescue activities would occur in the 2012/13 year building to a larger scale mass rescue exercise in the 2013/14 year.

The Council **approved** the development of strategic MRO policy as described in the paper by the Secretariat in conjunction with the wider SAR sector and other related agencies.

## 10. NSSP Update

The Secretariat briefed the Council on national SAR support programme progress:

- An increased level of SAREX support will be provided over next few months.
- The SAR Managers' training development project is still progressing but there remain significant challenges regarding IP issues.
- AdventureSmart is tracking well and this season's uptake will form a benchmark. MSC is providing good statistics around usage.
- Air Observer training and refresher courses continue for selected participants throughout the regions.
- A backcountry technical rescue workshop will be held in the South Island during May with the support of DoC and LandSAR.
- The SAR-NET trial has commenced. This is a web collaboration tool (similar to Skype) intended to assist SAR communication and collaboration. It also has operational potential. Two products will be trialled.

## 11. NZSAR Consultative Committee Report.

The report from the Consultative Committee meeting of 15 February was circulated to Council prior to this meeting.

The Council **noted** the report.

## 12 General Business

- a) Police SAR Review. Inspector Prins reported that the Police SAR Review has been endorsed internally and will be circulated to NZSAR Council members for comment within two weeks.
- b) Intellectual Property. The Secretariat manager advised the Council that the Secretariat opposed the notion on intellectual property in the SAR environment as:
  - SAR is a public good activity provided free of charge.
  - SAR seeks to continually improve through the unfettered sharing of information.
  - SAR is not a commercial activity.
  - NZSAR will openly share all relevant SAR information.

The Council **endorsed** the Secretariat's position on intellectual property and regretted efforts to commercialise SAR information

- c) TEC SAR Training Review. The Council was briefed that this review received a number of submissions which were consistent for the most part. It is anticipated that the review will be completed within weeks and decisions made within months. The outcome will likely take effect in the 2013 year. Ministry of Transport policy managers have also been involved in providing advice to the TEC.
- d) MEOSAR Ground Station. MNZ briefed the Council that it will be necessary to build a new MEOSAR ground station in New Zealand. A paper has been prepared for the Minister of Transport seeking support and direction.
- e) Meeting Format. The Chair invited feedback from Council members on the format and content of NZSAR Council meetings to ensure the meeting remains productive and relevant to Council members.

## Farewell

Martin Matthews (Chair) farewelled Steve Douglas, the outgoing Director of Civil Aviation. Martin noted Steve's commitment to Council over several years and his useful contribution to the Council deliberations.

In reply, Steve Douglas acknowledged the work of the Council, the hard work by Carl van der Meulen and Duncan Ferner at the Secretariat and the excellent chairmanship of Martin Matthews.

The intended next meetings of the NZSAR Council are:

- Wednesday 9 May 2012 NZSAR Awards
- Wednesday 9 May 2012
- Wednesday 15 August 2012
- Wednesday 21 November 2012

The meeting closed at 3.00pm

Martin Matthews  
Chair  
NZSAR Council

## Summary of Decisions and Actions

Item	Decisions / Action	Responsibility
6	<b>Risk Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a proposed process to identify and register strategic search and rescue risks as they may affect the purpose and goals of the Council.</li><li>• Outline the means by which the identified risks are mitigated for Council endorsement.</li><li>• Consider including "Risk Management" as a standing item at future NZSAR Council meetings</li></ul>	Secretariat, in conjunction with the wider SAR sector,
6	<b>Prevention</b>  Share information regarding safety information services and inform Ministers as appropriate.	Council



