**Minutes of Meeting**

**NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting**

**Wednesday 10 November 2021, 9.30am to 11.30am**

**NZSAR (Ministry of Transport)**

**3 Queens Wharf, Wellington, and MS Teams**

In attendance

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| **Name** | **Agency** |
| Duncan Ferner (Chair) | NZSAR Secretariat |
| Mark Semmler | AMSA |
| Adam Wooler | Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ) |
| Allan Mundy | SLSNZ |
| Mick Kearney | SLSNZ |
| Don Robertson | Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) |
| Alex Hardy | Land Safety Forum |
| Brendan Comerford | Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) |
| David Waters | Ambulance NZ |
| Callum Gillespie | Coastguard NZ |
| Chris Lind | NEMA |
| Mike Ambrose | LandSAR |
| Craig Rendel | NZ Police |
| Simon Kernahan | NZ Police |
| Mike Daisley | Mountain Safety Council (MSC) |
| Don Bogie | Department of Conservation (DOC) |
| Daniel Gerrard | WSNZ |
| Scott McKenzie | Aviation NZ |
| Rodney Bracefield | RCCNZ |
| Kevin Banaghan | RCCNZ |
| Justin Allan | RCCNZ |
| Lindsay Johnson | MoH |
| Mark Bailey | MoH |
| Michael Bassett-Foss | NZSAR Independent Council Member |
| Bev Driscoll | MoT |
| Cath O’Brien | Contractor |
| Alita Bigwood | NZSAR Secretariat |
| Rhett Emery | NZSAR Secretariat |
| Daryl Bloomfield | NZSAR Secretariat |
| Tania Seward | NZSAR Secretariat |
| Bridget Hesketh | NZSAR Secretariat |
| Wendy Harrison (minutes) | NZSAR Secretariat |

1. Welcome

Duncan Ferner opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

1. Apologies

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| --- | --- |
| Meryl Jupp | DOC |
| Ian Duncan | FENZ |
| Sheridan Bruce | Water Safety |
| Carl McOnie | LandSAR |
| SQNLDR Peter Jackson | NZDF |
| Natasha Rave | Ministry of Transport (MOT) |
| Andrew Greig | NZSAR Secretariat |

1. Minutes of meeting 17 August 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

1. Matters arising from previous meeting:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Item** | **Action / Decision** | **Responsibility** | **Status** |
| **10** | NZSAR Risk Matrix | **Decision:** The Committee endorsed the recommended changes to the NZSAR Risk Matrix. | NZSAR | Actioned |
| **11** | Terms of Reference | **Decision:** The Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee. | NZSAR | Actioned |

There were no other issues arising from the minutes.

1. Sector updates

Agencies provided brief verbal updates.

*Ambulance NZ*

About to commence review of air ambulance standard and will make sure relevant parties get notified. This hasn’t been reviewed since 2018. Starting the review of ambulance sector emergency plans and working with MoH sector.

Sector gearing up for COVID surge. Problematic with helicopters being sanitised if transferring COVID patients.

There have been a number of rotary incidents in Australia; ATSB are investigating in regard to night vision goggles use and winching. Look to discourage night-winching. NZSAR are keen to be involved in both of these pieces of work.

*AMSA*

Nothing to report.

*Antarctica NZ*

Nothing to report.

*AREC*

South Island Manager training on focus and strategy has been delivered. Also planning North Island training in a couple of weeks in the Bay of Plenty. Has been a bit of a challenge due to COVID. Xero financial system has been updated and membership system due to go on-line shortly. Responding to events as necessary.

*Aviation NZ*

Have been engaging with FENZ recently on specifications, there were a couple of points raised by the industry as data, privacy data and camera tracking is the responsibility of the providers. FENZ can access data tracking of helicopters/aircrafts even if assets are working with other parties (eg Police).

There is uncertainty on how data is used by another organisation and how the data is shared.

There is a meeting in February for other government agencies for the use of standards. It was asked if Andrew Greig from NZSAR Secretariat could be invited to this.

*CAA*

Nothing to report.

*Coastguard NZ*

Busy all around the country and last weekend was huge. Managed more than 60 events in the Northern region alone. A temporary requirement that all volunteers are to be vaccinated is having a slow impact so trying to make sense what is happening with vaccinations with volunteers in level three operations. Currently working through old for new campaign which will kick off in January. Excited to start the rolling out of Americas Cup rescue vessels that have been refitted. The first one has gone to Great Barrier Island. Launching training programme next week.

*Department of Conservation*

Pre-season training has been done on Alpine rescue and early climbing sessions. Have done joint training exercise with Antarctica NZ. Engaging with MBIE on the visitor safety system and working with landowners.

*Fire and Emergency New Zealand*

Nothing to report.

*LandSAR*

Fifty-nine SAROPs were done in the first quarter including West Coast flood response. There is a new public facing website. The AGM was cancelled but this was held virtually instead. Had Category 1 TEO Status retained. Working with COVID roles. Peter Zimmer was elected to the Executive of ICAR.

*Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia*

It was reported that MOC have moved to their new premises at Avalon studios.

*MoH*

Nothing to report.

*Mountain Safety Council*

“Plan my walk’ campaign underway in October. There are over 86,000 users using the tool. There is extensive support from all key partners and all major retailers are behind this. Campaign timed over summer with some other marketing material.

100% staff are vaccinated.

*NASO*

COVID planning going on. Prioritising transport mode starting with road ambulance, fixed wing then helicopters. Helicopters are the least resilient with stand down periods as hard to decontaminate for the crews. This will impact response times.

Crews working are required to be vaccinated.

All SAR requests are to go through the Air desk. Still some requests going to operators. Looking forward to SAR agreements to be signed.

*NEMA (summary provided)*

Busy flood season with work across the country set alongside the COVID resurgence response.

Active flood season with a number of responses throughout the regions, noticeably Canterbury, Auckland and West Coast.

Ongoing analysis of vaccination needs and impacts.

Accreditation project 4-6 weeks behind schedule due to COVID resurgence.

Planning work for 2022 Team Leaders conference underway.

Wellington Earthquake National Initial Response Plan (WENIRP) focused training. All NEMA staff focused on self-preparedness and NEMA preparedness to support a significant Wellington earthquake event. This included fallback/failover systems and processes.

24/7 on-call duty centre project has commenced.

Summer camp next week. Four-day intensive refresher training/upskilling in an austere environment in Canterbury.

*New Zealand Defence Force (summary provided)*

18 July: NH90 Helicopter supported the Westport Flood disaster relief, completing 7 hours IVO the Buller Gorge

5 Oct: P3K2 completed a maritime SAR IVO Kiribati islands, locating overdue FV with 2 persons on board, approximately 17 hours

4 Nov: NH90 Helicopter conducted a winch extraction of an injured tramper from Dracophyllum Hut in the Tararua Ranges, 1.2 hours.

*New Zealand Police*

Eight DSARACs have been appointed, one is currently going through vetting and one more to be appointed. At the end of November there will be an induction for DSARACs.

There has been a SAR safety review for people in the field. BOP District is involved with the Raoura exercise on 19 November.

*Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand*

Justin Allan has been confirmed as Manager. The Principal Advisor role has been appointed and starting in the new year. Looking to recruit another batch of SAROs, still finalising job descriptions and looking to recruit another four. Course will start first week of March.

Busy supporting international meetings online.

Looking to push forward on IMS update. Ready to go but continuing to work through support questions with MNZ.

Have signed Fiji/NZ rescue agreement which gives an opportunity to build relationship with Fiji.

From an operational point, have been up to 937 events which is well ahead of last year.

Will be supporting the Rauora exercise.

*Surf Life Saving New Zealand*

Looking at volunteer programme, national radio apps have been approved and project plans to be approved. Don’t have national oversight with clubs due to COVID. National rollout of safe swim platform is rolling out in December. This will help to communicate in real time beach safety messages where lifeguards patrol and COVID information as well.

Pretty busy last quarter. Teams operational in four of the flood events around the country. Patrols have been operational for the last three weeks. Operational crews to be vaccinated by December.

*Water Safety New Zealand*

Positive news has seen a 20% reduction in drownings to date. Biggest reduction in general risk takers i.e. 15-20 years old. There has been a 120% increase in 65 plus age group.

The consultation process from the organisational restructure review is due on Friday.

*NZSAR Secretariat*

Continuing with the funding flow. There has been a couple of staff changes, Jon Kneebone has left but pleased to advise that Matt Wheble is joining from Police in December.

Beacons campaign is live and continue to promote carriage or hireage of beacons over summer.

NZSAR Secretariat in participating in the Rauora exercise in November.

The Aviation workshop was postponed to March next year but was able to run an online session in November.

Trying to synthesise collective guidance to SAR NGOs regarding COVID.

1. NZSAR Risk Matrix
2. SAR Technology

Evan Hughes has been working to redevelop the risk treatment for the SAR Technology risk in the NZSAR Risk Matrix which involves executing the Innovation in Technology strategy and recommendations; one of which is an Innovation in Technology forum. The first meeting of the Innovation Forum is taking place on 16 November 2021.

In the treatment of this risk, AREC suggested  considering radio repeaters relay ownership and how moving to digital channels might impact on SAR events and also which organisations in the sector might wish to be involved (NEMA, for example).  Evan will work with Don to refine this risk treatment.

It was noted that there is duplication across the sector in the communications space and agencies are using varied means of communication (for example, Police have a mix of digital and analogue systems).

1. Presentation - Review – Recreational Safety and SAR

Bev Driscoll gave a outline of the review to date. Many have seen the draft terms and references which will be published on the Ministry’s Website shortly.

Timeframe is relatively short. Want to stagger the deliverables.

Bev explained the ‘yin and the yang’ between recreational safety and search and rescue. All are familiar with what the SAR sector captures.

The review recognises there is a complex mix of governance, ownership and funding.

Sustainability is a key focus.

The review is currently underway. Cath O’Brien is helping to establish the review, stand up the terms and reference and the work programme. Michael Bassett-Foss is coming on board. Also Bridget Hesketh is working on the funding piece. There is a senior advisor looking at the volunteerism side. Currently recruiting for a third person.

Draft deliverables include specifying clear outcomes and measures, SAR system and capacity, critical to the review is funding, looking to provide a funding framework.

Keen to work with Consultative Committee to find the ways and means to work with organisations.

The advisory group includes a number of different organisations and is not a subsititute for an engagement.

1. COVID Impacts – Summer 2021/22

The approach around the current health order provides Surf and Coastguard to operate so they could carry out patrols on the beaches. It is pretty clear that if a SAR operation is occurring, it was always within the health order. For Surf and Coastguard this is allowed and advice provided to MBIE allowed LandSAR and AREC to be brought into the mix so they can do their training.

During the week Duncan sought advice from NGOs regarding vaccination mandates, to see if there was interest in being included within the mandate programme. LandSAR, AREC and Surf Lifesaving are to be included under the Public Health Order and Coastguard will develop their own policy. All agencies had a degree of flexibility. Working through for the next timeframe for emergency management to come under the umbrella of emergency services.

*Surf*

Struggled as Auckland in lockdown, have information on their website on how to patrol beaches under COVID restrictions, i.e. what do they do if too many people on beach, red flags, and need to get local authority and police support if required. A COVID support manager has been appointed and hope that person can provide support to management team and clubs.

Have mandated that for paid lifeguards and volunteers, because of close contact with public, be vaccinated. Legal advice is being sought for volunteer lifeguards.

NZSAR looking to see if it is appropriate they can support the COVID support manager role.

*Coastguard*

Are strongly advocating for vaccination and from staff perspective almost everyone is vaccinated. An initial risk assessment shows that in levels 3 and 4, all volunteers must be vaccinated.

Currently working through response to the protection framework.

Trying to hold together a coalition of volunteers as they have lots of questions.

*LandSAR*

Is standing by until further advice. Groups are being proactive and want guidance on what to do. Interested in Police position in particular. Need to be consistent with police personnel working alongside.

*AREC*

Looking to mandate policy, strongly recommend that for the older age group and the immunocompromised shouldn’t be deployed and need permission from manager. For training purposes people should be vaccinated. Interested in what comes down through emergency management.

Haven’t been able to poll membership regarding vaccinations.

*Police*

Executive haven’t made a determination around vaccinations yet. Majority of workforce are vaccinated. Seen COVID fatigue around the northern and southern borders and a lot of staff have been rotated into border controls. Additionally, there is a big rise in crime and violence especially up in Auckland. Resources are stretched, and there is more pressure on police and courts.

*RCC*

Maritime NZ executive have not mandated but does advocate for vaccinations.

Moving into a different setting which is less black and white is going to be challenging, need to shift mindset.

*Helicopter Association*

Up to version 12 of Safe Work SOP that is circulated to all helicopter operators. About 3-5% pilots are not getting vaccinated at this point of time. Seems to be changing, number of operators that are providing services need to be vaccinated.

*Mountain Safety Council*

Policy settings need to change, if someone has travelled to an area with COVID then they should work from home.

*NEMA*

Engaged international consultancy specialist to do some work around deploying EMAC team and NEMA staff in general. People are operating remotely. The Response Global report can be shared to the sector.

***Action***:

* *Chris to send Response Global report to Group*

Police are also considering PCR testing within their policies.

MoT has done work on transport issues, can be a channel for advice.

Lifeflight Trust have been doing saliva training with pilots.

1. Presentation - NZ Response Teams (NEMA)

Chris Lind from NEMA gave a presentation on NZ Response Teams (NEMA).

* Has been through refresh.
* Steering Group and working groups set up for various things.
* Ministerial review – Chris provides a report to the Minister.
* Chris talked about the key objectives of NEMA volunteer reform – team feedback, sector engagement and focus on H&S obligations and has set some minimum standards and training equivalency. Have a nationalised doctrine and looked to Australian SES best practice. Build an online learning platform.
* About 4-6 week behind due to COVID.
* Need to look at health and safety and wellbeing approach and this has been looked at by an external consultant.
* Have got nationalised operating guidelines
* Have established an accreditation process to make sure teams makes minimum standards then will review 3-4 years.
* Have done a comms plan.
* Built comprehensive learning platform.

1. Public Rescue Equipment Guidelines – update

This presentation will be on the Agenda at the next Consultative Committee in February.

1. Channel Review

The Channels review showed that an opportunity exists to broaden the reach of the Link magazine using electronic channels and that senior SAR professionals are interested in receiving a brief electronic newsletter that would highlight new research, new technology and lessons learnt across the sector. This is currently in development.

1. Quarterly Activity Report

This Quarterly Activity Report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 July to 30 September 2021.

1. National SAR Support Programme Intent 2021-21

The National SAR Support Programme (NSSP) outlines activities and projects the NZSAR Secretariat intends to undertake in the 2021-22 financial year.

1. Beacons Digital Marketing Campaign

This paper provided a summary of the progress to date on the 2021-22 distress beacons digital marketing campaign.

1. SAR Training 2022

This paper updated the NZSAR Consultative Committee on SAR training arrangements for 2022.

1. General Business

There was no general business.

**Next meeting:** February 2022

**Action and Responsibility Table**

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| **#** | **Item** | **Action / Decision** | **Responsibility** | **Status** |
| **8.** | **COVID Impacts – summer 2021/22** | **Action**: Chris to send Response Global report to Group | Chris Lind, NEMA | Discuss |