

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa ●●●●●●●●

## NZSAR Council Minutes

Tuesday, 12 December 2023, 9.30am – 12 noon  
3 Queens Wharf, Wellington and MS Teams

### 1. Present

Name	Agency
Kirstie Hewlett (chair)	Maritime NZ
Bronwyn Turley	MoT
Barry Taylor	NZ Police
Michael Bassett-Foss	Independent

Name	Agency
Tim Bamford	DOC
Mike Hill	CAA
Brendan Nally	FENZ
Andrew Shaw	NZDF

### In attendance

Name	Agency
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR
Wendy Harrison	NZSAR
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR
Matt Mintrom	NZSAR
Graham MacLean	MNZ

Name	Agency
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR
Tania Seward	NZSAR
Matt Wheble	NZSAR
Aimee Flanagan	NZSAR
Justin Allan	RCCNZ

### 2. Apologies

Name	Agency
Audrey Sonerson	MoT

Name	Agency
Stephanie Rowe	DOC

### 3. Welcome & Interests Register

Kirstie Hewlett opened the meeting and advised she is chairing the meeting.

Kirstie thanked Michael Bassett-Foss for his support of the search and rescue sector and water safety system and presented him with a gift. Council Members endorsed this and commented on his exceptional contribution to the Council over several years. Michael thanked the Council and said it has been a real privilege.

#### 4. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 5 September 2023

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Kirstie asked about the discussion paper on Operational Process, which was mentioned on page eight of the Minutes. Duncan advised that there had been some discussion at the Senior Officials Group meeting regarding independent reviews which have not been completed over year as required by the Council. SOG concluded it ought be resolved at their level.

Mike asked from a Council point of view, how do we understand what the barriers are why these have not been undertaken?

Kirstie also noted her interest in knowing more about the issue. She also observed that several debriefs from significant operations had been completed during the year, many of which have provided learnings. Kirstie also asked if the Council policy regarding independent reviews needed updating.

Barry noted that Police is fully supportive of conducting independent reviews and there will be no roadblocks from Police.

#### Action.

*Duncan will meet with Police and MNZ Senior Officials and provide further collective advice regarding independent reviews to the Council at its next meeting.*

#### Summary of actions from previous meetings

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
6.	Directors Report	<b>Considered</b> the Director's Report	Council	N/A
6.a	SLA and MOU Investment Report Q4 2022/23	<b>Noted</b> the Q4 2022-23 SLA and MOU Investment Report	Council	N/A
6.c	SAR Operational Activity Reports	<b>Noted</b> the level of SAR operational activities for the fourth quarter, 1 April to 30 June 2023  <b>Noted and discussed</b> the level of SAR operational activities for the 2022-23 year.	Council	N/A

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
6.d	Assurance Report	<p><b>Noted the</b> current level of assurance that operational search and rescue is fit for purpose is ‘considerable.’</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the ‘moderate’ assessment for SAR Aviation Assets, SAR Funding, Operational Management, Operational Processes, National Training Framework, Operational Currency and Health and Safety and Work Act 2015.</p> <p><b>Action.</b> Meeting is to be held to support the future conduct of independent operational reviews.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Secretariat, Police and Maritime NZ /RCCNZ</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Discussed at SOG. Further discussion required.</p>
7.	Te Ao Māori in the Search and Rescue Sector	<p><b>Noted</b> the Māori engagement progress that has occurred within the search and rescue sector.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> engagement with Māori must be meaningful, appropriate and transformative to support an overall Māori strategic focus and alignment for the search and rescue sector.</p> <p><b>Considered</b> Māori representation at the Consultative Committee and Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>noted</b> Rob Hewitt will be the Kaihautū Māori for the NZSAR</li> </ul>	Council	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>Consultative Committee and Partnership meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>made no decision</b> regarding Māori representation on the NZSAR Council</li> </ul> <p><b>Considered</b> the appropriateness of the Wai Puna model for Search and Rescue as a step towards stronger Te Tiriti o Waitangi alignment and Māori partnership.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Rob to share the draft recreational safety hui agenda with Council via the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Post hui notes are to be presented to the next Council meeting.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Secretariat to provide agency point of contacts to Rob regarding what and how agencies are already engaging with Māori in order to inform the hui.</p>	<p>Rob Hewitt</p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>See item 15</p> <p>Completed</p>
8.	Sector Budget bid prioritisation	<p><b>Noted and discussed</b> the proposed Budget Bids for Budget 24 and the proposed themes and prioritisation for the next FED funding round.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> to the development of a Budget 24 Bid covering emergency responses (severe weather events) recovery, resilience, and readiness</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Secretariat + Sector</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Drafted and sent to MoT. Awaiting guidance.</p>

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		The Council <b>agreed</b> to the development of a Budget 24 bid covering cost pressures related to maintaining critical frontline prevention and rescue services at existing levels.		Drafted and sent to MoT. Awaiting guidance.
9.	TAIC Report on Enchanter Capsize and Rescue	<p><b>Noted</b> the TAIC report and recommendations for the Secretary for Transport.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> actions already underway to address some of the recommendations.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> the Secretary of Transport will write to TAIC to accept all the SAR recommendations.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> Maritime NZ will lead the work to address the SAR recommendations with the close cooperation of NZ Police and the NZSAR Secretariat. The Secretary of Transport will write to Maritime NZ, NZ Police and the Secretariat to document that decision.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Audrey Sonerson</p> <p>Maritime NZ, NZ Police and Secretariat</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Letter sent Update attached</p>
10.	Aviation Futures	<p><b>Noted</b> various issues and opportunities with aviation in search and rescue.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> Maritime NZ, NZ Police, and the NZSAR Secretariat are working</p>	Council	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>together to develop SAR aviation standards.</p> <p><b>Endorsed</b> work to scope the viability of an enhanced SAR aviation tasking system.</p> <p><b>Requested</b> a joint report to the Council with specific recommendations on an enhanced SAR aviation tasking system.</p>	Maritime NZ, NZ Police, and the NZSAR Secretariat	<p>N/A</p> <p>See item 14</p>
11.	Risk Discussion: Operational Capability	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <p><b>Update</b> the risk register in line with Council commentary.</p> <p><b>Provide</b> advice around the Category 1 SAR appropriate incident management system risk.</p>	<p>Duncan</p> <p>Craig Rendel</p>	<p>Updated</p> <p>Under discussion</p>
12.	Independent Council Member	<p><b>Confirmed</b> independent Council member person specification.</p> <p><b>Seek</b> applicants for the independent Council member from the SAR NGO's</p> <p>Shortlisting will be undertaken and presented to the next Council meeting.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Duncan Ferner</p> <p>Audrey, Mike and Kirstie</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Completed. 7 nominations received</p> <p>See item 9</p>
13.	Proposed Changes to NZSAR Awards Policy	<p><b>Approved</b> the proposed changes to the NZSAR Awards Policy</p>	Council	Awards Policy updated

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
14.	Challenges in reducing carbon emissions	<b>Discussed</b> the challenges in reducing SAR emissions.	Council	N/A
15.	Exercise Whakarauora Tangata	<p><b>Noted</b> that one Incident Management Team (IMT) exercise has been successfully conducted and consultations are underway for three further IMT exercises and a stakeholder/lead agency focused workshop in February 2024.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the significant interest and engagement of SAR and SAR adjacent agencies in observing and participating in the exercises.</p> <p><b>Endorsed</b> participation by appropriate senior level management from Council organisations at the key stakeholder workshop in February 2024.</p>	Council	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

## 5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

## 6. Directors Report

Duncan highlighted key points from the Directors Report.

Whakarauora Tangata – several exercises have been run over recent months. The last one in Southern went well. Previously raised issues include a lack of a common operating picture, knowledge and use of CIMS and no agreed reconciliation process.

Australian National SAR Meeting Update – Craig Rendel and Duncan attended this meeting in Hobart in late October. They are facing similar challenges to us and have

access to more sophisticated technology. They are also seeing convergence of SAR and emergency management. The Australian Environmental Scan will be discussed in item 7.

SAR Training – 2023 has been one of the most productive in several years as there were no COVID restrictions. A new contract with TEC is in train along with the two delivery contracts with LandSAR.

Budget bids – two budget bids have been submitted to the Ministry, one in response to the severe weather events and the other for cost pressures for prevention work.

The Aviation Future project is progressing.

Investment Report – This report describes a reset of the plans our partners are required to produce and reduction in reporting to make them more purposeful. The focus is on delivery to achieve outcomes.

Sector Update – The sector advises it is well positioned for the summer. We will always be challenged by extreme weather events. Coastguard NZ and Surf Life Saving are forecasting deficits for the year. Bridget and I have attended several NGO AGMs in the past weeks.

Water safety sector remains turbulent. There are several dysfunctional relationships within the sector, a lack of role clarity and insufficient resources to do the work they aspire to achieve. Duncan has shared these concerns with Sport NZ and the Ministry.

Operational Activity Reports – there has been four years of growth in SAR incident numbers, and this is projected to continue. While there is no single reason for the growth, possible reasons include better incident reporting, a growing population and increased recreational activity. Also, more people carry PLBs and mobile phone coverage continues to grow making it easier to request assistance.

Consultative Committee Meeting 14 November 2023 – NEMA gave a presentation regarding Exercise Ru Whenua to be held in mid 2024. SAR agencies have been invited to participate. The Committee also endorsed the proposed Telecommunications Strategy which is on the agenda to consider.

Partnership Meeting 14 November 2023 – We explored potential funding applications for the next FED round. There is growing cost pressures across agencies. The hui was debriefed which will be discussed further in the agenda. There is a strong appetite across the sector to improve cultural competency. The 2023 Volunteer Study was discussed with agreement to develop a draft set of actions to address recommendations.

Senior Officials Group Meeting 28 November 2023 – was held to confirm Council papers with some minor amendments.

Mike noted on page two of the Directors Report about the lack of CIMS knowledge and observed he was not seeing any change across the system. Reports from different agencies indicate they are having similar challenges.



Kirstie noted a reasonable level of CIMS understanding at emergency management events. Justin noted the good feedback RCCNZ had received from the exercise last week where there was better role clarity emerging between participants, a significant improvement earlier exercise.

Andrew is interested in the outcomes of the North Island Severe Weather Event Inquiry. He noted that CIMS as a model is working but at the strategic level it is immature.

Mike noted that CIMS can be different in exercises, it is the disciplines, and having action plans and a common operating picture of the team.

Kirstie said that the SAR Coordinating Authorities have had many events and have used CIMS structure but the link between emergency management and SAR may be an issue.

Graham noted CIMS needs to be clear at the strategic level and also across government at the system level.

Andrew is not convinced it is wider than that. The issues are where local events are coordinated nationally.

Kirstie advised the emergency ocean going responsibility capability work is continuing.

Michael reflected on the tensions regarding leadership in the water sector. The water sector strategy gained extra funding that went into the frontline and got pushed back on the request for funding the leadership component. The second point is around the deficits from Coastguard and Surf and noted the increasing scope of their work, increasing costs and that it is harder to get funding.

Bridget advised that they didn't necessarily see the funding shortfall coming. They are operating right on the margins. They have money and can survive but it remains tight. There is not the money in the system to go around who all who need it. Salaries are also going up as well and SAR NGO's are finding it difficult to retain skilled staff.

Michael noted he had recently attended a Drowning Prevention Conference in Perth where there was a big contingency from New Zealand and some good presentations.

Kirstie asked if the Activity Report could include the agency contributions to SAR operations and how they are conducted to see patterns.

Daryl replied that we can show what organisations are involved, the response type and if helicopters are used. The one pager at the back of the report does give a high level breakdown by the participating agencies.

## **Decision**

The Council:

- ***Considered the Director's Report.***
- ***Noted the Q1 2023-24 SLA and MOU Investment Report.***

- **Noted** the level of SAR operational activities for the first quarter of 2023/24 reporting year, 1 July to 30 September 2023.
- **Noted** based on the incident levels recorded across the first quarter, there is a strong expectation that recorded SAR incidents for 2023/24 will exceed the numbers from last year.

### **Action**

The Secretariat is to include information regarding participation/contribution and SAR type in future SAR Activity Reports.

### **a. SLA and MOU Investment Report Q1 2023/24**

This item was included in the Directors Report.

### **b. SAR Sector Update**

This item was included in the Directors Report.

### **c. SAR Quarterly Activity Report**

This item was included in the Directors Report.

## **7. Strategic Discussion: Australian environmental scan**

The intent of this item was to have a conversation around the Australian Environmental Scan and what resonates for New Zealand.

Duncan talked to the slides noting that many elements of the Australian scan appear relevant to us i.e., extreme weather events, and geopolitical tensions as does the assessment of potential impact on SAR i.e., demand, financial resources, physical resources and human resources. Both countries rely heavily on volunteers, and both are impacted by an aging workforce and declining volunteerism. NZ agencies are improving their ability to recruit a younger age group. We have also noted the need to develop better strategic partnerships.

Graeme noted that the report really pointed to search and rescue and emergency management being the key synergy required. These social hubs become important as CEOs together with NEMA and Iwi are a network of hubs around the country that are needed so communities can manage for a couple of days alone. Need to think about community connections, do we need to invest in community hubs e.g., the installation of Starlink.

Justin agreed this was a very interesting read. It raised in his mind that that there is a potential need to have a wider range of stakeholders engaged in our SAR fora. From a Maritime NZ/RCCNZ perspective, industry providers that are critical are cruise companies with shipping, the aviation sector with CAA, and the work we are doing with the helicopter providers, and this is where we need to move more into.

Kirstie said the challenge is re-engaging after COVID. One of the risks is that the poor quality of ships coming into New Zealand.

Duncan said some of the SAR technologies in Australia are quite advanced and have improved their SAR effectiveness. In particular, Australia have navigated several legal difficulties successfully to allow certain mobile phone locating technologies to be used. They often support more effective SAR with less resources needed and less time to find missing or lost people.

Justin agreed noting that the efficiency gains from the COSPAS SARSAT network combined with personal locator beacons have been critical to the success of our current system. To take the next step, we will need to undertake considerable policy and regulatory work in order to realise the benefits.

Mike noted that Fiji is using drones and have been so for years. He asked if we are using basic technology well enough?

Andrew noted that while drone / UAV capabilities are relatively common & are simple to fly, they remain difficult to operate due to the difficulties in getting permissions in congested air space. He also noted that they are not necessarily cheap to operate with significant people, maintenance and command and control overheads.

Brendan said in FENZ's experience the use of drones can decrease volunteer hours and they also open new volunteer options.

Mike said there is an Association of UAV users. If there is a coronial recommendation, it could be asked why these are not used. Mike also suggested a stocktake of what is available in the UAV community for SAR.

Justin reiterated the real gain is in detection, taking the 'search' out of search and rescue. He is agnostic as to whether that technology is handheld, on a helicopter, on an aircraft or a drone. Being able to utilise new locating technologies will likely be a game changer but the hurdle is quite high around regulations and legal use of those devices.

Duncan said the sector has made some progress working with telecommunication providers operating in service areas.

Mike said that locating out of range cell phones is still an issue and commended further work on this.

Barry would welcome a report to Council. Police are using drones extensively and in operational matters where possible. There is plenty of scope, and the key issue is funding. Police would welcome the opportunity to assist with this work.

Tim said he is supportive of developing further advice and DOC would be happy to assist as well.

## **Action**

*The Secretariat, with Council agency support, is to prepare advice for the NZSAR Council regarding search and rescue possibilities for both mobile phone locating and*

*drone/UAV/RPAS technologies. The advice is to include clear definitions, what the blockages/challenges to operational implementation are and options to address these.*

#### **Decision**

- *The Council **considered and discussed** the 2023 Australian SAR Environmental Scan.*

### **8. Risk item update – SAR demand**

Duncan advised that there have been some changes to this risk as highlighted in red. Risk B and C have been merged into one and note that Coastguard has completed a capability footprint review. We are seeing an increase in SAR demand, and this is coming out as a higher risk. With the Environmental Scan, it was good to see Australia came up with the same actions.

On page five, there has been some minor changes made to reflect that the Nationally Significant SAR exercise series is underway.

Justin asked what a demand programme is.

Duncan advised that we are working with Dot Loves Data to look at a capacity model, what the SAR sector could or should look like in a variety of scenarios.

Kirstie asked if it would be possible to separate out a couple of things, agencies are thinking about demand and capacity issues e.g., RCCNZ are looking to add another watch as they are at the end of their tether, and there are agencies working out what their capability capacity is. So could agency specific needs and scenarios for future modelling be put as two risk treatments.

#### **Action**

- *Duncan is to separate the SAR Demand risk treatment for agency specific needs and scenarios for future modelling into two different risk treatments.*

### **9. Independent Council Member**

Duncan advised that seven nominations were received for the Independent Council member and that Giuliana Petronelli was shortlisted by the Council panel. Audrey had requested the candidate be Ministry of Justice checked. Also, Duncan also asked the Council to agree to an increase of the daily fee in line with the Cabinet Office Circular CO (22) 2 from \$400 to \$440. Brendan asked for a copy of CO (22) 2.

Mike said it would be good to go back to those who did not make the cut and advise them that they had missed out. It would be good to keep them connected as there was some pretty experienced people who applied.

#### **Decision**

The Council:

- ***Agreed** Giuliana Petronelli is the preferred candidate for the Independent NZSAR Council Member role.*

- **Agreed to increase the daily fee in line with Cabinet Office Circular CO (22) 2 from \$400 to \$440 subject to viewing the Circular.**

#### **Action**

- *Duncan to circulate Cabinet Office Circular CO (22) 2 to Council Members.*
- *Duncan to contact the unsuccessful candidates to thank them for their application.*

## **10. SAR & Emergency Management**

Duncan advised the Secretariat had worked with sector agencies and developed five systemic improvements for SAR in the emergency management context. These are outlined in the paper and have been well received by SAR and EM sector agencies at the official's level.

Previous work focussed on developing an MOU for NGO cost recovery was not well received by FENZ or NEMA so has been set aside. The new approach will build upon the MoU work. The intent is to be more relationship / informative / guideline focussed as the two sectors appear not to be communicating as well as we could.

Brendan said FENZ would welcome clarity on a range of SAR / EM topics and agreed the various forums that people sit on are not quite connected.

Barry noted that the area is quite challenging and Polices involvement in the existing structures for both SAR and Emergency Management. Barry said he doesn't agree entirely about the lack of communication as Police members are across both EM and SAR but agreed there were many opportunities to improve connections at a all of sector level.

Kirstie voiced her agreement with most aspects of the paper and noted that MNZ needs to be better connected to emergency management and NEMA. She said they are currently working on this.

Bronwyn said there are a range of ways to get these connections at an operational level and leadership level. She is interested in the level of clarity at the strategic level about who does what and why.

Mike noted the challenge at the local civil defence level; having clarity at a local level about what they can do to tap into other agencies. Mike also spoke to the need to have clarity around the possible roles and responsibilities of volunteers at a local level prior to an event.

Kirstie noted there is not a good understanding within the EM sector of MNZ roles or what RCC do or what they are capable of doing.

Michael acknowledged that SAR and civil defence functions delivered at the ground level need to talk to each other more effectively.

Andrew expressed concern around the scale of the proposed work and that we appear to be trying to fix the whole system.

Duncan acknowledged the challenge, noting that the work would need to be a collaborative and focussed on the identified challenges. He is keen to make sure the workplan is clear and is also keen to consult with partner agencies as to how they might contribute to this work.

Brendan said the New Zealand public expects a well coordinated system and we need to start somewhere. This is driving FENZ's enthusiasm for this work.

Kirstie agreed guidelines for cost recovery are needed as is budget bid following the 2023 weather events. Agencies need to link effectively and there needs to be a clear picture what is happening.

### **Decision**

The Council:

- ***Noted*** progress to better align the SAR and emergency management sectors.
- ***Endorsed*** the five proposed systemic improvements listed in Paragraph 5 of the paper.

## **11. Recreational Safety and SAR Review discussion**

Bronwyn gave an update on the Review.

The Review report went to the Minister in August who supported the direction of travel, and the Ministry is to look at how the recommendations could be implemented.

There is a new Government, and they are focussed on 100-day priority planning, meaning there are a lot of things where time is being taken to engage with the new Minister on and this is one of them. The Government is focussed on delivering the areas of the coalition agreement. Will need to look at efficiencies and get clarity in the new year.

Michael asked if the sector could be kept up to date. Ongoing communication on the progress would be good to those who participated.

Mike noted the Council hasn't had any chance to discuss the recommendations. He asked what the collective Council view is, particularly regarding the recommended demise of the Council and what might our 2024 views might be in light of the new environment.

Bronwyn noted there would be a chance for Council to provide input into the Review recommendations advice and implementation. Bronwyn also said that it is useful to understand what change can actually be achieved and makes which ones make sense to implement. She agreed that we do need to think about this carefully.

Bronwyn suggested the Council needed to respect the process to date which had led to the Review recommendations as it involved many parts of the system, including a broad-based advisory panel.

Kirstie agreed that yes there was a process but no formal consultation. She also noted that not a lot of the Advisory Group necessarily supported the views contained in the final document.

Justin said he thinks that where Mike was coming from and suggested the Council needed to have the opportunity to have a good look at it.

Bronwyn thanked everyone in relation to a Council view. This needs to be done in the right way and for a productive conversation to occur. Bronwyn will consider this and come back to the Council.

### **Action**

- Bronwyn will advise the Council on the next steps regarding the review recommendations.

## **12. Telecommunications Strategy**

Duncan advised that the proposed telecommunications strategy has been developed in consultation with the sector over the past year. There is no current sector-based strategy. If Council agrees to adopt this strategy, there is a set of shared sector recommendations from paragraph 12 to implement it. Recommendations f. & g. would be led by Maritime NZ and the Maritime SMEs. Most of the other recommendations are for land based SAR telecommunications.

Matt Wheble said there had been quite extensive rewrites from the consultation meetings held including meetings with Maritime SMEs.

Graeme noted that Maritime NZ is currently in a commercial process to procure maritime telecommunications. He asked if the proposed strategy could exclude Maritime telecommunications until that was resolved. Kirstie indicated that Maritime NZ would need six to nine months for this work.

Duncan proposed the adoption of the land-only components of the telecommunications strategy with the maritime aspects being considered for inclusion later. The Council concurred.

### **Decision**

The Council:

- **Noted** *there is no current Search and Rescue telecommunications strategy to provide direction to SAR agencies for the development of interoperable (connected) networks across the sector.*
- **Noted** *the proposed Strategy has been consulted across all key agencies and organisations involved in SAR.*
- **Adopted** *the land-only components and recommendations of the NZSAR Telecommunications Strategy.*
- **Agreed** *the Maritime components and recommendations NZSAR Telecommunications Strategy be considered for inclusion at a later date.*

### 13. NZSAR Secretariat Budget mid-year update

Duncan advised the Ministry of Transport requires a six-monthly budget reforecast for the current FY. There are slight amendments to the Budget which was approved earlier. Duncan noted that delivering the work programme is challenging with two Secretariat staff missing and a Ministry directed hiring freeze. A contractor is being brought on for six months to get the research programme underway.

The Council is asked to agree to the 2024/25 FY indicative budget so that the Secretariat can enter into multi-year contracts.

#### Decisions

The Council:

- **Approved** the NZSAR Secretariat budget reforecast for the remainder of the 2023/24 financial year totalling \$5,253,575.
- **Approved** the NZSAR Secretariat reforecast budget for the 2024/25 financial year totalling \$4,046,000.
- **Approved** the NZSAR training budget of \$1,457,047 for the 2024 calendar year.

### 14. Enchanter recommendations update

Justin advised that the update of the recommendations was in the papers. Maritime NZ are going to bring in a strategic advisor who will be focussing on these recommendations.

Justin said that Recommendations One, Three and Four will be picked up in the Aviation Futures work. With Recommendation Five, they will be working with NZDF around on scene coordination and have been in talks with NZ Police and NZSAR around on scene coordination being reinvigorated and having a much more prominent role in the training programme.

Recommendation Two is quite a big piece of work. Maritime NZ need to come back to Council with more thoughts around this.

**Action:** Maritime NZ to provide further advice on TAIC recommendation two of the Enchanter report

### 15. Aviation Futures progress

Justin presented paper 15 on Aviation Futures. There are two contractors working on developing a SAR aviation standard, (funded by NZSAR).

The working group will see a draft of the standard at the end of the month for consideration. This working group is made up of aviation providers as well as NZ Police and reps from NGOs. There will be a report back to Council early next year as this connects to the technology strategy e.g., what must a rotary operator have regarding potentially cellular direction finding.



Andrew asked that NZDF be included in this work. Justin agreed, noting that the proposed standard will not apply to Defence aircraft. They tend to use these when civil capability is unable to provide the service required so may be a good idea to review NZDF involvement.

Duncan advised that the timing of the key milestones for this project need aligned to the requirements of MoT led s9(1) funding process in late 2024.

### **Decision**

The Council **Noted** *progress on the Aviation Futures project.*

### **Action:**

*The Aviation Futures project key milestones are to be adjusted to aligned with the requirements of MoT led s9(1) funding process in late 2024.*

## **16. Kaihautū Leaders and CE Hui**

The hui was held on 1-3 November. It was very informative and discussed a wide range of effective engagement with Māori. The next steps are to run a more SAR focussed hui in 2024 with a more operationally and local engagement focus – what is working and what is not working.

Prevention agencies will also continue to improve and understand engagement.

Graeme said that the Caring for Communities Board are leading a piece of work around community resilience and wondered if there is any synergy there. Graeme will pass on some information about this to Duncan.

### **Decision**

The Council:

- **Noted** *the successful conduct of the Kaihautū Leaders and CE hui 1 – 3 November 2023.*
- **Noted** *the Hui discussed a range of challenges regarding effective engagement with Māori.*
- **Noted** *the Secretariat intends to arrange a small, SAR focussed hui in 2024 for the Kaihautū leaders from key SAR agencies to progress practical aspects of SAR with a te ao Māori lens.*

## **17. Ex Whakarauora Tangata**

Duncan advised that the next exercise will be held in Wellington in March next year and a lead agency stakeholder workshop will be held in April. He asked the Council to approve the proposed scope of the Wellington tabletop exercise and endorse the higher-level participation of their agencies.

Barry endorsed Duncan's comments and noted the Southland exercise demonstrated issues around CIMS knowledge and the reconciliation process. Police

also want a higher level of the system to be engaged with a focus on the ODESC system.

Duncan said the exercise and workshop will pull together the key strategic level operators. Trying to develop a nationally signed framework.

Kirstie asked what the scenario could be. If there is another Kaitaki incident, they would put in place a National Maritime response team. This would involve a broader range of participants rather than just the SAR element. It is how MNZ would lead and would like to work with the Secretariat on how it would look. Kirstie suggested that Graham works with Police and with John Dyer (Lead Planner).

#### **Action**

- *The Ex Whakarauora Tangata steering committee will meet to discuss exercise criteria.*

#### **Decision**

- *The Council **approved** the proposed scope of the Wellington tabletop exercise and **endorsed** the higher-level participation of their agencies in the exercise.*

### **18. Noting paper – SAR Training update**

The NZSAR Secretariat is in the final stages of negotiations with TEC for the 2024-2027 MOU/Funding Agreement. As of mid-November, Land Search and Rescue have delivered 123 courses, while 45 course have been cancelled throughout the year. Cancellations are due to several reasons, such as low registrations or tutor availability.

### **19. Noting paper - NZSAR 2023-24 Workplan Update**

The Secretariat remains short two FTE which limits delivery of the agreed work programme. The impact is most severe in the area of research.

### **20. Noting paper – SAR Reviews Register**

#### **Learning Review into Search and Rescue Reponses during Civil Defence Emergency Management Incidents**

A term of reference has been drafted and will be sent to RCCNZ and PNHQ for consideration.

#### **Learning Review of Operational Processes and Methodologies for Despondent Missing Person**

A term of reference has been drafted and will be sent to RCCNZ and PNHQ for consideration.

#### **Extended Search**

Terms of reference (TOR) for the review for extended searches has been approved by RCCNZ. Police are currently reviewing the TOR.

## 21. Noting paper – Distress beacons behaviour change campaign

Following on from three previous summer campaigns, NZSAR is once again running a behaviour change campaign encouraging the hireage of beacons. This started on Monday 27 November and is scheduled to run through to Anzac Day 2024. We will be running a variety of ads across social media, relevant websites and apps, as well as utilising several micro-influencers in the trail running, tramping and boating communities.

## 22. General Business

Barry Taylor noted it was his last meeting and last involvement with the SAR Council. He is moving to Central Otago to take up a new role. He wanted to wish everyone well and thank everybody for their collegiality.

Michael said he was looking forward to getting back on the beach and thanked Duncan and the Secretariat for all their support.

Kirstie also thanked the Secretariat for all the work that has gone into this over the year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

## 23. Next meeting

12 March 2024

## 24. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
6.	Directors Report	<p><b>Considered</b> the Director's Report.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Q1 2023-24 SLA and MOU Investment Report.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the level of SAR operational activities for the first quarter of 2023/24 reporting year, 1 July to 30 September 2023.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> based on the incident levels recorded across the first quarter, there is a strong expectation that recorded SAR incidents for 2023/24</p>	Council	N/A

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>will exceed the numbers from last year.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Include information regarding participation/contribution and SAR type in future SAR Activity Reports.</p>	Secretariat	Implemented
7.	Strategic Discussion: Australian environmental scan	<p><b>Action:</b> <i>Prepare advice for the NZSAR Council regarding search and rescue possibilities for both mobile phone locating and drone/UAV/RPAS technologies. The advice is to include clear definitions, what the blockages/challenges to operational implementation are and options to address these.</i></p> <p><b>Considered and discussed</b> the 2023 Australian SAR Environmental Scan.</p>	<p><i>Secretariat, with Council agency support.</i></p> <p><i>Council</i></p>	<p>Under development</p> <p>N/A</p>
8.	Risk item update – SAR demand	<p><b>Action:</b> Separate agency specific needs and scenarios for future modelling into two different risk treatments within the SAR demand risk.</p>	Secretariat	Completed
9.	Independent Council Member	<p><b>Agreed</b> Giuliana Petronelli is the preferred candidate for the Independent NZSAR Council Member role.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Duncan to contact the candidates to thank them for their application</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Giuliana advised.</p> <p>Completed</p>

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>and also clarify to the sector that this was a long-term appointment process.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> to increase the daily fee in line with Cabinet Office Circular CO (22) 2 from \$400 to \$440 subject to viewing the Circular.</p>	Secretariat	<p>Implemented.</p> <p>Circular sent to Council members</p>
10.	SAR & Emergency Management	<p><b>Noted</b> progress to better align the SAR and emergency management sectors.</p> <p><b>Endorsed</b> the proposed systemic improvements listed in Paragraph 5.</p>	Council	<p>Positive engagement with FENZ. Further meeting with ESOLG 21 March 2024. Action plan developed</p>
11.	Recreational Safety and SAR Review discussion	<p><b>Action:</b> Advise the Council on the next steps regarding the review recommendations.</p>	Bronwyn - MoT	Next available meeting
12.	Telecommunications Strategy	<p><b>Noted</b> there is no current Search and Rescue telecommunications strategy to provide direction to SAR agencies for the development of interoperable (connected) networks across the sector.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the proposed Strategy has been consulted across all key agencies and</p>	Council	N/A

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>organisations involved in SAR.</p> <p><b>Adopted</b> the land-only components and recommendations of the NZSAR Telecommunications Strategy.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> <i>The maritime components and recommendations NZSAR Telecommunications Strategy be considered for inclusion at a later date.</i></p>		
13.	NZSAR Secretariat Budget mid-year update	<p><b>Approved</b> the NZSAR Secretariat budget reforecast for the remainder of the 2023/24 financial year totalling \$5,253,575.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> the NZSAR Secretariat reforecast budget for the 2024/25 financial year totalling \$4,046,000.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> the NZSAR training budget of \$1,457,047 for the 2024 calendar year.</p>	Council	Approved budgets passed to MoT for inclusion in their processes.
14.	Enchanter recommendations update	<b>Action:</b> Provide further advice on TAIC recommendation two of the Enchanter report	Maritime NZ	TBC

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
15.	Aviation Futures progress	<p><b>Noted</b> progress on the Aviation Futures project</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Aviation Futures project key milestones are to be adjusted to aligned with the requirements of MoT led s9(1) funding process in late 2024.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Aviation Futures project team</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Under action</p>
16.	Kaihautū Leaders and CE Hui	<p><b>Noted</b> the successful conduct of the Kaihautū Leaders and CE hui 1 – 3 November 2023.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Hui discussed a range of challenges regarding effective engagement with Māori.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Secretariat intends to arrange a small, SAR focussed hui in 2024 for the Kaihautū leaders from key SAR agencies in order to progress practical aspects of SAR with a te ao Māori lens.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Planned for 22 May 2024</p>
17.	Exercise Whakarauora Tangata	<p><b>Action:</b> Meet to discuss exercise criteria.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> the proposed scope of the Wellington tabletop exercise.</p> <p><b>Endorsed</b> the higher-level participation of their agencies in the exercise.</p>	<p>Ex Whakarauora Tangata steering committee.</p> <p><i>Council</i></p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>N/A</p>