



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting

**New Zealand Search and Rescue  
Consultative Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 9 November 2011 at 1.00pm  
Ministry of Transport, Cook Room  
Level 6, 89 The Terrace  
Wellington**

### Attendees:

Mike Davies – DOC	Haydn Smith – LandSAR
Bruce Johnson – NZ Police	Carl van der Meulen – NZSAR
Bruce Reid – Coastguard NZ	Duncan Ferner – NZSAR
Martin Paget – NZ Police	Jeff Sayer – AREC
Bill Greening – Coastguard NZ	Tim Marsden – SLSNZ
Rodney Bracefield – RCCNZ	Andy Kent – SLSNZ
Brendan Comerford – MOC	Tony Wells – SARINZ
Brett Sullivan – SLSNZ	Leonce Jones – NZMSC
John Scobie – LandSAR	David Waters – Ambulance NZ
Rachel Roberts - NZSAR	Viv Bracefield – SPS Ltd

### Apologies:

Roger Brown – MoT	Colin Small – Coastguard NZ
Steve Kern – CAA	Darryl Carpenter - NZMSC
Nigel Clifford – RCCNZ	Geoff Pierce – NZDF
John Seward – RCCNZ	Carl McOnie – SARINZ
Gerry Prins – NZ Police	Lloyd Mattheson – AIA
John Yaldwn – AREC	

### 1. Welcome

Carl van der Meulen opened the meeting and extended a special welcome to Andy Kent & Tim Marsden, SLSNZ  
Bill Greening, Coastguard NZ  
Tony Wells, SARINZ  
Viv Bracefield, Small Project Solutions

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received as listed above.

### 3. Minutes from Combined meeting held on 13 July 2011

The minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on Wednesday 13 July 2011 were approved.

#### **4. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting on 13 July 2011**

SAR & CDEM Collaboration. 6. *Any comments or questions regarding item 10 on SAR and CDEM collaboration, including the guidelines should be addressed to the Secretariat.*

The Secretariat has met with MCDEM and they are supportive of our approach. The Secretariat hosted a meeting of MCDEM, CNZ, SLSNZ, RCCNZ to discuss Tsunami alerting issues. MCDEM are assisting the Secretariat in meeting with the 16 Co-ordinating Executive Groups.

Action: *The Secretariat will continue to lead initiatives to improve and facilitate engagement between the SAR and CDEM sectors.*

#### **5. Service Level Agreement monitoring report for Jul-Sep quarter**

Carl van der Meulen presented the summary report for the 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 Quarter.

There was a total of 367 SAROPS, with 18 lives saved during the quarter.

A comparison with the same quarterly period in 2010 shows a 17% decrease in the number of SAROPS, with a 64% decrease in the number of people at risk.

There was some discussion about possible explanations for the large decrease in numbers requiring assistance compared to the number of SAROPs over the last year. The data will continue to be analysed to determine any trends.

#### **6. Sector Update**

##### **AREC**

AREC have formed two new sections in Auckland, including one based in the former Music Point Telecom building. Ongoing roll out of replacement of equipment continues. Auckland manager Richard Gamble is trialling a new device which may make a difference to some communications issues. AREC provided communications support to the recently held Southern Mountain Race.

##### **Mountain Safety Council**

A link to the AdventureSmart website is now included on the MSC website, and MSC remains highly involved in further developing the site.

MSC have been involved with the Department of Labour Adventure Tourism Review, and with the outcomes of the review.

##### **SARINZ**

SARINZ have been busy during this last quarter, with half of their training year being performed during this period, There have been more than 60 training events held, and over 2,000 students have undertaken SARINZ training during the year.

##### **Coastguard**

Coastguard activity has increased. Coastguard received an extra \$250,000 from the LGB Outdoor Safety Committee, from an increase in the overall amount of funds the committee had available for distribution. This is likely the result of the approach from the sector during the year.

Fatalities are climbing as there are still people who venture out without lifejackets. Coastguard has received feedback from members of the public that people who ignore safety advice, don't wear lifejackets, and put themselves into danger should be charged for the cost of their rescues.

Coastguard is working with the GIS team at Massey University, and is completing Unit audit reports, and an evaluation report. The vessel refurbishment/replacement project is on track, with 61 out of 71 vessels having been replaced or upgraded since the start of the project.

### **Maritime Operations Centre**

In July activity was down 25% on historical average, and is now returning to normal trends. Team is now at full strength, with training of four new Operators. Some new equipment has been rolled out in the ops room. Following a visit to Canada it is apparent that the NZSAR sector compares favourably with international operations.

There are two available technologies that the NZ SAR system needs to be aware of: AIS SART which uses the AIS system to notify a distress situation; and VHF DSC which is used to a major extent in other parts of the world.

### **LandSAR NZ**

The Search Management Support Group concept which came out of the review of the Christchurch earthquake operation is being rolled out. The Post Incident Review Project is now available on the website.

Insurance is an ongoing issue for LandSAR. There are training occasions where volunteers are not covered by the insurance arrangements with the coordinating authorities.

An arcGIS project is being carried out, and will be presented at the upcoming LandSAR Forum.

The TEC review is a big focus as LandSAR will be directly affected by the outcome of the review. LandSAR has developed a Group Planning Tool that will be used to identify a Group's operational capability and training needs. Group Planning Tool looks at Training needs and wants and Operational issues.

### **Department of Conservation**

The Aoraki Mount Cook team are fully staffed for the summer season with four permanent and four part-time staff. They are undergoing a three week training course, with training on large avalanche sites. The climbing season has started as usual. Implementation of the outdoor intentions system is being rolled out. DOC thanked NZSAR and NZMSC for the funding and work on the AdventureSmart website and the outdoor intentions system.

### **Ambulance NZ**

SAR operations remain at 5% of workload. There is concern in the sector that any national tendering of services could affect some aviation resources. The Air Ambulance / Air Rescue standard has been in place for some months, and some providers have been audited. The AIA has signed up to the existing Standard. Ambulance NZ has released a National Response plan.

## **RCCNZ**

During the last three months there has been a steady increase in the number of activities, but less than same period last year. Beacon related activity is increasing on last year. Alongside this, PLB registrations are double EPIRB and ELT registrations.

RCCNZ is currently supporting Maritime NZ activities in Tauranga since the grounding of the RENA. As a consequence many tasks and projects have been delayed and the incident has affected planning to at least New Year. Some RCCNZ staff are involved on site in Tauranga.

RCCNZ attended the 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the COSPAS-SARSAT Open Council Meeting in Montreal, and were brought up to date with the progress of the MEOSAR system, and the situation with the current space segment. NZ is working with Australia in developing the ground networks required for our area, and it is expected that it could be 2018 before the MEOSAR system is operating in the South Pacific.

RCCNZ has been liaising with various cruise ship operators to educate them on the SAR system in NZ, and to ensure the correct lines of communication are in place.

## **Police**

The Police SAR Review is with the Police Executive. Police are involved in the redevelopment of the Land and Marine SAR management Courses.

Next year's Air Observers Courses are being planned with RCCNZ, with a meeting later this month to finalise next year dates and course content.

The AdventureSmart website has now been approved to be on the Police website and Intranet, and will also feature in the Police internal magazine.

Police National HQ staff will be attending the Water Safety NZ Conference, LandSAR Forum and AGM, and Coastguard Conference.

## **Surf Lifesaving New Zealand**

The winter has been quiet for SLSNZ at the operational level. The season started at Labour weekend with a series of drownings by people net fishing and rock fishing. SLSNZ has provided Counselling and Peer Support for the volunteers who have been involved.

The risk assessment project of 30 marine bars is underway. This is a project being undertaken with Coastguard, and supported by ACC.

The RENA grounding has had an effect for the local SLS Clubs. Some beach education programmes have had to be cancelled, and while some beaches remain closed, members of the public are still swimming in these locations.

The insurance costs for SLSNZ have almost doubled.

*There was general discussion by attendees regarding the overall issue of the insurance of physical assets and personal liability; however, no conclusions were reached.*

*Police reported that an Otago University student will be doing research on medical incidents that may give rise to SAR incidents.*

## **7. National SAR Support Programme – update:**

- **SAR Workshops.**
  - Marine. The Marine SAR workshop was run in August, and is item 10 on the agenda.
  - Wander. A second workshop about SAR for people who wander and an accompanying plan & study will be initiated in 2012.
- **SAREX support.** The NZSAR financial support for Police organised major SAREX's is per Police district. It is intended for the planning, monitoring and debriefing of the SAREX. Police are still expected to pay for the SAREX activity. The proposed SAREXs are planned as part of the annual SAREX plan and are approved by NZSAR in advance.
- **Training Development.** SAR IM/C training development is ongoing, and will be discussed under item 8 on the agenda.
- **SAR Prevention Activity.** The AdventureSmart website Phase II is now complete. Prevention messaging collateral has been distributed and we are now in the promotional phase. A new 4 panel "Know before you go" cards are ideal for the teacher/guide leader/leader to use and particularly for those involved in swimming tramping and boating. This will be discussed further as part of item 9.
- **NZSAR Courses.** The Air Observer Training/Refresher courses are currently being planned for next year. The dates will be entered into the NZSAR calendar once known.
- **Video collaboration tool.** This project has commenced, and a multi-agency trial will be conducted. The technology under consideration offers new capabilities for the sector. There are a number of issues to be overcome regarding updates and accessibility.
- **NZSAR Studies.** The Aviation flight following guidelines project will be looked at in the next calendar year. Alpine and Marine studies are currently being scoped.

## **8. Training**

### IC/M Course Development

The Secretariat Manager gave an update on the Incident Controller / Manager Training development. This has now been renamed as the SAR Managers

Course. It will be a modular based course for SAR Management Training. The first courses are due to run in June 2012.

### TEC review of training for SAR sector

This is one of two reviews that the Tertiary Education Commission is currently conducting. The Government wishes to achieve cost effective “NZ growth” oriented outcomes with its tertiary education spend. SAR (and EM in general) does not fit very well at all into TEC goals and objectives; however the TEC acknowledges the public good of SAR.

The Secretariat has circulated the proposed NZSAR submission and encourages each SAR organisation to put in a submission (by 18 Nov) even if it is just an agreement and support for the NZSAR submission.

Duncan Ferner requested comment from meeting on the NZSAR submission. A show of hands indicated that the meeting was comfortable with the NZSAR Secretariat submission to be submitted from NZSAR.

Action: *SAR agencies are invited to make their own submissions to TEC by 18 November 2011.*

## **9. SAR Prevention**

The AdventureSmart website phase 2 development is complete. Some new items of collateral linking all four elements of the prevention messaging have been produced.

Duncan Ferner urged all agencies to cooperate and collaborate in promoting the prevention messaging, and to use the agreed messages in a consistent way within their own wider safety messaging programmes.

Action: *SAR agencies agree to use and promote the agreed safety code messages as part of their own safety awareness initiatives.*

## **10. Marine SAR Workshop II**

The workshop was held 12-13 August 2011 in Auckland, with the purpose of improving the management and coordination of marine SAR incidents in and around New Zealand.

A table of action points has been prepared from the workshop sessions. Items were classified into four areas:

1. Escalation of incidents
2. Sharing of knowledge: operationally
3. Sharing of knowledge: non-operationally
4. The ‘list’ of remaining issues

The action points have been circulated and work has begun on addressing these issues.

Action: *SAR agencies will continue to work on the table of action points from the workshop.*

## 11. NZSAR Awards 2011

The date is to be confirmed, likely to be 2 or 3 May 2012.

Only one nomination received so far.

NZSAR urges all organisations to provide nominations by the due date of 31 January 2012.

## 12. General Business

### a) Upcoming events

- Water Safety NZ Conference: 24-25 November
- LandSAR Forum & AGM: 26 November
- Coastguard Conference: 25-27 November

### b) Calendar for 2012

- CNZ Conference: 21-23 September (tbc)
- LandSAR Conference: 16-18 October

Duncan Ferner said that an announcement about the NZSAR Training Coordinator will be made in the near future.

Next meeting – **Wednesday** 15 February 2012

Meeting closed at 15.40pm

Carl van der Meulen  
NZSAR Secretariat

<b>Actions Arising</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>SAR &amp; CDEM Engagement.</b> The Secretariat will continue to lead initiatives to improve and facilitate engagement between the SAR and CDEM sectors.	NZSAR
<b>Item 8</b>	<b>TEC Review.</b> SAR agencies are invited to make their own submissions to TEC by 18 November 2011.	All
<b>Item 9</b>	<b>SAR Prevention.</b> SAR agencies agree to use and promote the agreed safety code messages as part of their own safety awareness initiatives.	All
<b>Item 10</b>	<b>Marine SAR Workshop.</b> SAR agencies will continue to work on the table of action points from the workshop.	All
<b>Item 12</b>	<b>Calendar for 2012.</b> Dates for next year's conferences to be provided to the Secretariat.	All