

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting**  
**Tuesday, 17 August 2021, 9.30am to 11.30am**  
**NZSAR (Ministry of Transport)**  
**3 Queens Wharf, Wellington, and MS Teams**

**In attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Andy Greig (Chair)	NZSAR Secretariat
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)
Matt Wood	Maritime New Zealand
Dean Lawrence	Consultant with Maritime NZ
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard NZ
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Mike Ambrose	LandSAR
Thomas McIntyre	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
Ian Duncan	Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ)
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR Secretariat
Alita Bigwood	NZSAR Secretariat
Rhett Emery	NZSAR Secretariat
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR Secretariat
Tania Seward	NZSAR Secretariat

Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR Secretariat
Jon Kneebone	NZSAR Secretariat
Wendy Harrison (minutes)	NZSAR Secretariat
Tracy Neal	NZSAR Secretariat contractor

### 1. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

### 2. Apologies

Meryl Jupp	DOC
MAJ Tristan Anson	NZ Defence Force (NZDF)
SQNLDR Peter Jackson	NZDF
Ashleigh Bailey	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
Natasha Rave	Ministry of Transport (MOT)
Nicky Burgess	Antarctica NZ

### 3. Minutes of meeting 18 May 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### 4. Matters arising from previous meeting:

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
22	General Business	<b>Action:</b> Consider a new and more relevant format for the Consultative Committee	NZSAR	Format changed – reduced timeline with more presentations.

There were no other issues arising from the minutes.

## 5. Sector updates

Agencies provided brief verbal updates.

### *Antarctica NZ*

Antarctica New Zealand has begun pre-deployment training for their field summer staff. This has included helicopter safety and loading competencies with Southern Lakes Helicopters in Te Anau; core search and rescue competencies with the Aoraki/Mt Cook SAR team; and will continue training on ice with the United States Antarctic Programme field staff which will form the Ross Island SAR team.

### *AREC*

AREC had their national conference in Napier. They are aligning their risk matrix with the NZSAR risk matrix. Their IT system implementation is slightly delayed but close to being put in place. AREC now have a Facebook page. There is a leadership expectation to make sure they understand their roles, and this will rollout between now and Christmas. New PPE gear has gone out with new branding and has been distributed across the country.

### *Aviation NZ*

The Aviation Conference is planned for September. Milford Airfield is being closed, with possible implications for search and rescue deployment. CAA have moved from the Asteron building in Wellington as there are some earthquake issues so CAA staff are working from home. FENZ is undertaking regional workshops in relation to the general aviation standards.

### *Coastguard NZ*

There were 3,500 events in the last few months with 500 being SAR category 1 and 2 events. This is an increase on last year and the highest number of events in the last few years.

There is positive feedback for funding of water safety and the impact that Project Horizon is having. There is a focus on volunteerism and training projects.

Coastguard have received a Maori name for Coastguard, *Tautiaki Moana*, which means Guardian of the Sea and is a big milestone.

The Coastguard app has had 42,000 downloads. This provides an alternative to VHF – the app takes the load off volunteer radio operators and has some great safety features. If other organisations can promote the app, let Coastguard know.

### *Department of Conservation*

The Aoraki Rescue team has been busy with beacon callouts especially with hunter incidents and avalanches. Training continues with the Aoraki Rescue team. Recently settled on hazard risks assessments and working with GNS around geothermal hazards.

### *Fire and Emergency New Zealand*

USAR Reclassification postponed again to May next year. Introduced a first responder programme which empowers the community to carry out straight forward rescues until the units arrive. There have been three pilots and the programme will be rolled out to the regions.

### *LandSAR*

Starting to work on the rollout of a LandSAR employer and Whanau appreciation programme. A new LandSAR website is being built and just received an evaluation on WanderSearch and commissioning research for people with cognitive difficulties.

Preparations are underway for the national conference. Kicking off a series of internal projects with input into SAR management with Police involvement. LandSAR is considering what needs to occur if they need to respond during a Level 4 lockdown: what are the expectations of the volunteers, do they need to be fully vaccinated?

### *Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia*

Avalon studios are being refitted to home MOC from first week of October.

There was one incident on 10 August which MOC were approached by the Tongan coast station in relation to their island ferry, 123 people onboard and had run aground and asked for New Zealand support with all recordings of distress calls.

Also looking at the maritime safety system for additional satellite capacity to simultaneously broadcast. The season is quiet now, so MOC have been able to do some internal training.

### *Mountain Safety Council*

A focus is around the strategic plan, which has been extended for a year. The AGM will be held at the end of the year.

### *New Zealand Defence Force*

The NH90 supported both the Canterbury and West Coast Floods, resulting in regular helicopter operations. The first night of Canterbury saw a couple of rapid emergency extractions. Just under 40 hours flown in support. There were two Maritime SAR activities, total of 17.8 P-3 Orion hours.

### *New Zealand Police*

New Zealand Police has advertised for 10 District SAR coordinators and received 97 applicants. They are rolling out SAR safety equipment for SAR personnel. Hoping to have three Rauora exercises this year, with Bay of Plenty aiming to do an exercise in November.

### *Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand*

RCCNZ reported that it was relatively quiet, however steady with some complex operations. They are planning for extra recruitment for Senior SAR operators and looking at vacancies across management. Also looking to do some capability planning within the team.

RCCNZ are working on the Air Services contract. Level 4 planning is relatively well advanced with settings put in place last year.

### *Surf Life Saving New Zealand*

Last quarter was relatively quiet. Doing a wash up from the previous year. Quarterly results are up slightly from the year before. Category 1: 91 events, 78 lives saved. Searches outside category 1: 161 events, 367 lives saved, and 653 hospitalisations.

### *Water Safety New Zealand*

Daniel Gerrard is the new chief executive, and he started in May 2021. Currently doing an organisational realignment, focussing on the adoption of the sector strategy combined with water safety strategy.

### *NZSAR Secretariat*

There are two new people in the team, which is now fully established.

Bev Driscoll has been appointed as review director of the Recreational Safety and Search and Rescue Review. The terms of reference need to be written and approved by the Minister of Transport.

Rauora exercises, which are being run in various Police Districts, are table-top exercises aimed at simulating a mass rescue. They are specific to the district and the risks they face.

Nationally significant SAR exercise: NZSAR is starting to scope out work for a possible nationally significant SAR exercise for 2022/23.

The NZSAR Aviation Workshop will be run on 1 and 2 November. The purpose is to get aviation providers and stakeholders together to discuss various issues including standardisation, health and safety, and engagement.

A multi-agency workshop will be held in November. SAR coordinators from Police, staff from LandSAR, SLSNZ, Coastguard, and AREC will attend.

A Chairs/CE meeting for LandSAR, SLSNZ, Coastguard and AREC is planned for October.

## **6. Presentation: Safer Boating Forum**

Matt Wood gave a presentation on Recreational Boating and Common Compliance. He outlined the Safer Boating Forum structure, the terms of reference and the sub-

groups that feed into the work programme. Matt spoke about the strategic plan and that the biggest ever increase in funding has been distributed.

Matt advised that a virtual reality headset had been obtained. This has been used at boat shows and other events in a new way of delivering existing safety messages.

## **7. Presentation: Cross Sector Reference Group (Water Safety)**

Daniel Gerrard presented the water safety strategy. There is a five-year plan to take this forward. Daniel outlined the Wai Puna model. The Wai Puna model is like a drop of water hitting the surface and rippling out. It incorporates the source, deepening and application of water safety knowledge.

Within the strategy there are five key areas of work – education and training, data research and insights, communication, collaboration and partnership, leadership, advocacy and influence and frontline prevention, search and rescue.

The challenges and learnings are to ensure business as usual vs sector strategy, there is five years to make an impact, there are historic perspectives and insights are the key.

## **8. Presentation: Land Safety Forum**

Alex Hardy talked about the development of the Land Safety Forum. He talked about the purpose of the Forum which is to reduce preventable SAR incidents through collaboration and communication across LandSAR sectors. The first meeting was on 29 June and the agenda was to understand what the forum could achieve and what the challenges and benefits were of running a land safety forum. Next meeting will be on 7 September 2021.

## **9. Presentation: NZSAR Prevention Goal**

Tania Seward talked about the SAR prevention goal. The NZSAR Council has four goals, one which is SAR prevention. This involves working together to enhance personal responsibility through education, information, regulation, investigation, and enforcement. NZSAR collaborates with other partner organisations to achieve this goal.

## **10. NZSAR Risk Matrix**

### **a. Personal Safety**

The Committee considered the personal safety aspect of the risk matrix. While this was reviewed back in February, it was appropriate to consider after the various presentations today.

## **b. Nationally Significant SAR Event**

The Council will consider a nationally significant SAR exercise for 2022-23, which is why the Committee is reviewing this risk.

**Decision:** *The Committee endorsed the recommended changes to the NZSAR Risk Matrix.*

### **11. Terms of Reference for Consultative Committee**

The Committee considered the Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee.

There was discussion about whether the Committee develops policy in its own right. One of the roles of the Committee is to consider and comment on policies before they go to the NZSAR Council. The Council approves policies.

**Decision:** *The Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Consultative Committee.*

### **12. Quarterly Activity Report**

The Quarterly Activity Report provided a summary of SAR activity for the quarter 1 April to 30 June 2021.

### **13. 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.

### **14. NZSAR Channels Review**

This paper outlined the ongoing review of NZSAR's communications channels.

### **15. General Business**

*Newsletters.* During a recent Communications Collaborative meeting, it was raised that an electronic newsletter from NZSAR will be piloted. However, this will not replace any communication each agency produces. Each organisation has their own newsletter or communication platform and it is important that these continue to occur.

Andy closed the meeting and thanked those who had given a presentation.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 10 November 2021

**Action and Responsibility Table**

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