

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



## Minutes of Meeting NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting Wednesday, 17 February 2021, 9.30am to 12.30pm NZSAR (Ministry of Transport) 3 Queens Wharf, Wellington, and MS Teams

### In attendance

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Agency:</b>
Andrew Greig (Chair)	NZSAR Secretariat
Adam Wooler	Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ)
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Mick Kearney	SLSNZ
Alex Hardy	Land Safety Forum
MAJ Tristan Anson	NZ Defence Force
SQNLDR Pete Jackson	NZ Defence Force
Don Robertson	AREC
Brendan Comerford	Maritime Operations Centre (MOC)
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard NZ
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Mike Ambrose	LandSAR
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Ian Duncan	Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ)
Ben Flight	Australian National SAR Secretariat
Nic Brown	NZ Police
Mark Bailey	National Ambulance Sector Office (NASO)
Jessica Plachecki	NASO
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
Nicky Burgess	Antarctica NZ
Mike Daisley	Mountain Safety Council (MSC)
Paul Veric	Water Safety NZ (WSNZ)
Scott McKenzie	Aviation NZ
Kevin Banaghan	Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ)
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR Secretariat
Alita Bigwood	NZSAR Secretariat
Rhett Emery	NZSAR Secretariat
Chris Elliott	NZSAR Secretariat
Carl van der Meulen	NZSAR Secretariat
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR Secretariat
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR Secretariat
Tania Seward	NZSAR Secretariat
Alannah Taylor	NZSAR Secretariat
Rachel Roberts	NZSAR Secretariat

## 1. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

## 2. Apologies

No apologies.

## 3. Minutes of meeting 17 November 2021

NASO asked for the minutes to be amended to reflect that the phase one twin engine helicopter standard design project was not their only achievement but was the one relevant to the Consultative Committee.

With this change, the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

## 4. Matters arising from previous meeting:

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
5.	<b>Sector Update</b>	<b>(Action)</b> SLSNZ to liaise with NZSAR over the issues and NZSAR to inform the COVID-19 All-of-Government Response Group	SLSNZ & NZSAR	Complete
7.	<b>SAR Data &amp; Information Sub-Group</b>	<b>(Action)</b> Organisations are to nominate their representatives for the SAR Data & Information Sub-group to Jeff Lean by 31 January 2021.	All	Members nominated
8.	<b>Principles for Public Rescue Equipment</b>	<b>(Decision)</b> The NZSAR Consultative Committee <b>endorsed</b> the key principles for the installation of Public Rescue Equipment.	N/A	NFA
10.	<b>NZSAR Strategy 2021-23</b>	<b>(Action)</b> Add a page explaining the service level agreements to the NZSAR Strategy 2021-23.	Secretariat	Item 8
11.	<b>NZSAR Awards – Pins</b>	<b>(Decision)</b> Retrospective NZSAR Awards Pins will not be sent to next of kin of recipients who have passed away since receiving their NZSAR Awards.	N/A	NFA
14.	<b>SARdonyx; quarterly activity report</b>	<b>(Action)</b> Organisations to advise Jeff Lean what information they would like included in future SARdonyx quarterly reports.	All	Complete
18.	<b>SAR Innovation &amp; Technology Panel</b>	<b>(Action)</b> Organisations to advise Carl van der Meulen of their nominations for the SAR Innovation & Technology Panel.	All	Members nominated

**Action:** SLSNZ and NZSAR will clarify the ongoing arrangements for the Public Rescue Equipment working group.

## 5. Sector updates

### RCCNZ

There are several people away on secondment. Paul Craven will be returning soon, and Kevin Banaghan will move back into the Training Manager role.

RCCNZ are currently on incident number 160 for the year. Incidents are taking longer and are more expensive to carry out. The new beacons.org.nz website, incorporating the 406 database, will be launched on 25 February 2021.

Changes to tasking NASO contracted helicopters commence on 1 March 2021. This means that RCCNZ will contact the air desk in the first instance.

### AREC

There are no major issues at present. AREC is working hard to complete project plans related to the FED funding, and most should be complete by early March.

AREC recently provided advice to NZ Police on the purchasing of radios and portable repeater selection.

### SLSNZ

The recent shark attack at Waihi Beach, and the view that the beach should be closed, has caused SLSNZ to consider operational procedures.

103 people have been rescued from within the flags this year. For search and rescue, 14 lives have been saved and the operational hours are up due to a long search in Mt Maunganui.

COVID-19 hasn't had too much of an impact, although there have been larger crowds at beaches.

SLSNZ are currently working through their project plans for the FED funding.

### FENZ

The postponed INSARAG reclassification exercise has been further postponed – no new date has been set yet. Note that this has no impact on current classification.

FENZ continue to be engaged with MFAT, NEMA, and MOH in preparation for future international deployments of emergency assistance teams.

Water-related work continues: water asset stocktake; working safely around water. Next is working safely in and on water.

FENZ appreciates NZSAR and Carl's assistance on the *Water Rescue Arrangements Paper*, now being worked through.

### NZ Police

Operations are significantly more complex at present.

NZ Police are currently progressing the MOU with NZSAR. They are also developing the SAR safety system to ensure SAR squads have the required equipment to carry out their role.

### **Ambulance NZ**

Ambulance NZ had hoped to get all paramedics registered as health professionals; however, this has been delayed. They are rolling out a mental health and wellness app, which will be available to the paramedic workforce.

Once further information has been obtained regarding White Island, a review of the national response plan will be carried out.

The annual aero-medical conference has been cancelled due to travel restrictions; however, a webinar series will be available to anyone in the sector.

### **MSC**

2021 has been the best year so far in relation to land fatalities as numbers are significantly lower than previous years, 60 percent of fatalities were Kiwis.

MSC are currently receiving two streams of data, although they are not receiving SARdonyx data.

Busy with key prevention projects, an app that people can better plan for tramping, and further filming of a range of videos relating to New Zealand great walks.

### **LandSAR**

There are 134 reported operations for the year to date. 186 people assisted, with over 9800 volunteer hours. There is significant complexity due to crossover of some projects.

LandSAR have just launched a Safer Walking website (<https://saferwalking.nz>).

### **Coastguard**

Coastguard have experienced a busy summer in line with last year.

At the end of last year, D4H incident management software was launched, and this will be connected to SARdonyx soon.

Currently integrating five VHF channels into the national VHF network, which will help support boaties.

Are scoping out a learning management system and collaborating with other SAR agencies for possible providers.

### **WSNZ**

Paul Veric is the interim chief executive for WSNZ.

The launch of the Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025 will be launched in March 2021.

Drownings numbers sit at 12 compared to last year's 16.

## **DOC**

Land Safety Forum coordinator Alex Hardy started December 2020; he has met with the Safer Boating Forum organisers to learn how their forum operates.

## **NZDF**

The NZDF remain committed to COVID-19 isolation facilities.

Just under 95 hours of P-3 and NH90 flying hours have been completed.

Number 3 squadron are looking at cross training with other agencies.

The NH90 is running wideband; however, this may need to be narrowband for search and rescue – Don Robertson will email further information through to Peter Jackson.

**Action:** Don Robertson will email further information about radio use to Peter Jackson.

## **NASO**

NASO have been working with NZSAR, RCCNZ, and NZ Police around tasking NASO contracted helicopters for search and rescue.

NASO are undertaking a formal review of the Air Desk; the Air Desk will be in touch with NZSAR and RCCNZ on this matter.

## **Kordia/MOC**

The Maritime Operations Centre expected a busier summer; however, this was not the case. There has been notification that Avalon Tower will be turned into an apartment block. Staffing wise the team is stable.

The Americas Cup sailing has not caused any issues as Coastguard are looking after this.

There has been constant interference on a high frequency channel, and Radio Spectrum NZ are dealing with this matter.

## **Antarctica NZ**

Antarctica NZ are supplying both Scott Base and McMurdo Station. They have just started recruitment for the next summer team. Antarctica NZ will be reviewing the joint SAR manual over the winter months.

## **Australian National Search and Rescue Council**

Commencing planning for the National SAR Council's 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and for the National SAR Managers Course for Police. Planning to establish a national data working group to consider ways to consolidate SAR data across all Australian SAR authorities.

## Aviation NZ

There are issues around changing Civil Aviation Authority rules relating to Instrument Flight Rules, and this may affect SAR flights. There will be further details about this at the next meeting.

### 6. NZSAR Risk Matrix

The personal safety risk was last reviewed in October 2019. The personal safety risk has a high focus on the non or lightly regulated recreational sector. Tania Seward updated the Consultative Committee on current progress against the four risk treatments.

The BePA report referenced in Treatment 7c was completed late last year, and was complicated due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Significant work has been completed in relation to geo-locating. This is beneficial to push messaging where someone enters a particular area of interest. Coordination and consistent messaging needs to be developed.

### 7. Operational Framework

The final draft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Operational Framework for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region was presented to the Committee.

This final draft includes further layout changes to make the document flow better.

NZ Police had a couple of minor items they wished clarification on, including SAR operations for NZDF assets. They will discuss these with Carl.

**Decision:** The Consultative Committee **endorsed** the final draft of the Operational Framework for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region (3<sup>rd</sup> edition).

**Action:** Police (Nic Brown) to follow up with Carl with questions about the Operational Framework.

### 8. NZSAR Strategic Plan 2021-23 Draft

A draft of the Strategic Plan 2021-23 was provided to the Consultative Committee. Further changes have been received back from the designer and the plan is now nearing completion.

### 9. Helicopter Tasking

Andrew Greig updated the Consultative Committee around discussions between NASO, NZ Police, RCCNZ and the NZSAR Secretariat regarding tasking NASO contracted helicopters for SAR operations.

Agreement is yet to be finalised, but it appears likely that when the SAR Coordinating Authority want to task a NASO contracted helicopter, it will contact the Air Desk first, and the Air Desk will advise whether or not the helicopter is available.

**Decision:** The consultative committee **noted:**

- changes to tasking of helicopters contracted to NASO

- the intention to update the letter of agreement outlining the use of emergency ambulance services for SAR.

## 10. Volunteerism

This briefing paper provides the NZSAR Consultative Committee with an update on progress and activities undertaken in the volunteerism area.

**Decision:** The NZSAR Consultative Committee **noted** the following:

- the Crown investment in volunteerism for the three-year period beginning 1 July 2020
- the establishment of Volunteer Managers
- the draft Volunteer Workplan.

## 11. Annual Statistical Report

This report was sent to members of the Consultative Committee.

The Consultative Committee was asked if they found this document useful. If there is any feedback on the document, members are to contact Daryl Bloomfield.

**Action:** Feedback on the Annual Statistical Report to be given to Daryl Bloomfield.

## 12. Volunteer Data Standard

The briefing paper provided a context to the Volunteers Data Standard to inform discussion by the Committee.

**Decision:** The NZSAR Consultative Committee:

- **Noted** the abbreviation to the original Volunteers Data Standard that occurred during the Volunteer's workshop in Nov 2020.
- **Endorsed** the minimum number of elements required to support diversity queries of the SAR sector.

## 13. Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags

Ceara Owen from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment presented to the Consultative Committee and the standard for water safety signs and beach safety flags. There are three current standards that haven't been updated for over 10 years. Ceara asked the Committee whether the standards should be retained.

SLSNZ are currently doing some work around these standards at present.

Concern was expressed that there are issues getting councils to listen to agencies regarding these standards and supported keeping the signage standards.

Currently there is no legislation these standards can be enforced to.

**Decision:** The Consultative Committee:

- **confirmed** they would like to keep the standards for the current water safety signage
- **decided** to establish a working group to discuss this further.

#### **14. Advisory for Closing Body of Water**

SLSLNZ presented this report to raise awareness for developing a readiness plan in the event of a shark attack or fatal marine animal attack on a human along New Zealand's Coastline.

Following a recent shark attack at Waihi beach, it was discovered that there is no legal ability to close a waterway if there is a safety risk to the public from a shark, or other marine animal. SLSNZ seeks the establishment of a readiness plan for responding to shark attacks, which would include clarifying options for authorities to keep members of the public safe in the case of ongoing risks.

The Committee discussed this and agreed to further discussion at the next meeting

**Action:** Allan (SLSNZ) and Carl (NZSAR) to review and update the paper, and bring it to the next Consultative Meeting.

#### **15. SLA/MOU Performance Monitoring Report**

Bridget Hesketh presented the SLA/MOU Performance Monitoring report for the second quarter of the current financial year.

**Decision:** The Consultative Committee noted the 2020-21 Q2 SLA and MOU Performance Report.

#### **16. SARdonyx: Quarterly Activity Report**

The SARdonyx quarterly activity report was presented.

#### **17. National SAR Support Programme 2020/21**

Rhett Emery provided an overview of the updated National SAR Support Programme.

#### **18. Environmental Scan**

A web-based version of the environmental scan will allow updates as required, this work has been delayed due to COVID-19 when this is live an email inviting feedback will be sent out to all agencies.

#### **19. NZSAR Awards**

Tania Seward outlined progress for the NZSAR Awards and advised that 29 nominations were submitted. The Awards will be held on Tuesday 18 May 2021.

The Consultative Committee agreed to move its next meeting to 18 May 2021 to be on the same day as the NZSAR Awards.

#### **20. Beacons Digital Marketing Campaign**

Tania Seward provided a summary of the progress to date on the Beacons marketing campaign.

To date the campaign has directly resulted in 15,000 website sessions on a Beacons-specific landing page on the AdventureSmart website.

Of these 15,000 website sessions, 1600 have clicked on the 'hire or buy' button which directs them to a list of retailers and hire outlets (a click-through rate of 10.1 percent – an increase from 5.8 percent in November and 8.8 percent in December).

Department of Conservation have reported 399 beacons hired from their visitor centres between 1 October 2020 and 31 January 2021 – a 22 percent increase in the same period last year.

RCCNZ reported over 2000 beacons were registered in December 2020, which is a 30 percent increase from December 2019.

**Decision:** The Consultative Committee **noted** the progress to date on the Beacons marketing campaign.

## **21. SAR Training**

Alita Bigwood advised that the funding is signed off on the training funding. Next steps are to confirm training calendars and contracts for the 2021 training programme.

## **22. Reviews Recommendations Register**

We continue to work through actions to address the recommendations from the Reviews; the first 3 are close to wrapping up the other 3 are very much a work in progress.

## **23. Land Safety Forum**

The Land Safety Forum is in the process of being formed.

Forum coordinator Alex Hardy has an article in the next Link Newsletter on the new strategy and is looking forward to working with agencies.

## **24. Innovation and Technology Strategy**

The Innovation and Technology Strategy is in a consultation and feedback process and will be presented to the Council for approval.

## **25. General Business**

The Committee was informed that NZSAR is discontinuing the provision of SARNET communications channel as this has been overtaken with new video-conferencing and communications services like Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

The NZSAR Secretariat will be adding the effect of green house gases to the NZSAR secretariat work plan. This will include exploring options of sustainability targets both operationally and non-operationally in the SAR sector.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 18 May 2021

### Action and Responsibility Table

#	Item	Actions & Decisions	Responsibility	Actions Taken/Status
4	Minutes of Meeting 17 November 2021	<b>Action:</b> SLSNZ and NZSAR will clarify the ongoing arrangements for the Public Rescue Equipment working group.	SLSNZ & NZSAR	Ongoing
5	Sector Update – NZDF	<b>Action:</b> Don Robertson (AREC) will email further information about radio use to Peter Jackson (NZDF).	AREC	Complete
7	Operational Framework	<b>Decision:</b> The Consultative Committee <b>endorsed</b> the final draft of the Operational Framework for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition).	NZSAR	NFA
7	Operational Framework	<b>Action:</b> Police (Nic Brown) to follow up with Carl with questions about the Operational Framework.	Police and NZSAR	Complete
8	Annual Statistical Report	<b>Action:</b> Feedback on the Annual Statistical Report to be given to Daryl Bloomfield	All members	Complete
9	Helicopter Tasking	<b>Decision:</b> The consultative committee <b>noted:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• changes to tasking of helicopters contracted to NASO</li> <li>• the intention to update the letter of agreement outlining the use of emergency ambulance services for SAR.</li> </ul>	NZSAR	NFA
10	Volunteerism	<b>Decision:</b> The NZSAR Consultative Committee <b>noted</b> the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Crown investment in volunteerism for the three-year period beginning 1 July 2020</li> <li>• the establishment of Volunteer Managers</li> <li>• the draft Volunteer Workplan.</li> </ul>	NZSAR	NFA

12	Volunteer Data Standard	<p><b>Decision:</b> The NZSAR Consultative Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noted</b> the abbreviation to the original Volunteers Data Standard that occurred during the Volunteer's workshop in Nov 2020.</li> <li>• <b>Endorsed</b> the minimum number of elements required to support diversity queries of the SAR sector.</li> </ul>	NZSAR	Approved by Senior Officials Group
13	Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags	<p><b>Decision:</b> The Consultative Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>confirmed</b> they would like to keep the standards for the current water safety signage</li> <li>• <b>decided</b> to establish a working group to discuss this further.</li> </ul>	NZSAR	
13	Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags	<b>Action:</b> Confirm to MBIE that the Committee wants to keep the standards for the current water safety signage.	NZSAR	Complete
13	Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags	<b>Action:</b> Establish a working group to discuss standards.	SLSNZ	Ongoing discussion with WSNZ and SLSNZ
14	Advisory for Closing Body of Water	<b>Action:</b> Allan (SLSNZ) and Carl (NZSAR) to review and update the paper for the next Consultative Committee Meeting.	SLSNZ & NZSAR	SLSNZ & NZSAR working together to develop guidance for shark attacks
15	SLA/MOU Performance Monitoring Report	<b>Decision:</b> The Consultative Committee noted the 2020-21 Q2 SLA and MOU Performance Report.		NFA