



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue
Consultative Committee Meeting
Wednesday 10 November 2010
1.00pm – 4.00pm
Ministry of Transport, Cook Room
Level 6
89 The Terrace
Wellington

Attendees:

Nigel Cooper – NZDF
Brett Sullivan – SLSNZ
Colin Small – Coastguard
Bruce Reid – Coastguard
Dave Shearer – SARINZ
Mike Sheridan – SARINZ
Ken Matthews – CAA
Rachel Roberts – NZSAR
Carl van der Meulen – NZSAR
David Waters – Ambulance NZ

Mike Davies - DOC
Darryl Carpenter - MSC
Duncan Ferner - NZSAR
Rodney Bracefield - RCCNZ
Gerry Prins – Police
Bruce Johnston - Police
John Scobie – LandSAR
Phil Melchior – LandSAR
Amy Greig – MoT
John Yaldwyn - AREC

Apologies:

Jeff Sayer (AREC)
Simon Eichelbaum (NZDF)
Haydn Smith (LandSAR)
John Funnel
Nigel Clifford (MNZ)
Pete Dawson (Federation of Commercial Fisherman)
Iain Miller (Antarctica NZ)

Absent:

Jim Stuart-Black (NZFS)

1. Welcome

Carl van der Meulen welcomed everyone to the meeting – the last meeting for 2010. Carl also extended an extra welcome to Ken Matthews from the CAA who was attending the meeting for the first time.

2. Minutes from Last meeting

The minutes from the previous Consultative Committee meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

Service Level Agreements

Police to work with SLA partners to monitor submitted operational reports, and to provide P130 even numbers as required.

NZSAR Secretariat reported that this is ongoing.

Sector Update

Coastguard to distribute information on presenters attending the Coastguard conference being held in September.

The Conference was held and was successful.

Sector Update

NZSAR to distribute the draft relationship agreement between the government and community sector

NZSAR Secretariat confirmed the relationship agreement has been distributed.

SAR Workshops

Feedback on the proposed workshops to be with the Secretariat by 28 July.

Workshops were all held.

Volunteer Study

Feedback on the Volunteer Study to be with the Secretariat by Wednesday 28 July

NZSAR Secretariat confirmed feedback received – no further discussions required.

4. Service Level Agreement Monitoring Report for the Jul-Sep Quarter

The chair explained that this information is now being presented in a condensed format to make for easier viewing and understanding.

Issues and Updates

Coastguard:

- Rescue Vessel Upgrade – 4 Projects in the Quarter
- Two major areas of work
 - Standardising Rescue Vessel Fleet
 - Review of Coastguard COC training
- There has been a decrease in LGB Outdoor Safety funding

- Canterbury Earthquake – Coastguard Waimak/Ashley Unit HQ based in Kaiapoi was severely damaged.
- CNZ Conference was held in September
- CNZ has been approached by three groups requesting information on becoming new units:
 - Wanaka
 - Twizel (MacKenzie Lakes)
 - Cape Egmont

LandSAR

- Canterbury Earthquake – highlights the need for relationships with local CDEM Groups.
- SAREXs – staff have been caught out by changes agreed SAREX dates that are on the NZSAR calendar.
- 2010 LandSAR AGM and Conference – Hokitika 19 – 21 November

No issues or updates to report from SLSNZ and AREC

5. Sector Update

NZDF

Up to 85 hours were budgeted for P3K Orion SAR operations in this year. To date 120 hours have been utilised and two months of the year remain. Asset availability for SAR response is being stretched by limited aircraft availability and other commitments in the Pacific. Fleet size and hours for the UH-1H Iroquois have started to reduce in preparation for the arrival of the new NH90 helicopters. The expected operating cost of the NH90 is \$15k per hour. Careful consideration will need to be made before they are used for routine land based SAR operations.

Ambulance NZ

The *Air Ambulance/Air Rescue* standard is due for release. As there has been no agreement with AIA about the standard, it will be released as an Ambulance NZ standard only. The standard will be made available to the members of the Consultative Committee. It is understood that the AIA will continue to develop their own version of an *Air Ambulance/Air Rescue* standard.

Comment. The NZSAR Secretariat, together with National Ambulance Sector Office, repeatedly urged Ambulance NZ and AIA to resolve their differences and develop a single *Air Ambulance/Air Rescue* standard. At this time, a single standard appears unlikely which may have some effect on the operational service delivery of air search and rescue services in due course.

Surf Life Saving NZ

SLSNZ has entered its centenary year and has a focus on celebrating this milestone, including a travelling exhibition, and a range of postage stamps. The

organisational restructure is almost complete and the organisation is realising some of the anticipated efficiencies. State Insurance has come on board as an additional sponsor for SLSNZ. Coastguard and SLSNZ are working together (with ACC support) to develop a risk analysis tool for bar crossings. The tool will be used to develop mitigation initiatives to lessen the risks of bar crossings. SLSNZ is actively pursuing opportunities by delivering First Aid training around New Zealand. The organisation is currently focussed on preparing for the summer season.

Coastguard NZ

CNZ has been engaged with Maritime NZ's review of marine communications. There have been two fatalities of members recently in CNZ, and counselling has been offered to affected members. CNZ is preparing for an expected busy summer. CNZ noted a particularly quiet winter period. CNZ is interested in the recent Defence Review's notation on the need for Short Range Maritime Air Patrol aircraft. CNZ has partnered with MNZ to assist with the national boat ramp survey. Collin Small was elected as the new CNZ President at the recent CNZ conference.

SARINZ

A significant amount of training has been delivered to approximately 2,500 people in the past year. SARINZ will be affected by the TEC decision on funding support for Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP).

DOC

The ACR team at Aoraki/Mt Cook is gearing up for the summer climbing season. Don Bogie attended an avalanche workshop in the USA. He noted that our avalanche preparedness efforts were well aligned to the North America/European practice. In comparison to other jurisdictions, NZ benefits from having a single system of forecasting and warning about avalanche danger. The DoL led Adventure Tourism Review is likely to create good SAR prevention benefits. Work is progressing with MSC and others on a visitor intentions system.

MSC

MSC is working with DOC and other partners on a proposed visitor intentions system. Work has been progressed on the NZSAR Council sponsored AdventureSmart portal website development. There will be a summer launch of the outdoor safety code with media involvement. MSC has started a new project with Education NZ aimed at providing education to teachers and other group leaders of what to do if an incident has occurred. MSC was also represented at the avalanche workshop in the USA.

RCCNZ

Work is progressing on the refurbishment of the operations room. A new training role has been established. The selected person will begin work in December 2010. The Group Manager recently attended the COSPASS-SARSAT Council meeting in Canada. RCCNZ is working with Australia (AMSA) on the MEOSAR programme; the likely target date is in the 2015-17 range. IMT exercises are being supported. Survivability in cold water program is being run by RCCNZ on an experimental basis. RCCNZ is developing a Pacific SAR plan which will identify available SAR resources and capability around the Pacific. The air

observer/refresher programme of training continues and will be complete by May 2011.

Police

Two MLSO and MMSO courses were run at the Police College in October. The Police SAR Coordinators workshop will be held following the LandSAR conference in Hokitika in late November. Police are participating in the NZSAR sponsored training development projects for on scene coordinator and incident management/controller training.

CAA

Ken Mathews has recently started his role as the new manager Rotary Wing and Agriculture. The financial effects of the economy are still filtering through the various helicopter operators throughout the country. CAA is currently conducting a value for money review.

LandSAR

LandSAR is preparing for the summer season. The LandSAR conference and AGM will be held in Hokitika in late November. Work is continuing with SARINZ around training issues. LandSAR will also be affected by the TEC decision on funding of TPP programmes.

6. SAR Training/Education Funding Discussion

Tai Poutini Polytechnic / TEC

Funding from Tai Poutini Polytechnic / TEC for administration fees for SAR training will no longer be available. There was strong agreement from the group that the training/funding model for the voluntary sector appears to be flawed. The group agreed that SAR would not get heavily involved in this at this point. NZSAR Secretariat to raise this issue with the Council, the Secretariat confirmed that the Council Chair is already aware of this issue. Any further comments or discussion on this topic should be directed to the NZSAR Secretariat.

On Scene Coordinator Training Development Update

The Secretariat's vision for this work is to develop a small training package aimed at On Scene Coordinators. The Secretariat and contractor progressing this work recently met to discuss options going forward. At this stage the Secretariat is looking to run a pilot training course around March 2011. Coastguard raised some concerns they have about this training and will be directing this to the Secretariat outside the meeting.

Incident Controller / Manager Training Development Update

The Secretariat is working with the contractor to finalise the Terms of Reference and clarity around expectations for this work. The Secretariat will table the Terms of Reference at the next Consultative Committee meeting for approval. No comments from the group at this time.

7. Knowledge Management Discussion

Lessons Learned

The Secretariat noted that the current 'Lessons Learned' section of the NZSAR website doesn't appear to be working as intended. The Secretariat raised the

possibility of discontinuing this function; however the Committee indicated that they would like to see it continue, and maybe more could be done in raising awareness of the lessons learned section. The Secretariat Manager said that he felt he had been doing a lot in this area, yet interest hasn't increased. The view from the Secretariat is that this forum should be available to the sector to help stimulate communications, share experiences and gather important information that all in the sector can learn from.

The group discussed the possibility of other communication means, maybe adding a section of 'Lessons Learned' in the regular Link newsletter, or compiling 4 online case studies a year (using a skilled writer) that would focus on joint Lessons Learned from within the sector. The group agreed that it would be more useful if the Link newsletter was more widely distributed amongst organisations; the Secretariat reminded the group that it was the responsibility of the main recipient of the Link newsletter within each organisation to ensure it was appropriately distributed.

The committee agreed that the Secretariat and Rachel Roberts would have a further discussion around options for better communicating Lessons Learned from within the Sector. They will look at options for including an extra section in the Link newsletter and will research the possibility of creating case studies or vignettes throughout the year.

8. Payment for SAR Discussion

This topic was discussed at the last Consultative Committee meeting and was raised at the last Council meeting.

The Council directed the Secretariat to gather more data on the extent of SAR operations that may attract a cost-recovery component. The two Coordinating Authorities are to provide the following information regarding SAR events:

- Valid/Normal SAR
- Inadequate preparation or capability
- Questionable need for SAROP
- Hoax/False SAROP
- Repeat SAR (where known)

The Secretariat sought agreement from the Committee about a set of proposed communication messages regarding charging SAR costs.

- New Zealand does not charge for Search and Rescue services
- We prefer to educate and have people plan and take responsibility for their activities
- We don't want people to hesitate to request assistance if they are in distress
- We don't want people hiding from SAR agencies
- Numbers of problem SAR events is small, and the costs of problem incidents are not large

The Secretariat also noted that:

- Tourists make up about 10% of SAR incidents
- Approx 0.01% of tourists need SAR services
- Tourists pay approx \$1.7 billion in GST each year.

The Committee agreed to the messages being presented to the Council for approval.

9. NZSAR National Support Programme Update

Workshops

- i. NZSAR Technology Challenge
The purpose of the workshop is to identify and share knowledge about existing, new and potential technologies that may be applicable to the New Zealand SAR environment. The workshop will focus on future technological trends and note the opportunities and limitations that these technologies represent to the New Zealand SAR community. This will be held 6&7 December in Wellington.
- ii. NZSAR Training and Education
A planning session for the 2011/2012 SAREX calendar will be incorporated into this session. At this stage, this will be held around March 2011. Any interest in this workshop is to be directed to the Secretariat.
- iii. Aviation
This workshop will be run by RCCNZ, and is aimed for aviation providers and hoist operators. At this stage, this workshop will be held in May 2010, agenda (topics) still to be confirmed.
- iv. Marine Workshop Follow Up
The Secretariat is still to confirm what this workshop will look like; it will be a follow up from the workshop held in May 2010. No further planning on this has been done yet; the Secretariat is to confirm the training budget before going any further on this.
- v. Avalanche Workshop Follow Up
Work is progressing on developing generic avalanche pre-plans. There may be an opportunity to present these plans to the sector at the conclusion of the Mountain Safety Council avalanche workshop in autumn.

Air Observers

LandSAR have raised a concern about selection criteria for this training. LandSAR and RCCNZ are to have a further discussion on this.

SAR Prevention Initiatives

MNZ have agreed to partially fund the Boating Safety Code. Rachel Roberts is currently working on putting this together, once complete it will be released to the National Pleasure Boat Safety Forum. The format is similar to the outdoor safety code.

The 'Adventure Smart' website is currently being developed. The website will be a portal with links to specific education about outdoor activities. The Secretariat is working through copyright issues with use of the term 'Adventure Smart'. The Secretariat will brief the committee at the next meeting on this.

Sponsored SAREXs

Canterbury held a well-run exercise. Wellington is running an exercise this coming weekend (13/14 November).

10. NZSAR Matters

NZ Operational SAR Plan Development

Ted Preston is progressing this work, most of the information already exists – it's just a matter of pulling it together. A glossary of key terms used across the sector will also be included.

SARSCENE Conference and CSBC Symposium

Duncan Ferner provided a debrief on his attendance at this conference. More information and a copy of materials and presentations are available from the Secretariat.

NATSAR

Carl van der Meulen provided a debrief on his attendance at Australian Council meeting. Australia has similar SAR issues as New Zealand including sector statistics, increasing dementia related searches, and challenges with new technologies.

11. General Business

NZSAR Awards

Nominations for these awards close 31 January

Meetings for 2011

9 Feb – NZSAR Consultative Committee

13 April – Combined NZSAR Council and Consultative Committee meeting

13 April – NZSAR Awards

13 July – NZSAR Consultative Committee

9 November – NZAR Consultative Committee

Meetings for 2011 – Further

The Secretariat sought feedback from the committee on how they feel the meetings are currently scheduled – is it effective, is it working for all members?

The group agreed that 4 meetings a year is the correct frequency. All members agreed that it would be best to keep the meetings in Wellington and they would be interested in hearing from occasional guest speakers and potentially (if it proves cost effective) to have extra visits to external locations if appropriate.

If any members felt they had further thoughts or more to contribute to this, please contact the Secretariat directly.

The meeting Concluded 4.00pm

Carl van der Meulen
NZSAR Secretariat

	Actions	Responsibility
6. On Scene Coordinator Training	Coastguard to raise some questions they have regarding this training with the Secretariat	Coastguard
6. Incident Controller / Manager Training Development	Secretariat to table Terms of Reference for this work at the next Consultative Committee meeting	Secretariat
7. Lessons Learned	Secretariat and Rachel Roberts to research other options for effectively communicating Lessons Learned to the sector. Update to be provided at next Consultative Committee Meeting	Secretariat
8. Payment for SAR	Key Messages were agreed by the Consultative Committee and will be presented to the Council	Secretariat
9. Air Observers Training	LandSAR and RCCNZ to have a further discussion about this training	LandSAR and RCCNZ