



Name	Agency
Kathryn Steel	St Johns Air Desk
Daniel Gerrad	WSC

Name	Agency
Michael Bassett-Foss	Independent
Mike Clulow	RCCNZ

#### 4. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Karakia: Rob Hewitt

#### 5. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 15 August 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Callum advised that Coastguard is not using drones but that they are interested in using drones. The Staff Engagement survey showed that with flexible working arrangements, instead of people 'hating' meetings, having to attend meetings had the lowest score.

#### 6. Summary of actions from previous meetings

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
7	<b>UAV Working Group</b>	<b>Action:</b> To be added to November 2023 meeting agenda	Andy Greig	UAV meeting still to be held. Matt Wheble will be leading this.
10	<b>Public Rescue Equipment Guidelines</b>	<b>Action:</b> Mick and Andy will liaise regarding sending a letter from either Andy or Duncan in support of PRE guidelines.	Andy Greig & Mick Kearney	Adam Wooler has got the guidelines ready to be sent out and are looking good. Duncan or Andy will sign a letter of support for these guidelines.

## 7. Sector Updates

Agencies provided brief sector updates.

### **Ambulance NZ**

Redrafting of the Air Ambulance standard continues, including updating terminology and forward planning. A discussion draft is due in early December.

Currently developing a new device to be carried in aircraft to enable scans to be carried out at accident scenes.

### **AMSA**

A six-month SAR officer training course is underway.

Recently, a significant outage of the incident management system occurred lasting several hours. This was handled well through other systems. The business continuity plan is now under review. Of note, is that moving to an alternate site does not help as all equipment points back to same place.

No major incidents to note, but there has been an increase in the number of aircraft ditching, but no pattern to the type of aircraft involved.

### **Antarctica New Zealand**

There have not been any recent SAR call outs. Integrating with the United States programme JSAR. Although unfortunately, with COVID protocols they have not yet had any face-to-face contact.

### **AREC**

Currently looking at their operating model for the next 5 to 10 years. This includes looking at who wants what services and what should AREC be doing. An analysis of SARdonyx data is being undertaken to understand requirements and how to provide communications better. This work should be completed by Christmas and the intention is to start building AREC up for both SAR and Emergency Management operations.

Three full time regional managers are now employed.

Regional Managers are meeting with groups and identifying training needs.

### **Aviation NZ**

A new chief executive has started: Simon Wallace. Currently finalising the strategy for the next two years. Aviation NZ is looking at BK117 helicopter accidents of late.

### **CAA**

No report was provided.

### **Coastguard**

Starting to get busier on the water. Recent events have included the Coastal Classic yacht race.

Organisationally, have been very busy. Good progress filling vacant roles.

Continuing to have meaningful engagement with boaties from diverse backgrounds across Aotearoa New Zealand to increase awareness of water-based risks (e.g., bar crossing seminars) and improve boat safety practices (e.g., promoting lifejacket use)

to reduce boating incidents and preventable fatalities, placing additional emphasis on communities that are overrepresented in New Zealand's drowning statistics. For example, our community engagement team coordinated the 'Tongan Boat Safety Challenge' to better understand the boating practices of Tongan men in Aotearoa New Zealand. This project was extremely insightful, and findings have been put into practice with recommendations informing Coastguard Boating Education's Tongan Project.

With El Nino fast approaching, and boaties keen to get out on the water after a disappointing summer followed by a long winter, we are expecting the Spring and Summer seasons to be busier than ever.

Coastguard is lobbying for change of the Auckland navigation bylaw relating to water safety.

The volunteer strategy is paying off – there are an additional 300 volunteers.

### **DOC – Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team**

DOC, from the visitor safety side, is rolling out new methods of working with its districts to identify hazards and develop mitigations.

### **Fire and Emergency NZ**

Balancing how long they can keep resources in Australia. Another team will be sent over to Queensland; but will be limiting international deployments.

With the change in weather patterns, are preparing for a wildfire season in the South Island and a wet season in the North Island.

### **Land Search and Rescue**

Year to date has been busy: 6,000 volunteer hours undertaken and this continues to climb. Delivered 350 courses around SAR and emergency response.

The AGM is on 22 November 2023, and the Annual Report will be available online.

Have completed the Group Planning Tool; a planning tool to target operational capabilities for the next 12 months.

About to employ a Group Volunteer Support person in the alpine cliff rescue (ACR) space. There is an increased need for the cliff rescue teams including changing the behaviour of some climbers. This person will provide specialist advice and support to ACR teams.

### **MOC/Kordia**

No report provided.

### **Ministry of Transport**

Revising what used to be called the Major Transport Incident Framework document including reframing it and collating various different documents into one. This will go out for consultation to the sector.

### **Mountain Safety Council**

The season has seen some of the biggest avalanches recorded in recent years and without any fatalities. The unstable snowpack has now stabilised with the changed weather systems.

Prepared for the upcoming summer season. Major campaigns are in place including tramping and families exploring NZ.

Working with Queenstown Lakes on preparatory work for back country cycling safety messages. Assisting people with information on what they may need when they head into the back country areas.

## **NEMA**

The National Operations Manager/National Controller, Roger Ball, has moved to a role at MFAT. The new National Controller is Wendy Wright. The acting National Operations Manager is Ajay Makhija.

Recruitment for most vacant positions is on hold until the new Government is formed.

The work with search and rescue and CDEM and the wider flood response framework for NZ is on the agenda at the next Emergency Services Leadership Board meeting, which is in February 2024.

Twelve NZ Response Team national re-accreditations have been completed so far; the remaining four will be completed by March 2024.

On 26-27 August, the Canterbury CDEM Group hosted a joint training exercise for all the South Island NZRTs. Nine teams (109 volunteers) attended the 36-hour exercise, providing a chance to form composite teams and put their skills to the test.

On 18-22 September, the NZ Emergency Management Assistance Team (NZEMAT) held their annual readiness training exercise at Ellerslie Racecourse in Auckland. The training brought together NEMA's Regional Emergency Management Advisors and Rapid Response Team, Emergency Management Leadership Development Programme alumni and the NZ Police to train alongside NZEMAT for austere emergency environments and develop their technical capabilities. The alternate National Crisis Management Centre was activated and tested during the exercise.

## **NZDF**

Operationally, matters are steady.

## **NZ Police**

Lea Smith, the Police SAR Coordinator and Karl Dulver, Police DVI and Emergency Management, have recently commenced.

Have engaged a Business Analyst to develop a strategic plan for the next three to five years for both SAR including the DSARACs to give a clear road map of where SAR within Police is heading.

Two SAR Manager courses have been delivered. The National Qualification Course (Dip Flat) is coming up, with a focus on leadership and IMT command and control principles.

Craig Rendel attended the NATSAR AGM with Duncan Ferner – with some good learnings allowing Police to develop capability for the growing demand in the severe weather and flood rescue work. The Aviation Futures work is being delivered to Operations Managers about how changes may affect Districts.

A SAR equipment trial is underway until late January. SAR Mobility project – app for Police phones so data can be entered in the field. Working with Māori responsiveness managers around the country as to how can better include and engage with Māori at the start of operations.

### **Te Ao Māori engagement**

Rob Hewitt played the video from the Kaihautū Hui held in early November. There were three takeaways – collaboration with organisations and hapū and marae; it felt comfortable to talk and share knowledge and how to work collectively together; and the important areas of health, education and poverty. All groups round the table participated and were engaged, it was all about finding common ground. Conversations through hui over the next 12 months will focus on what roles do organisations play and how does it all fit together. The mahi over the last 18 months of incorporating Kaihautū across the sector is now being embraced by LandSAR and the National Mountain Council.

### **RCCNZ**

Working on briefings for the incoming minister. Currently focussed on: progressing the re-negotiation of Kordia contract to provide unbroken delivery of Maritime Safety and Distress Communication services; and the need to ensure the SAR function is sufficiently resourced to cope with the year-on-year increases in demand by

progressing a FED bid to increase resilience and response capacity, with the intention it will increase watch capacity in the operations room.

Progressing recommendations from the TAIC response to the *Enchanter* incident.

Preparing for the expected summer peak season (increases in SAR demand have already started to become noticeable).

There was a successful exercise last month, which created RCC injects for the SAREX in Southland this month.

MEOLUT successfully passed its commissioning testing for next generation beacons, and has been approved for use operationally by COSPAS Sarsat

Interviewing for Lead Advisor Strategic Projects, and also recruiting lead advisor AtoN (the closest you'll get to being a lighthouse keeper in NZ). Intend on recruiting new SAROs next year, with a training case held during Q4 23/24.

### **St John Air Desk**

No report provided.

### **Surf Life Saving**

Almost completed consolidation of Northern Region, which means all calls to the 0800 safe number are now guaranteed to be answered. Operations are increasing and El Nino is already having an effect on the number of people being blown out to sea in small craft. There is concern about the di-pole effect – notably the swell before and after severe weather events due to rips etc. Some clubs opened at Labour Weekend and as summer conditions move down the country, the other clubs will open.

A paper to the SLSNZ Board discusses the position of SAR in the organisation – renewing SAR strategy within the organisation to look at how to position itself and how promotion inside and outside the organisation will look.

### **Water Safety NZ**

There have been about 80 fatalities for the calendar year; on this basis, forecasting 104 for the year, which will be the highest number for 20 plus years. This is the third year in row there has been a 10 percent growth.

Craft fatalities are well down but offset with people under estimating conditions, for example, rock fishing.

There is a multi-faceted approach with MNZ leading a relaunch of a package next week to turbo charge the life jacket message and awareness of changing conditions as a result of last years storms – have a check before you go out on the water.

Working to determine what we all need to do differently to get a different outcome and what groups do we need to target to get better outcomes. Funding is either subsidising Skills for Life in primary schools (60 percent of resource goes to programme but only covers one out of three children) or Kia Moana – targeting rural Māori when gathering kai.

### **Te Whatu Ora and National Ambulance Sector Office**

The restructure is continuing and there is a new General Manager, Dave Richards (from St John) starting in early January.

Regarding helicopter air ambulances, there have been some incidents including a BK117 helicopter written off. Of note, there are about 22 flying BK117s in NZ and production stopped in 1996 – so have one of the oldest aircraft fleets in the world. Need to flag that the blade production of BK117 has stopped, which signals the end of life for these aircraft. There is also a shortage of engine components.

Currently working with providers to bring new aircraft in to bolster the system. However, there is a long lead time.

Have secured some funds for fuel resilience in the North and East.

### **YSAR**

There are currently eight branches.

Held a leadership training weekend recently with 30 leaders across NZ.

Still seeking a lead for the Wakatipu branch for 2024.

200 applicants this year across eight branches; Tauranga, Auckland, South Auckland, Waikato Central, Thames Coromandel, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. 140 new students selected. Total students are 262.

Applications across the 2024 Cohort: 40 percent female, 60 percent male.

The South Auckland branch will be predominately Māori and Pacifica.

The Board will run a service design and futures impact workshop in February or March to develop a roadmap for the next 5 to 10 years.

Planning the next Youth Development in SAR and EM forum for June or July.

### **NZSAR Secretariat**

Matt Mintrom has joined the Secretariat as Senior Policy Adviser.

The Ministry of Transport have completed a reorganisation. The NZSAR Secretariat are carrying two vacancies but cannot recruit against them at this time so has implications to our work programme. The Recreational Review has stated that the NZSAR Secretariat is being disestablished but the implementation work plan is on pause at the moment. Bridget has picked up the volunteer strategy, but other research work is on hold though still aspire to do a volunteer survey next year but how we are going to meet our responsibility is unclear.

The Whakarauora Tangata exercise is going well and thank you for your participation and future participation. More events are coming up; elevating up to a national level next year.

## **8. NZSAR Risk Matrix – SAR Demand**

Duncan advised that a modest change to this risk was proposed. Also, to note that the Coastguard title of work should be Capability Footprint Review. On page two of the Quarterly Activity report, there is an interesting graph which shows SAR demand since 2019 showing we are doing more SAR year by year and this is forecasted to continue. There is no particular area of demand, we are just seeing more people doing more things. When thinking about this and the other commentary in Risk Matrix, do we have the risk correct. Duncan would like to take the updated risk matrix to the Council in December.

Callum said that the probability of occurrence is 'certain' not 'likely'.

Mike would like some more analysis regarding of what the driving factors are. In section six and section seven of the Quarterly report there is a lot of inference but not what are considered the casual factors. Mountain Safety Council and Water Safety NZ do a lot of work on these and several of the report comments have been debunked.

Brendan Nally commented on the nature of public confidence in the sector, there has been an increase in call numbers, which is a risk itself and causes a reduction of service that affects the ability to recruit volunteers.

Callum also suggested that we should stick to annual data rather than quarterly. In prior years, there have been lockdowns and weather events that have impacted data.

Daryl advised that can look at doing a rolling average, but noted the report does show year to date figures.

Duncan advised that we now have increased our data analysis service with Dot Loves Data and have also purchased Spark data from the last five years.

### **Action**

- Duncan to change the proposed wording of the Risk to reflect this discussion.



## 9. Telecommunications Strategy

This strategy has been updated after previous feedback from SLSNZ, RCCNZ and Land Search and Rescue. This is for the Consultative Committee to endorse before it goes to NZSAR Council.

There is no current Search and Rescue telecommunications strategy to provide direction to SAR agencies for the development of interoperable networks across the sector. Any future SAR network must be operational without sole reliance on cellular connectivity. Police, Ambulance and FENZ are moving to a public safety network (PSN). The SAR Sector needs to look at how the NGOs integrate with that or have a parallel system and are also looking at funding and how that is supported.

The Strategy also looks at and recommends the continued use of HF and maintaining the use of HF radio and for sale operations. It is focused around the communication systems for the SAR NGOs to work with Police and RCCNZ.

Callum said the paper is pretty quiet on the business of Coastguard. They have a network of close to 50 VHF channels which are not mentioned in the document.

It was noted that MNZ has systems in place which are working well and this strategy appears more land based. Especially with the move to the PSN system for Police, FENZ and Ambulance it is really looking at how we connect with them in the future. It was noted that the Strategy was put out for consultation with everyone.

Callum also made the observation that the Radio Spectrum management are making it increasingly challenging to buy VHF licences.

There was a discussion around VHF and SMEs involved have said VHF and HF are not going anywhere.

The question was raised around cost expectancy. Money is tight and Coastguard has invested a lot into their system.

Once this is endorsed by the Committee, it will go to NZSAR Council to get their approval. Then we can take action to figure out what things will cost and how to take it forward. Also need to find out whether it is going to be centrally funded or funded through existing budget.

### **Decision**

- The Consultative Committee endorsed the Telecommunications Strategy with any Coastguard changes incorporated.

## 10. NEMA Presentation

Derek Baxter (Bax) from NEMA gave a presentation on Exercise Ru Whenua. He has acknowledged that agencies will have varying levels of understanding about this.

The Exercise is called Ru Whenua meaning earthquake. It is a National Tier 4 exercise. This is based on a South Island Alpine Fault Earthquake, a southern rupture magnitude 8.2 earthquake on a winter afternoon in 2024.

Wellington will be disrupted but not requiring a NCMC activation.

Bax went through the national objectives of the exercise that is going to be run over four days.

He is asking response agencies to think about understanding the impacts, the delivery of the response and what the friction points will be. He is also asking for CDEM groups to have detailed understandings of local and regional impacts.

From a NZSAR point, he is looking for connections with the local CDEM system, there are likely to be multiple beacon activations and there is a need to have conversations around national vs local capabilities and asset deployment.

There will be a multi-agency workshop on 7 December.

The slide presentation is attached to the minutes.

## **11. RPAS in SAR**

Matt Wheble has had a discussion with Police on the use of RPAS in search and rescue from a Police perspective. There will be an online workshop on 28 March around RPAS which will be hosted by NZSAR. There is a lot of interest around RPAS.

The workshop will need to talk about the barriers of '102' for NGO operators, there is a cost to get skills to the required level.

Brendan advised that FENZ is happy to offer assistance and can attend the workshop.

Richard also advised that Aviation NZ are happy to help with advice. He mentioned that any tethered RPAS becomes a kite that is subject to other regulations.

## **12. Multi-Flood Rescue Symposium**

Allan Mundy gave a presentation on the NSW SES (State Emergency Service) Flood Symposium which he attended last week.

The aims and objectives were to enhance the collective response to flood rescue emergencies and foster collaboration amongst emergency service organisations. The primary goal of the symposium was to establish and strengthen relationships and capabilities among all emergency services.

SLSNZ started working with Tasmania and Queensland (in 2015). With regards to looking at what they are doing and from that due diligence, SLSNZ have been working on a flood programme. This symposium affirmed they are moving in the right direction. SLSNZ also presented on their flood development journey and Flood Strategic Work Plan and its two-boat backup tether system that provides a stable platform to rescue from.

SES are invested in applying a proactive approach to flood emergencies. They are looking at sharing resources including flood projected water depth over roading for SAR response planning and media campaigns on how to pre-prepare for floods. The State releases resources for interagency training in the Civil Emergency context

that includes currency cycles for competencies. SES offers applicable educational pathways for all responding agencies to attend.

New Zealand must take a more proactive approach to all of the 'R's in the emergency management cycle particularly the 'readiness' stage. The volunteer SAR factor must be a key component in the readiness plan given their local knowledge, networks and home agency assets, their limitations on time, personal finances and goodwill.

SLSNZ was the only agency to attend from New Zealand, but the invitation is open for next year.

### **13. IMRF #Future SAR**

This paper outlines the IMRF's #FutureSAR project to identify the key challenges the global maritime search and rescue (SAR) industry will face as a result of climate change and proposes guidance and best practices that will aid rescue operations in the future.

### **14. El Nino Summer 2023-24**

This paper shares NIWA's long range weather prediction for summer 2023-24.

### **15. Ex Whakarauora Tangata Update**

This paper updates the Committee on the current progress of the Nationally Significant SAR Exercise – Exercise Whakarauora Tangata.

### **16. Noting Paper – Quarterly Activity Report**

The Quarterly Activity report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023.

### **17. Noting Paper - NZSAR Secretariat Workplan 2023-24**

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the NZSAR Secretariat Workplan 2023-24.

### **18. Noting Paper – Australian NATSAR 47**

Duncan Ferner attended the NATSAR 47 meeting in Hobart. This paper outlines some key points from the meeting.

### **19. Next meeting**

13 February 2024, 14 May 2024, 13 August 2024, 12 November 2024

## 20. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility
8.	<b>NZSAR Risk Matrix – SAR Demand</b>	<b>Action:</b> Duncan to change the proposed wording of the Risk to reflect this discussion	Duncan Ferner
9.	<b>Telecommunications Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Decision:</b> The Consultative Committee endorsed the Telecommunications Strategy with Coastguard changes incorporated.</li></ul>	