

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



## Minutes of Meeting NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting Tuesday 17 May 2022, 9.30 am to 12 noon NZSAR (Ministry of Transport) 3 Queens Wharf, Wellington and MS Teams

### In attendance

Name	Agency
Andy Greig (Chair)	NZSAR Secretariat
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard New Zealand
Adam Wooler	Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ)
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Mick Kearney	SLSNZ
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Don Robertson	Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)
Brendan Comerford	Maritime Operations Centre (MOC)
Peter Jackson	NZDF
Nigel Dickson	NZDF
Leon Fox	NZDF
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Chris Lind	NEMA
Mike Ambrose	LandSAR
Daniel Gerrard	Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ)
Kathryn Steel	St John
Jono Curran	National Ambulance Sector Office (NASO)
Justin Allan	RCCNZ
Kate Weinberg	RCCNZ
Craig Rendel	NZ Police
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
Lucas Vetter	MoT
Bev Driscoll	MoT
Dan Clearwater	NZSAR Communications Contractor
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR Secretariat
Alita Bigwood	NZSAR Secretariat

Rhett Emery	NZSAR Secretariat
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR Secretariat
Tania Seward	NZSAR Secretariat
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR Secretariat
Wendy Harrison (minutes)	NZSAR Secretariat

## 1. Welcome

Andy Greig opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

## 2. Apologies

Ian Duncan	FENZ
Nicky Burgess	Antarctica NZ
Scott McKenzie	Aviation NZ
Mike Daisley	Mountain Safety Council (MSC)
James Fryday	Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
Don Bogie	Department of Conservation (DOC)
Evan Hughes	NZSAR Secretariat
Matt Wheble	NZSAR Secretariat

## 3. Minutes of meeting 17 February 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

## 4. Matters arising from previous meeting:

There were no other issues arising from the minutes.

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
6.	<b>NZSAR Risk Matrix</b>	<b>Decision:</b> The Consultative Committee endorsed the recommended additions to the Risk Matrix.	NZSAR Secretariat	Complete
	<b>a. SAR Expectations</b>			
	<b>b. COVID-19</b>	<b>Decision:</b> The Consultative Committee endorsed the recommended additions to the Risk Matrix.		

## 5. Sector updates

Agencies provided brief verbal updates.

*Ambulance NZ*

There are no significant changes from the last meeting. Planning to review the *New Zealand Aeromedical Air Rescue standard* commencing in June. John Fogden will assist with the review and will be contact relevant parties to get their input. Road and air services are going well and still dealing with COVID issues.

*AMSA*

Nothing to report

*Antarctica NZ*

Nothing to report

*AREC*

Tracking along as normal with some areas quiet and others busy. The operational side is going well. A few people have had COVID but nothing that has caused any major issues so far. The finance system and implementation has been completed. The membership system is due to go live in about a week's time. The sector survey is underway and is out to people and have over a 45 percent response rate so far.

*Aviation NZ (summary provided)*

The aviation advisory circular for carriage of Dangerous Goods (AC92-2) has been rewritten and submissions closed on 6 May 2022. The advisory circular may restrict the ability for organisations to carry dangerous goods on aircraft for operations.

In the past, some operators have used Rule 92.11(c), which gives an exception for carriage of dangerous goods for recreational use of the passengers. However, this is not the intent of the rule. For dangerous goods, an organisation must deliver the dangerous good appropriately packaged with the declaration paperwork. This is for the carriage of things like LPG, butane canisters, lithium batteries, ammunition, diesel, kerosene, petrol, white spirits, firelighters, paint, Aerosol fly spray, and so forth.

If you think that your organisation has the requirement to carry dangerous goods by air, then you should engage someone to have a look at the requirements, especially around having people appropriately trained.

*CAA*

Nothing to report.

*Coastguard NZ*

This is a busy time. There have been 40 search and rescue operations, and close to 300 Coastguard operations in the period. Not seeing any major COVID impacts across the team. The units are all holding up and staff are starting to come back into the office.

The volunteer survey is out amongst our people for completion and there is good engagement.

Have distributed 18 out of 22 rescue vessels from the America's Cup tranche. Five of those are coming with a truck and trailer which is improving our mobility.

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

The team had low job volume in the past three months, slightly increased from the previous quarter. There has been half-a-dozen snowfalls in the park recently and expect alpine users to start coming to the park in the coming month. In addition to internal training the team has continued to deliver training and inter-agency collaborations: Training RARO in the North Island focused on Rope Rescue, large scale aviation training with Wakatipu ACR at Remarkables.

Also, first delivery of LandSAR's new Rope Rescue curriculum with participants from Dunedin, Wakatipu, Christchurch, Wanaka and Westland Cliff Rescue and ACR teams in Aoraki in February.

#### *Fire and Emergency New Zealand*

Nothing to report.

#### *LandSAR*

The last quarter has been busy. There has been a significant increase in the number of body recoveries. Have assisted 292 people year to date and assisted Police and RCCNZ with 198 search and rescue operations for the first nine months of the year. When compared to previous years this is quite normal.

In the safer walking space, there are about 73,000 people based on recent research that could use pendants. Currently there are only about 800 that we are managing – so significantly under delivery. We are working alongside our partners within the Safer Walking Partnership. Also working closely and getting to know the DSARACs within the police to develop relationships and create good connections across operational levels.

#### *Land Safety Forum*

Nothing to report.

#### *Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia*

The team was clear of COVID in April and May. Have been doing a lot of work with the virtualisation of the MOC, which means there is the ability to run hybrid shifts.

Have been looking at boating behaviour as fuel increases have become drastic. We are currently recruiting for three replacement operators.

*Ministry of Health*

Nothing to report.

*Ministry of Transport*

Nothing to report.

*Mountain Safety Council (summary provided)*

Carrying out initiatives in the back country mountain biking areas. Filming is complete for Old Ghost Road video. The Roar and Duck campaigns both had exceptional media and participant engagement.

*Plan my Walk* public engagement continues to be very strong with 283,000 unique users.

*NASO*

The Aeromedical Commissioning Programme (ACP) was launched back in February. Since that time, the various governance structures have all been populated and the ACP is now fully staffed. Price Waterhouse Coopers has carried out an initial consultation, which continues.

We are starting to initiate four-year contracts with our current helicopter service providers.

*NEMA*

The accreditation process across the response teams is underway. This started in Wellington, which was the test case. As a result, there have been some adjustments to the accreditation programme. There have been good conversations between SLSNZ and FENZ around operating surf boats within the CDEM environment.

*New Zealand Defence Force*

NZDF has completed its commitment to MIQ, and the focus is reconstitution and training which has been difficult over the last couple of years.

SAR callouts for fixed wing aircraft has been light over this period. There have been a couple of false starts, in that by the time the aircraft was ready to launch, the SAR situation had been resolved. There has been a total of 12 SAR callouts over 15 days so far in the financial year.

*New Zealand Police*

Starting to move into business as usual now the protests the COVID restrictions are over. The National SAR Course at RNZAF Dip Flat was completed last month, and

Police are looking at possibilities to run courses in the next financial year to get more people trained. In the training space, there is a focus on national consistency to operating with SAR.

### *Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand*

The RCCNZ has been consistently busy. The search and rescue operation in the Far North in March for the charter vessel *Enchanter* was a significant event and had excellent support across the sector. A comprehensive debrief has been done and the RCCNZ is still working through the lessons from that.

Three new SAROs have just qualified and are entering the watch. Looking to do more recruiting and run another course this year so we are prepared for any future attrition.

The Incident Management system upgrade has been completed and went live in May – this is running smoothly. The next focus is to ensure automation between RCCNZ and SARdonyx is up and running.

Some staff from the RCCNZ travelled to Australia in late May to commence targeted and light regional re-engagement. Following up with planned engagements with Fiji and the Cook Islands.

### *St John*

Things are back to normal on the Air Desk in terms of workload.

The number of SAR requests for aircraft appears to have increased. SAR numbers have gone from 35 in November last year to 47 in December (noting that Auckland was still in lockdown). Up to 58 in January, 53 in February, 72 in March, and 62 in April.

The *Enchanter* search and rescue was a big mission, and there are some lessons to come out of that for the Air Desk.

### *Surf Life Saving New Zealand*

SLSNZ has signed an MOU with Auckland Council for the National Use of Safe Swim. Also reviewing the mandate that was in place for vaccines for lifeguards. An equipment audit has been completed which has helped us to tailor our needs and align it with the central government funding.

Statistics are tracking steady, the numbers were relatively the same for the last quarter on the beaches. There has been a huge increase in the operational space in SAR. Last quarter there were 52 rescues (including 34 life saving operations) compared to 17 in 2019. There is a large increase in people perishing, which is tragic.

There is an emphasis on the peer support programme where peer supporters initiate contact.

At the start of summer, a new SAR team was stood up at the Tairoa Bar.

### *Water Safety New Zealand*

The last period has been busy, and recruitment has played a major part. Three out of four managers are in place. There has been a huge shift in individual culture within the organisation.

The biggest piece of work is the funding round which launched yesterday. As a significant investment needs to go to Māori, a decision was made to ringfence part of this year's fund to go to Māori initiatives.

From a drowning perspective, approximately half of the drownings from last year's total have already occurred, the bulk of those were at the end of summer.

### *NZSAR Secretariat*

The workplan for the current financial year is significantly under delivered due to the huge impact of COVID. Need to have significant sector involvement to deliver several projects. Workplans for 2022/23 and 2023/24 are being worked on. The Review is being prioritised over the Secretariat work.

Projects to note are extending SARdonyx for a further five years and establishing a Data Mart, which will be inclusive on frontline water safety data. A nationally significant SAR exercise is being planned, and a Technology and Innovation Workstream is being stood up.

In the prevention space, working on resources for the Be Prepared pillar of the Tiaki Promise and working with Water Safety New Zealand and partners with the Water Safety code refresh. Also continuing with the distress beacons promotion for the next two years.

## **6. Public Rescue Equipment**

Mick Kearney gave a presentation on Public Rescue Equipment.

Mick outlined the Project objectives which are to produce a National Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) Guideline and establish an education programme.

The principles for public rescue equipment should be easy to use, supported by internationally recognised signage standards and supported by an education programme. PRE should not be installed in places that encourages in-water rescue by untrained people and should not place the rescuer at unnecessary risk.

### **Action:**

- *SLSNZ to create a working group to include Surf, DOC, Council, Iwi, Coastguard, NZSAR, Police. Will fit in with Wai Ora Leadership and report back to a future Consultative Committee.*

## **7. Beach Safety Signage**

Mick Kearney gave a presentation on beach safety signage. SLSNZ are undertaking work around these standards at present, which have been put into a manual.

Mick gave a presentation and outlined the project objectives:

- There are two approaches, landowner signage and patrol signage. These signage standards are based on international standards.
- There are signage guidelines with templates which have the site name, warning signs, regulation/bylaws which is filled in relevant to that site.
- There are four levels of signage – road signs, car park signs, pedestrian access and individual hazard signs.
- There is a challenge with emergency markers, it depends on who you talk to in the Council to get a consistent approach.
- Key thing is to incorporate te reo Māori into the signage.

**Action:**

- *The working group created for Public Rescue Equipment will also consider beach signage.*

## **8. NZSAR Risk Matrix**

### **a. COVID-19**

The consensus was to keep COVID-19 as a risk.

**Decision:**

- *The Consultative Committee agreed to keep COVID-19 as a risk.*

### **b. Cohesive and effective SAR Training**

This risk was last reviewed in 2019. The Committee agreed to the wording.

**Decision:**

- *The Consultative Committee agreed to the wording of cohesive and effective SAR training.*

## **9. Recreational Safety and SAR Sector Review**

Bev Driscoll wanted to say thanks on the demands of the people the Review team continue to engage with.

The Review Team is spending time working with agencies around the size and scale and the value of the recreational safety search and rescue system. The review has a real opportunity to showcase what the system does and to help ministers and decision makers.

## **10. Beacons and SEND Policy**



Rhett Emery reported on the draft policy and the rationale for it, which is because of the growth in the use of beacons and the rise of SEND devices. The policy provides one document to drive messaging and processes. The policy is a draft and any feedback is welcome by 25 May.

**Action:**

- *Feedback to be given to Kate and Rhett.*

## **11. SLSNZ and Water Access**

The issue around water access arose following a shark fatality. There is no ability for SLSNZ to close beaches.

There are two options suggested: (1) a SLSNZ managed approach; and (2) a Readiness Response Plan Template.

**Action:**

- *The NZSAR Secretariat will work with SLSNZ to draft a Readiness Response Plan Template.*

## **12. P-8 Poseidon Search and Rescue Capabilities**

SQNLDR Leon Fox (NZDF) gave a presentation about the P-8A Poseidon aircraft, which will replace the P-3 Orion.

## **13. Survey Results**

### **a. Knowledge, Perceptions and Expectations of SAR**

Tania advised that NZSAR has received the results of the SAR Knowledge, Perceptions and Expectations of SAR in Aotearoa New Zealand Survey.

### **b. Distress Beacons Digital Marketing Campaign Evaluation**

Tania also advised that NZSAR has received the results of the Distress Beacons Digital Marketing Campaign Evaluation survey.

## **14. Environmental Scan Update**

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Consultative Committee that NZSAR is updating the NZSAR Environmental Scan in consultation with relevant agencies and personnel. The NZSAR Secretariat expects to publish the updated environmental scan on the NZSAR website in June 2022.

## **15. Quarterly Activity Report**

The Quarterly Activity Report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 January to 31 March 2022.

## 16. National SAR Support Programme 2020-21

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the 2021-22 National SAR Support Programme activities and projects currently underway.

## 17. Search Suspension Review

This paper provided recommendations after considering the suitability of the processes currently in place to suspend category 1 Search and Rescue operations.

## 18. Distress Beacons Campaign

This paper provides a summary of the 2021-22 distress beacons digital marketing campaign and where relevant, makes comparisons to the 2020-21 campaign.

## 19. General Business

There was no general business.

**Next meeting:** 16 August 2022

### Action and Responsibility Table

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7.	<b>Beach Safety Signage</b>	<b>Action:</b> The working group created for Public Rescue Equipment will also consider beach signage.	Mick Kearney	
10.	<b>Beacons and SEND Policy</b>	<b>Action:</b> Feedback to be given to Kate and Rhett by 25 May 2022.	SAR Partnership Committee members	Complete
11.	<b>SLSNZ and Water Access</b>	<b>Action:</b> The NZSAR Secretariat will work with SLSNZ to draft a Readiness Response Plan Template.	NZSAR	