

Name	Agency		Name	Agency
Daniel Gerrard	Water Safety Council		Craig Rendel	NZ Police
Scott Iszard	NZ Police			

4. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

5. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 15 November 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

6. Summary of actions from previous meetings

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
8.	NZSAR Risk Matrix – Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Action: Include HSW incident planning in the next HSW SLA audits	Andy Greig	Under action
		Action: Share DOC PCBU guidance	Don Bogie	Complete

7. Sector Updates

Agencies provided brief sector updates.

Ambulance NZ

No report provided.

AMSA

No report provided.

Antarctica New Zealand

No report provided.

AREC

A lot of time was spent during Cyclone Gabrielle working with Civil Defence and LandSAR, and this has been the focus recently. Working with Civil Defence to get

radios out to centres and provided support around the greater Auckland areas. In Hawkes Bay, supported Civil Defence.

There were issues with volunteers unable to turn up due to washed away bridges. This meant volunteers went up from Wellington with long hours being worked. There were radios in place but no knowledge on how to use them. There were some networks that did work.

From the recent work during Cyclone Gabrielle, there are a lot of learnings about preparation and planning for worst case scenarios.

Aviation NZ

The helicopter response to the cyclone highlighted their need in New Zealand. There were various issues with helicopter use during the cyclone, including getting approval for operators for work in restricted areas. The process for getting approval took several hours and several days for some. Some operators ignored the process for approval. A lot of the aviation assets were self organising and some of the larger companies like Fonterra were deploying helicopters outside of the area to check on their staff. They were going without approval and hoped approval would come in transit.

There were also issues carrying dangerous goods during the emergency response. For example, helicopters were carrying diesel, petrol and LPG, which are essential.

While the RCCNZ were tasking helicopters, many operators were not aware how the tasking was working. There was a view that the overarching process for tasking aviation assets appears to have broken down.

CAA

No report provided.

Coastguard NZ

It has been a variable summer so far, busy at the start then quiet. There have been two big weather events, and most people stayed off the water.

One rescue involved a Catamaran where an elderly gentleman had to be rescued near Great Barrier Island and three rescue helicopters could not get there, so HMNZS Te Mana was involved in that rescue. There are a series of reviews going on, the lesson being that the right asset needs to be sent in the first place.

In the first cyclone, the Titirangi rescue base was lost; working to get this operational.

The team in Hawkes Bay has been doing great work.

Last Saturday, the West Coast had an event on the Greymouth bar, where the CNZ rescue vessel broached on the bar, and is now out of operation.

Department of Conservation Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team

Business as usual work is paused now.

There is significant damage from landslide and coastal erosion. Encouraging people to stay away from these areas and report damage.

Continuing to roll out the new site control plans to manage hazards.

Working on a standard operating procedure on how to close tracks for public safety with consistent messaging the aim.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

No report provided.

LandSAR

There has been a significant increase in SAR responses. The numbers are lifting to pre-pandemic levels. This appears to be due to day walkers and trampers. There has also been an increase around despondents.

During the cyclone, there was local level operability with Surf and Coastguard. Texts and phones are not good methods of communication when the internet is down. However, teams were deployed quickly and went to pre-planned deployment points.

Wairoa LandSAR had Starlink – if Civil Defence could have got in touch with local the LandSAR there would not be a problem, they could have established communications with Wairoa.

There are a lot of good learning points from the cyclone operation. LandSAR inserted local IMT support groups and redistributed assets across the country. Single agency operations went very well, while the multiagency response needs to be improved. From the volunteer perspective, most teams had a 70 percent availability to attend.

Land Safety Forum

The hui planned for February has been rescheduled for 21 March 2023. There is a new and exciting project around signage messaging and creation.

Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia

January was quieter than usual. Vessels have generally not been out in Auckland.

During the *Kaitaki* incident, MOC was the responding coast station, and was pleased with the team performance.

The maritime radio network held up well during cyclone. The links in and out were a problem and generators started running out of fuel, but this was rectified within 24 hours.

There are some staff retention issues with one staff vacancy.

Ministry of Transport

No report provided.

Mountain Safety Council

The prevention work on the *Plan My Walk* app now has about 645,000 users. This is a good tool for Auckland Council and DOC, who use it for warnings around track damage.

The Met Service modelling has shown MSC's red flag warning was very accurate. Modelling indicates these weather events will get more frequent.

The vast majority of New Zealand had a good summer, and were out recreating around the rest of the country. Kiwis were getting out amongst it.

Released a research project around alpine climbing in New Zealand. New Zealand is unique around the profile of climbers and their thinking patterns. MSC is working with the climbing sector as to why and how it is leading to high accident rates.

NEMA

No report provided.

New Zealand Defence Force

Capacity is limited with rotary wing assets due to the cyclone. Still working towards having the P8 Poseidon aircraft operational towards the middle of the year.

New Zealand Police

District engagements are recommencing throughout New Zealand. Family liaison officer training is also starting in August.

With the Interislander ferry *Kaitaki* incident in January, an IMT was stood up quickly.

Very involved during the cyclone response. There are concerns around response fatigue and if another major event occurs, that will stretch capacity.

Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand

2023 summer season the busiest operationally the RCC has ever had. This has included a number of significant incidents which required some excellent cross agency work, including the 'near miss' with the complete engine failure on board the *Kaitaki* coming through Sinclair Head during a storm, and Cyclone Gabrielle which saw us undertake the aviation tasking for the whole of the SAR sector in collaboration with FENZ, Airdesk and Police - we conducted approximately three months worth of tasking in three days.

Some may recall the issues with potential misuse of beacons during GodZONE last year - happy to report the GodZone has been incident free, but the adventure industry continues to cause us some concern with the Southern Lakes Ultramarathon at the end of February which was again a 'near miss' mass rescue.

RCCNZ participated in the Pacific SAR Workshop (PACSAR) in Cairns from 27 Feb-1 March. This workshop will look to shape a forward programme of SAR capacity development as well as support ongoing close operational cooperation in the Pacific.

And of note, Rodney Bracefield has retired from service after 64 years.

St John Air Desk

The cyclone event was very significant for St John.

It has been a busy time with 77 taskings plus other taskings outside this space. There were 70 SAR taskings during the cyclone. There have been 22 SAR operations in March already, with an average of three taskings per day.

Surf Life Saving NZ

SLSNZ continue to be fully engaged in the sector review. Safety on beaches is still a hot topic.

CEO Paul Dalton is leaving after 11 years in the role. His last day is 19 May 2023.

In the last quarter, business as usual numbers have picked up to pre-COVID numbers. While the weather has not been the best, as soon as there is a fine day, everyone is back on the beach.

Have been exceptionally busy since the Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods. Squads from Far North to Otago were shipped around to back up flood response. There were thousands of hours of operations, hundreds of rescues, looking at 350-400 life rescues from Auckland to Hawkes Bay. There was one injury out of all those hours. The work completed in flood space has been worth it.

Response fatigue is an issue and being considered.

Currently looking at reconciliation of cost recovery.

There have been a lot of lessons from the recent activity.

Collateral damage – damaged three IRBs. Two surf clubs have been written off.

Water Safety New Zealand

No report provided.

Te Whata Ora/NASO

The cyclone response highlighted various issues. NASO was able to stand up additional resources for the cyclone response. Systems could be improved, such as communications between organisations. NASO was not in the bunker during the response.

There are a lot of operational issues to be managed, such as helicopter maintenance requirements during the cyclone response. Overall, the air ambulance helicopter services did a fantastic job.

NZSAR Secretariat

A few members of the NZSAR Secretariat were in the bunker as part of the cyclone response.

8. NZSAR Risk Matrix – COVID & SAR Information

COVID

There are two changes proposed for the COVID risk, the first is to move this risk to the back page and the second is to change the risk description to Pandemic. It was agreed to keep as a risk and there was comfort with changing the title to pandemic.

Action

- Duncan to update the COVID Risk in the Matrix and change the title to Pandemic.

SAR Information

Wording has been updated and to note, in particular, the data exchange and storage is currently under action so not complete. A contract for the data service will shortly commence. This will be a public facing portal once it is stood up. There was comment around the sensitivity of information and there was a question of when the data would be released.

The NZSAR Secretariat is waiting for Mountain Safety Council and Water Safety New Zealand to sign an agreement to enable sharing data from SARdonyx.

Mountain Safety Council expressed strong concern about the curation of data prior to sharing. The reasons and rationale were explained by Duncan Ferner.

It was agreed to keep this risk as yellow in the matrix. This will go to the NZSAR Council on 14 March 2023 for Council's approval of the risk changes.

Action

- Duncan to update the SAR Information Risk in the Matrix but keep the Data exchange and storage risk as yellow.

9. IMT Operating System Analysis Project

Matt Wheble gave some background and a summary of this project.

Background

Police identified a need for an interoperable Search and Rescue (SAR) Incident Management operating system to support SAR consistency and operational effectiveness throughout New Zealand.

The Incident Management Operating System Analysis Project explores the possibility of bringing consistency and interoperability to IMT operating systems, processes, and technologies to support SAR Incident Management Team's and consistency of training.

Summary

The two Search and Rescue coordinating authorities, New Zealand Police, and the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ), have a fundamental responsibility to ensure there are incident management processes and systems in

place to provide efficient and effective SAR Operations (SAROPs), and to maintain the security and integrity of systems and data.

There are currently 65 IMS methodologies, platforms and supporting applications/technologies being used across the SAR agencies in New Zealand.

Systems vary between, and within, agencies. No agency interviewed is using a single Information and Communication Technology (ICT) system for *all* of their Incident Management Team functions. Mapping tools, communication/notification systems, record management are typically handled separately, and are generally not integrated or connected in any way.

For Police in particular, this creates potentially significant data-security and record management risks with regards to the control and accessibility of records.

The final report will be distributed to the NZSAR Council for review, consideration, and discussion at the meeting on the 14 March.

LandSAR advised they endorsed this report.

10. Beacons Research

Tania Seward advised that a report was commissioned through ad agency, Hemisphere, which focused on beacon carriage rates and attitudes towards beacons.

Research found that beacon carriage was lowest amongst day trampers and land-based fishers. Lack of awareness and lack of perceived need were why most people didn't take a beacon.

The beacons campaign is continuing and will use the research findings to shape the remaining social media activity for the 2022-23 beacons campaign.

The full research results are available on the NZSAR website.

11. Nationally Significant SAR Exercise Series Update

John Dyer updated the Committee about the Nationally Significant set of search and rescue exercises over the 2023-24 financial year.

The scenario will be based on a boutique cruise ship floundering on approach to New Zealand.

The proposed framework will see the current NZ Police District IMT exercises (currently known as Ex Rauora) continue. Four police districts will be identified, and these will link with the district SAREXs. The first exercise will be in July. There will be no exercises between August and October due to NZ Police commitments. An IMT and RCCNZ exercise will be conducted in November. In February, there will be a

workshop around lead agencies. This will be followed by further exercises in March and April, including an ODESC orientation exercise.

The priorities are to confirm with RCCNZ and Police the requirements for activation and the four Police districts to use. Two more contractors have been added to the Planning team. There will be a requirement to deconflict timings of the exercise series with other significant events including NEMA's Alpine Fault (AF8) exercise. LandSAR, Coastguard, SLSNZ, and AREC will be consulted to establish how the exercise can be developed to incorporate them.

The NatSig SAROP guidelines are still being developed.

12. SAR Lessons Summary

Alita Bigwood gave an overview of the SAR Lessons Summary. In May 2021, the Consultative Committee endorsed the SAR Lessons Framework. The framework is designed to facilitate learning across the SAR sector. It was found that common themes from SAROPs and SAREXs were communications. Learnings have remained static and a process is required to address the gap between lessons identified and lessons learned. SAR agencies are being encouraged to think about how to promote the implementation of lessons learned and incorporate these lessons within their own training programmes.

13. Rauora Overview Update

Matt Wheble presented a paper to the Consultative Committee on the Rauora exercises. There were no further comments or questions.

14. Noting Paper – Quarterly Activity Report

The Quarterly Activity report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

15. Noting Paper – National SAR Support Programme 2022-23

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the status of the activities and projects the NZSAR Secretariat is undertaking in the National SAR Support Programme (NSSP) for 2022-23.

16. General Business

Duncan advised that Andy Roberts had emailed about hunters going onto DOC land particularly in the Hawkes Bay where the land is closed. A concern is people are going hunting regardless of the advice received. Andy was asking the SAR community if they had any ideas they could offer DOC.

Police have had discussions about educating and communicating to let people know an area is closed, identify specific hazards, and educate people on risks with slips. Don't push on if not safe to do so.

RCCNZ also commented that people shouldn't rely on huts as there may be damaged infrastructure. Educate on risk and to have provisions.

MSC advised that the 'Roar' season is coming up soon. This has been a contentious issue and some modelling has been done around this. It is a small minority group especially for those hunting for food.

The reduction in area will likely bring hunters closer to trampers and other hunters so this is a risk.

Action

- Duncan will email back Andy Roberts with comments from this discussion and will copy in Rupert Friend, Kate Weinberg and Mike Daisley.

17. Next meeting

16 May 2023

18. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility
8.	NZSAR Risk Matrix – COVID & SAR Information	<p>Action: Duncan to update the COVID Risk in the Matrix and change the title to Pandemic.</p> <p>Action: Duncan to update the SAR Information Risk in the Matrix but keep the Data exchange and storage risk as yellow.</p>	<p>Duncan Ferner</p> <p>Duncan Ferner</p>
16.	General Business	<p>Action: Duncan will email Andy Roberts with comments from the discussion about hunters going into closed DOC land, and will copy in Rupert Friend, Kate</p>	Duncan Ferner

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility
		Weinberg and Mike Daisley.	