



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

## Minutes of Meeting

**New Zealand Search and Rescue Council**  
**1.00pm – 3.00pm, Wednesday 24 November 2010**  
**Ministry of Transport**  
**Level 6**  
**Novell House**  
**89 The Terrace**  
**Wellington**

**Attendees:** Martin Matthews (MoT), Catherine Taylor (MNZ), Air Commodore Kevin Short (NZDF), Mike Wright (Police), Dave Jane (DoC)

**Present:** Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR), Duncan Ferner (NZSAR), Rachel Roberts (NZSAR), Amy Greig (MoT), Roger Brown (MoT), Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ), Mike Davies (DoC)

**Apologies:** Commissioner Howard Broad (NZ Police), Al Morrison (DoC), Steve Douglas (CAA)

### 1. **Welcome.**

Martin Matthews welcomed everyone to the Council meeting, the last for 2010.

### 2. **Minutes from Last meeting.**

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

### 3. **Matters Arising.**

#### ***Unnecessary/false/hoax and repeat SAR***

This information will begin to be recorded by the coordinating agencies from 1 January 2011. Communication messages have been developed and will be circulated to SAR Coordinators, Police, RCCNZ.

#### ***Volunteer Study***

Volunteer Study was widely distributed. Follow-up work continues.

#### ***Department of Conservation***

It was agreed that an invitation to join the SAR Council will be extended to the Department of Conservation. DOC accepted the invite to attend and a representative is at this meeting.

#### ***Visitor Intentions***

This work, led by MSC, is progressing satisfactorily.

## **Service Level Agreements.**

### ***SLA Partners***

Summary for the 1 July 10 – 30 Sep 10 Quarter

All reporting requirements for the Quarter have been met by the SLA partners.

The Quarter has been relatively quiet for the Voluntary Agencies.

### ***Coastguard***

- Rescue Vessel Upgrade – 4 projects completed in the Quarter
- Two Major areas of work:
  - Standardising Rescue Vessel fleet
  - Review of Coastguard CoC training
- There has been a decrease in LBG OS 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 requested information on becoming new units:
  - Wanaka
  - Twizel (MacKenzie Lakes)
  - Cape Egmont

### ***LandSAR***

- TEC Funding issues
- Canterbury Earthquake – highlights the need for relationships with local CDEM Groups
- SAREXs – staff have been caught out by changes to 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***

The Council discussed the content and quality of the statistical and financial information provided by the SLA partners. This was generally found to be satisfactory.

The Chair noted the importance of quality financial information without that requirement becoming an excessive burden on the SLA partners. He suggested that NZSAR Councils expectations should be in line with the financial information agencies already need to provide for their own organisational purposes and in proportion to the amount of funding they received.

## Delivery of SAR Training by Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Main points for Council discussion:

- Tai Poutini Polytechnic delivers most LandSAR and some Police Training using SARINZ staff
- Tertiary Education Commission Policy changes will result in reduced funding fees
- SARINZ will possibly fail in the next few weeks as a result in this reduced funding.
- LandSAR will probably prefer a different training model – and would prefer not to be tied to TEC requirements.
- It may possibly be cheaper for LandSAR NZ to move to in-house / non-standards based model (but such a move introduced additional risks).
- LandSAR and SARINZ may turn to NZSAR for replacement of TEC funding.

The Council discussed the implications of the reduction in TEC funding. They noted that the immediate consequences were not likely to be significant (other than the possible failure of SARINZ) in terms of SAR service delivery. The long term consequences for the sector, however, are likely to be substantial.

The Council agreed to maintain a focus on this area to ensure SAR service delivery can be sustained in the long term.

#### 4. **Strategic Discussion:** Search and Rescue Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

A Secretariat briefing paper and a funding review into Permanent Legislative Authority (PLA) funding for the joint SLAs by Brian Murray were included as meeting papers.

The Secretariat briefing paper raised the following discussion points for the Council to consider:

- Is a further review of the future of PLA funding for the NZSAR Secretariat, RCCNZ and National SAR Support Programme desirable?
- Does the desired outcome, intent and purpose for the SAR NGO funding support remain the same?
- Does the Council want changes to be made to the accountability, reporting and compliance mechanisms contained in the SLA's?
- Does the Council wish to split funding support between retention and operational funding?
- Does the Council have a view about the Variability of funding support to reflect variation in SAR support provided?

- Is the Council comfortable with the next SLA being for three years?
- What are the preferred funding levels and allocations for SAR NGO funding support?

The Council commended the SLA funding review noting that it was clear, concise and useful. The Council agreed that all four voluntary agencies in agencies have met or exceeded the intent of the SLAs and improved in terms of organisation and SAR service delivery over the past 2 ½ years. The Council noted in particular the impressive evolution made by Coastguard NZ and Surf Life Saving NZ over the past few years and the need for the land sector to continue its development to reach a similar standard.

The Chair emphasised the importance of fiscal restraint. He noted that while SAR agencies needed to be appropriately equipped and supported for SAR tasks and emergencies, all government agencies are expected to reprioritise within existing funding allocations. The Chair also described the Governments funding transport priorities and the funding pressures on them.

Following lengthy discussion, the Council **agreed** that:

- Additional PLA funding for the SLAs would not be requested. Overall PLA funding for the four SLAs should remain at \$2.789m per year.
- The intent and purpose of the SLAs was being achieved and that no significant change was required.
- No additional review of the PLA funding for the Secretariat, SAR Support Programme or RCCNZ was required at this time.
- The accountability, reporting and compliance mechanisms of the SLAs is largely sound. The Secretariat is to refine the mechanisms for the next round of SLAs.
- PLA funding for future SLAs is to be split between retention payments and operational costs.
- PLA funding mechanisms made it very difficult to introduce funding variability on an annual basis. Three yearly reviews were more practical and realistic.
- A paper to joint Ministers would be prepared by the MoT within two weeks outlining the results of the funding review and requesting ongoing SAR PLA funding at existing levels for the next three years (FY2011/2012 to FY2013/14).
- The SLAs are to be renegotiated for a three year term.
- The funding allocations for individual SLA partners recommended in the SLA funding review were to be utilised for the next three years.
- SLAs are to be negotiated with Coastguard NZ, LandSAR NZ, AREC and Surf Life Saving NZ.

## 5. National SAR Support Programme 2010/2011 Update

The Secretariat provided an update on the 2010/2011 SAR Support Programme, including the:

- NZSAR Technology Challenge workshop
- NZSAR Training and Education workshop
- SAR Aviation workshop
- Marine SAR workshop follow Up
- Avalanche SAR workshop follow Up

### ***Air Observer's Course***

RCCNZ briefed the Council on air observer's training and refresher courses. The training planned for Greymouth recently was postponed due to the Pike River Mine disaster.

### ***Training Development (IM/C and OSC)***

The Secretariat briefed the Council on training development progress since its last meeting.

### ***SAR Prevention Initiatives***

The Secretariat briefed the Council on the range of prevention initiative underway. Specifically:

- AdventureSmart. The Secretariat expects to start the AdventureSmart website in December. This aims to be a useful prevention website for a wide range of outdoor activities.
- Boating Safety Code. The boating safety code has been finalised. The main tips for safe boating are:
  - *Life Jackets*
  - *Skipper Responsibility*
  - *Communications*
  - *Marine Weather*
  - *Avoid Alcohol*

The Council noted that it would be useful to have this information available to the public for the summer period.

- Outdoor Safety Code. The land based Outdoor Safety Code has been well received. NZSAR are looking to work on having these messages distributed more widely.
- The Council noted the intent of the various "Codes" was to simplify, bring consistency and reduce duplication to the various safety messages that are already provided by a variety of different agencies. The Council was pleased with progress to date.

- Visitor Intentions System. Development of the visitor intentions system is progressing well. It will include an internet based system and may require internet access at DoC information centres.

### ***Sponsored SAREX's***

This is proving to be a effective and popular initiative.

## **6. NZSAR Secretariat Work Programme Update**

- The NZSAR 2009/2010 Annual Report has been published. The report has been well received.
- NZSAR continues to monitor SLA reporting – to ensure all partners are meeting expectations.
- NZSAR Operational Plan – progressing well. Secretariat thanked the Police and RCCNZ for their contributions to date.
- NZSAR has been busy with stakeholder engagement over the last few months. NZSAR attended the CNZ conference and the LandSAR conference (new constitution and structure).

## **7. Report from NZSAR Consultative Committee (meeting held 10 Nov)**

The Council noted the report from the Consultative Committee meeting held 10 November.

## **8. General Business**

### ***2010 Defence Review and SAR***

The Council noted the inclusion of multiple references to the SAR role in the 2010 Defence Review both in the domestic and Pacific context.

### ***COSPAS – SARSAT and New Zealand***

RCCNZ gave a short presentation to the Council on COSPAS-SARSAT issues. New Zealand is a heavy user of the system and, together with Australia, is seen as a world leader in the operation of the system. RCCNZ informed the Council that there are currently 23,000 registered beacons – 380 beacons were registered last month. RCCNZ has recently received a distress beacons use research report and will report back to the Council at its next meeting.

The planned evolution of the COSPAS-SARSAT system was described to the Council. The Council discussed the possible effects and requirements of this evolution on NZ. The Council noted that NZ has few alternate options and that if NZ planned to remain involved in the system, that the cost implications over the next 3 – 10 years would be significant (vicinity \$10million NZD).

## ***Air Ambulance/Air Search and Rescue Standard***

RCCNZ briefed the Council on progress around the Air Ambulance/Air Search and Rescue Standard. Ambulance NZ and AIA have been unable to agree and plan to publish separate standards. The Council noted that this is a disappointing outcome and that there may be some media interest.

## ***Canada SARSCENE***

The Secretariat Manager briefed the Council on his recent attendance at the CSBC Symposium and SARSCENE conference. The following items were discussed:

- Lifejackets regulate or educate?
- Cost Recovery in SAR.
- Am I covered? A review of liability management and insurance coverage for SAR volunteers in Canada
- The disaster spectrum: Where SAR and emergency management meet
- SAR System of the Future: Leveraging technology to support decision-making
- Technology to the rescue?
- Managing for results: Performance measurement in SAR.

It was noted that:

- Canadian SAR authorities place significant emphasis on prevention and awareness initiatives.
- The Protect (Promotion of Two-Way Emergency Communications and Tracking Systems) Alliance aims to foster widespread adoption of personal satellite devices and services based on two-way data links. A number of organisations are involved with Protects and it may be in NZs interests to stay informed of developments in this area.

## ***Australia / NATSAR***

Carl van der Meulen presented on his recent attendance at the 3 day NATSAR Council held in Darwin, Australia.

The main points Carl reflected on were

- Australia has similar SAR issues as NZ.
- Statistics – Australia is seeking consistency similar to that achieved in NZ.
- Wanderers – all States reported an increase in dementia related SAROPs
- SIEVs (Suspect Illegal Entry Vessel) - AMSA is responding to SIEVs with up to 70 POB and have mass rescue concerns

- Technology – The limitations of some technologies was noted. An Australian representative will attend the NZSAR Technology Challenge workshop in December.
- National Training Issues – qualifications are under review.

### ***Discretionary Payments***

RCCNZ briefed the Council on MNZ discretionary payments. MNZ will forward the relevant papers to the Secretariat for distribution to the Council. Feedback, if any, is requested by 23 February 2011.

### ***2011 Meetings***

The Council agreed to hold its 2011 meetings on:

- 23 February
- 13 April (combined meeting with the Consultative Committee)
- 13 April NZSAR Awards Evening
- 4 August
- 23 November

**Next Meeting 23 February 2011**

**Meeting concluded: 3.05pm**

Martin Matthews  
Chair  
NZSAR Council



## Actions

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
4. SAR Training	Stay informed of developments that affect SAR training	Secretariat
5. PLA Funding	MoT to prepare a paper to joint Ministers within two weeks outlining the results of the funding review and requesting ongoing SAR PLA funding at existing levels for the next three years (FY2011/2012 to FY2013/14).	MoT
9. Discretionary payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MNZ to forward discretionary payments material to Secretariat.</li><li>• Secretariat to forward material to Council for review.</li><li>• Feedback requested by 23 February 2011)</li></ul>	MNZ  Secretariat  Council