

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



Minutes of Meeting
NZSAR Council Meeting
9:30 to 11:30am, Thursday 16 September 2021
3 Queens Wharf

Present

Name	Agency
Peter Mersi (Chair)	MOT
Jason Ross	NZ Police
Michael Bassett-Foss	Independent Council Member
Anthony Blythen	NZDF
Rhys Jones	FENZ
Nigel Clifford	MNZ
Bronwyn Turley	MOT

In attendance

Name	Agency
Justin Allan	RCCNZ
Bev Driscoll	Ministry of Transport
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR
Andrew Greig	NZSAR
Wendy Harrison (minutes)	NZSAR
Rhett Emery	NZSAR
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR
Jon Kneebone	NZSAR
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR

1. Welcome and Interests Register

Peter Mersi opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Peter asked for all members to send an email back to NZSAR Secretariat with any interests to make sure they are noted and registered. Will confirm it is updated at each meeting.

2. Apologies

Name	Agency
Mike Hill	CAA
Tusha Penny	NZ Police
Michael Shapland	NZDF
Kirstie Hewlett	MNZ

3. Minutes of Meeting 1 June 2021

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

#	Item	Actions & Decisions	Responsibility	Actions Taken/Status
5	Secretariat Manager's Report	Action: Invite a NEMA NEP representative to brief the next Council Meeting.	NZSAR Secretariat	On Agenda
		Action: Develop a summary understanding of where SAR is not satisfactorily achieving its objectives.	NZSAR Secretariat	On Agenda
6	NZSAR Risk Discussion – Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Action: NZ Police to be included in discussions regarding possible FENZ water rescue involvement.	NZSAR Secretariat / FENZ / NZ Police	Included
		Action: NZDF to forward the NZDF Worthiness Board's Framework to the NZSAR Secretariat.	NZDF	Ongoing – awaiting key person
		Decision: The Council approved the proposed changes to the NZSAR Risk Matrix.	NZSAR Secretariat	N/A
8	Secretariat Priorities 2021/22	Action: Separate priority D into two parts, mitigation then delivery.	NZSAR Secretariat	Implemented
		Action: Arrange meeting with NZ Police regarding resources.	NZSAR Secretariat	Completed
10	NZSAR Council Budgets 2021-2023	Decision: The Council approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the NZSAR Secretariat budget for the 2021-2022 financial year. the NZSAR projected Secretariat budget for the 2022 – 2023 financial year. the SAR training budget update for 2021, 2022 and 2023. 	NZSAR Secretariat	N/A
11	NZSAR Lessons Framework	Action: Refine the proposed framework. Specifically, identify ways to highlight lessons learned that are relevant across the system and add an extra field for lessons implemented.	NZSAR Secretariat	Implemented
		Decision: The Council approved the Lessons Framework inclusive of the Council updates.	NZSAR Secretariat	N/A
12	NZSAR Innovation in Technology Strategy	Decision: The Council approved in principle the Innovation in Technology strategy.	NZSAR Secretariat	N/A

13	Annual Letters of Intent	Decision: The Council approved the 2021 Annual Letter of intent.		N/A
22	General Business – EM Sector Strategy	Action: Introduce the Secretariat and Council member organisations to the people developing the Emergency Services Sector Strategy or relevant sub-strategies.	FENZ	Ongoing
		Action: Add new Conflict of Interest agenda item for future Council meetings.	NZSAR Secretariat	On Agenda
		Decision: Michael Bassett-Foss' term as an independent Council Member to be extended by one year to December 2022.	NZSAR Council	Implemented

5. Secretariat Manager's Report

Duncan Ferner updated the Council regarding some changes to the report. Regrettably, Jon Kneebone has resigned and the Secretariat is looking at contractor options to temporary fill the position until a permanent replacement is found.

The COVID restrictions have impacted training courses and other functions. The Secretariat is still achieving tasks at a reduced rate and is also supporting the Ministry's Transport Response Team.

Michael Bassett-Foss noted that there are still two investment plans to complete. Duncan advised that both are progressing, information from DOC is nearly complete and will be provided shortly. NZ Police are heavily involved with COVID related tasks limiting the Secretariat's ability to engage with them.

Michael mentioned he is happy to assist with Water Safety matters.

SLA and MOU Investment Report

Bridget Hesketh advised that funded NGO agencies have taken some time to make progress with several projects, but a number are now picking up speed. Some money has been transferred forward to better align the funding needs.

Michael commented that the support given is great and can see the benefits coming through. He asked if there was a need to bring on extra resources, with multiple projects underway, do agencies need extra capability? Bridget noted that project and reporting skills and disciplines are improving.

SAR Sector Update

The Council was provided a summary report of the SAR sector based on reports provided to the Consultative Committee on 17 August 2021.

SAR Quarterly Operational Activity Report

Daryl Bloomfield reported that activity in April to June 2021 was markedly different from the same period in 2020, due largely to the impact of the first COVID lockdown.

Daryl acknowledged RCCNZ and NZ Police have done great work clearing a backlog of open incident records in SARdonyx.

6. SAR Annual Operational Activity Report

The Council was advised that the number of SAR incidents were looking consistent with the last couple of years.

Peter asked whether the system is capturing lives saved in real time, and he was advised it was not real time reporting. Daryl noted a reduction in reporting lag compared to previous years.

Michael noted that the figures on page 4, show there is a downward trend in SAROPs numbers and commented that it is useful to understand as the numbers around prevention activities, beacon and media campaigns provide a way to measure impact.

7. Analysis of SAR performance

Rhett Emery briefed the Council on his analysis of SAR system operational performance. Rhett's paper considered SARdonyx data for fatalities, persons not found, and supply/demand comparisons.

Rhett noted that:

- We almost always find the people we search for.
- Most fatalities occur pre-SAR notification or are the result of events where immediate assistance is required.
- The aggregated data does not indicate a performance issue.

A GIS analysis of the Central Police District information over an 18-month period indicates a strong correlation between the locations of SAROPs and the location of responding SAR primary assets.

Rhett also noted that:

- SAR resources are normally located in proximity to population centres
- SAR resources have the capacity to readily move to the required response areas
- reviews of individual SAROPs have proven a useful tool to identify improvements at both the local and systemic levels.

Duncan advised that performance analysis would continue and mentioned the project to better understand both the demand and supply side of search and rescue.

Rhys Jones commented that this analysis is a good start on how we analyse SAR performance and he thanked the Secretariat for the paper. Rhys also noted that possible SAR capability gaps would be a useful discussion topic between agencies.

8. NZSAR Risk brief and discussion – Nationally Significant SAR

Duncan reported on the risk item 2021/06, Nationally Significant SAR. The Secretariat's view is the risk is still satisfactory since it was considered in March. COVID has an impact on cruise ships coming to New Zealand's SAR Region; however, wide body aircraft are still transiting and departing New Zealand.

Peter noted these large-scale events would stretch the capacity of SAR. SAR could be high profile and could find themselves overwhelmed.

Nigel Clifford commented that in major events, the questions is who will be the lead agency and how that might change over time.

Jason Ross commented that the development of an agreed and suitable framework was key for a nationally significant event.

9. National Exercise Programme (NEP) Brief

Sarah Mitchell and Jo Guard from NEMA attended via MS Teams and presented on the National Security System (NSS) National Exercise Programme (NEP).

The NEP was established in 2013 so New Zealand can be prepared for national security events. NEMA took over the NEP earlier this year. The NEP maintains oversight of nationally significant exercises and supports relationship building between agencies.

The Exercises, Evaluation and Lessons Management Work Programme was established in January this year. The team specialises in writing and debrief of lessons, and providing advice to other agencies.

The NEP covers a wide range of exercises and operates on a four-year schedule of exercises. The nationally significant search and rescue exercise (SAREX) is scheduled for FY 2022/23.

Peter thanked Jo and Sarah for their presentation.

10. Nationally Significant SAREX Planning for 2022/23

Andy Greig reported on the planning for a possible nationally significant SAREX. The NSSP (approved by Council) includes funding to scope and prepare a business case for a nationally significant SAREX. The Secretariat has engaged a contractor to carry out this work .

Nigel said Maritime NZ is supportive of a scoping phase. Although, Maritime NZ has a significant exercise in 2022, so any scoping for a SAREX needs to be mindful of this.

Decision:

The Council directed the Secretariat to scope and prepare a business case for a nationally significant SAREX.

11. Recreational Safety and SAR Sector Review

Bev Driscoll introduced herself as the Director and gave a presentation on the Recreational Safety and SAR Sector Review.

The review will look at the Recreational Safety and SAR Sector system from end to end. There is a two-year time frame to deliver. The systems intercept with other systems like health, safety, and transport regulatory systems.

Over the next couple of months, the terms of reference will be drafted and approved. Then a work programme with key stages, deliverables, and milestones will be developed.

Peter thanked Bev for her presentation and acknowledged this is a big task but an important opportunity about how we can address potential challenges.

12. NZSAR 2021/21 Year-end Estimate Measures

Duncan advised this is an opportunity for Council to see how the outcomes achieved from the funding is measured.

Bridget Hesketh explained that the measure was of the services provided to coordinating authorities by agencies. These measures are changing for the upcoming year and will be more informative going forward.

Michael referring to point 5, as measures were not met, is there any level of comfort? Bridget replied this is purely prepared on expenditure on the NZSAR work programme and any money not spent is carried forward and resulted from things not happening due to COVID.

13. SARdonyx data-sharing MOU

This paper provides an update on the SARdonyx data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In 2019, the MOU was signed by the chief executives of LandSAR, Ministry of Transport, and Maritime NZ, but not signed by NZ Police.

The Secretariat have been working with Police for over two years to have the MOU signed.

Jason agreed that all parties should sign the MOU and said Police would work with the Secretariat to ensure it was signed. He wanted to ensure that all parties' obligations under the Privacy Act were met.

Nigel agreed that Maritime NZ have the same obligations under the Privacy Act, and said non-technical solutions should be considered.

Action:

Police and the Secretariat will update the SARdonyx data-sharing MOU and recirculate to all parties for approval.

14. Noting Table – NZSAR and HRB

HRB signalled that they were querying engagement with NZSAR Council. Duncan advised that NZSAR is under review.

15. Noting Table – SAR Training and Exercising Update

TEC remitted the amount back to us. Whether this occurs again under level 4, could happen again

16. Noting Table – NZSAR 2020/2021 Workplan

This is continuing and the Workplan is available on request.

17. Noting Table – Beacons Marketing

Working closely with Maritime NZ and Water Safety to resurrect the successful campaign from last summer which saw an increase in purchases of beacons.

18. Noting Table – SAR Reviews Register

This Register can be shared if requested.

19. Noting Table – SARdonyx Update

Going through major change request on collaboration improvements.

20. Noting Table – Channels Review

Nearly complete and the Review will be shared at the next meeting.

21. General Business

Justin acknowledged Duncan filling his team and he looks forward to continuing working with the Secretariat.

Next Meeting: Thursday 9 December 2021

Action and Responsibility Table

#	Item	Actions & Decisions	Responsibility	Actions Taken/Status
10	Nationally Significant SAREX Planning for 2022/23	Action: The Secretariat is to scope and prepare a business case for a nationally significant SAREX.	Andrew Greig	See item 9.
13.	SARdonyx data-sharing MOU	Action: Police and the Secretariat will update the SARdonyx data-sharing MOU and recirculate to all parties for approval.	NZ Police & Andrew Greig	With Police for signing.