

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



Minutes of Meeting
NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting
Tuesday, 18 May 2021, 9.30am to 12.30pm
NZSAR (Ministry of Transport)
3 Queens Wharf, Wellington, and MS Teams

In attendance

Name	Agency
Andrew Greig (Chair)	NZSAR Secretariat
Adam Wooler	Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ)
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Mick Kearney	SLSNZ
SQNLDR Peter Jackson	NZ Defence Force (NZDF)
Don Robertson	Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)
Paul Craven	Maritime NZ
Brendan Comerford	Maritime Operations Centre (MOC)
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard NZ
Matthew Rea-Rankin	Coastguard NZ
Mike Ambrose	LandSAR
Jodi Starr	LandSAR
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Ben Flight	Australian National SAR Council
Pete Theobald	NZ Police
Rebecca Lockwood	NZ Police
Mark Bailey	National Ambulance Sector Office (NASO)
Jessica Plachecki	NASO
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
Nicky Burgess	Antarctica NZ
Mike Daisley	Mountain Safety Council (MSC)
Don Bogie	Department of Conservation (DOC)
Paul Veric	Water Safety NZ (WSNZ)
Daniel Gerrard	WSNZ
Scott McKenzie	Aviation NZ
Rodney Bracefield	Rescue Coordination Centre NZ (RCCNZ)

Kevin Banaghan	RCCNZ
John Murphy	AREC
Natasha Rave	Ministry of Transport (MOT)
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR Secretariat
Alita Bigwood	NZSAR Secretariat
Rhett Emery	NZSAR Secretariat
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR Secretariat
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR Secretariat
Tania Seward	NZSAR Secretariat
Rachel Roberts	NZSAR Secretariat
Hannah Black (minutes)	NZSAR Secretariat

1. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Apologies

Ian Duncan	Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ)
Meryl Jupp	DOC
MAJ Tristan Anson	NZDF
Alex Hardy	Land Safety Forum

3. Minutes of meeting 17 February 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting:

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
4.	Minutes of Meeting 17 November 2021	Action: SLSNZ and NZSAR will clarify the ongoing arrangements for the Public Rescue Equipment working group.	SLSNZ and NZSAR	Ongoing
5.	Sector Update – NZDF	Action: Don Robertson (AREC) will email further information about radio use to Peter Jackson (NZDF).	AREC	Complete

7. Operational Framework	Action: Police (Nic Brown) to follow up with Carl with questions about the Operational Framework.	Police and NZSAR	Complete
8. Annual Statistical Report	Action: Feedback on the Annual Statistical Report to be given to Daryl Bloomfield	All members	Complete
13. Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags	Action: Confirm to MBIE that the Committee wants to keep the standards for the current water safety signage.	NZSAR	Complete
13. Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety Flags	Action: Establish a working group to discuss standards.	SLSNZ	Ongoing discussion with WSNZ and SLSNZ
14. Advisory for Closing Body of Water	Action: Allan (SLSNZ) and Carl (NZSAR) to review and update the paper for the next Consultative Committee Meeting.	SLSNZ & NZSAR	SLSNZ and NZSAR working together to develop guidance for shark attacks

5. Sector updates

Agencies provided brief verbal updates.

Ambulance NZ

Ambulance NZ is continuing to work with NASO. It is business as usual post-COVID, with nothing major to report. Demand is up across New Zealand and Australia. Training that was suspended during COVID is recommencing. A review of the air ambulance plans (emergency response plan) and air ambulance standards will start later this year.

Antarctica NZ

Antarctica NZ is planning a reduced 2021/22 summer season due to COVID-19 impacts. There is a requirement to be isolated for two weeks before deployment and to transport people south on Mondays only. They are planning to move 200 people south compared to the normal 350.

Antarctica NZ is working with the United States (which is also running a reduced season) to confirm the flight and shipping schedule for the summer.

Antarctica NZ will be contracting one helicopter and one Twin Otter to support science campaigns. The NZDF is supporting September flights South for the seasonal Scott Base staff deployments.

AREC

AREC has completed all project plans, which are approved and AREC is moving forward on these. AREC has supported various SAR exercises and attended several workshops.

Australian National Search and Rescue Council

Australia is slowly returning to normal post-COVID. There is a new JRCC Manager in Canberra. The National SAR Managers course planning is nearing finalisation, and a New Zealand police attendee has been nominated. Planning for the annual meeting in Melbourne in October is well underway.

Aviation NZ

Nothing significant to report

Coastguard NZ

Coastguard responded to 294 events in April, compared to 20 last April (due to COVID-19). Recently, two Coastguard boats attended a rescue in Manakau. Coastguard are refitting 22 boats from the America's Cup. The budget and strategy are being worked on.

Coastguard hosted the SAR Volunteer Workshop at Mechanics Bay in May.

Department of Conservation

During summer, the Aoraki SAR team's workload was about half of normal operations compared to previous summers. About 80 percent of callouts are PLBs. The risk thresholds for DOC visitor sites are being worked out. There is an adventure activities review which includes looking at natural hazards risks. The DOC weather product (NIWA) has been introduced. A new visitor safety team has been set up to provide specialist support.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Nothing significant to report

LandSAR

It has been busy recently with LandSAR volunteers involved in 101 operations. Of note, Southland has been busier than usual this year. The next four months are also a busy time with delivery of training. The Wander Search Workshop was hosted recently. Planning is ongoing for the bi-annual conference in October.

Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia

Operations are business as usual and planned maintenance scheduled for winter is already completed. Of note, meteorological forecasts have grown in length from

about 15 to 45 minutes. An office move is planned for September, and MOC will be housed next door to RCCNZ.

Ministry of Transport

The Maritime Security Strategy has a hard launch on 17 June at the Intercontinental Hotel in Wellington, and this will cover several SAR-related topics.

Mountain Safety Council

Mountain Safety Council recently launched *Plan My Walk* app. This is now ready for public use.

Avalanche advisory statistics will come out soon, with the alpine sector anticipating more snow this season.

The Southern Hemisphere Alpine Conference (SHAC) will be held on 26 and 27 May 2021 at Wanaka, which brings the whole alpine sector together with a dedicated SAR session.

National Ambulance Sector Office

An independent review of the national Air Desk has been carried out and a draft report is expected at the end of May 2021. This will include recommendations on the current state of the Air Desk.

New Zealand Defence Force

The NZDF has been unusually quiet for SAR during the past three months. There were 114 flying hours for SAR, which is below what was allocated. Number 3 Squadron supported the NZ Police SAR Training Exercise at Dip Flat with an NH90. The Pacific remains primary customer for NZDF SAR. And NZDF helicopter support for SAR has dropped off due to other helicopter providers around NZ.

New Zealand Police

The Police have signed the MOU with NZSAR. SAR safety clothing and equipment has been deployed to SAR staff. The two-week SAR Training Exercise in April at RNZAF Dip Flat progressed well, and this included good engagement with the NZDF.

Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand

Several people remain away on secondment. There are more incidents than this time last year, which is comparable with 2017 (also a busy year). The RCCNZ continue to assist Police with Cat 1 SAR.

The RCCNZ is looking to re-start the Pacific Island programme with the Cook Islands and other countries as bubbles reopen.

The Air Operators training is being completed with the final session scheduled for later in June in Wellington in June.

The RCCNZ holding training for On Scene Coordinators. And staff are visiting the St John Air Desks to improve relationships going forward.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand

Patrol hours are up by five percent, and preventative actions also up. However, rescues are down by 14 percent, despite increased numbers of people on the beaches. This shows that shows preventative work is making a difference.

The last quarter was quiet with 22 SAR operations, which is down on last year. This is likely to be due to good weather.

First SAR summit being organised in Mt Maunganui.

Water Safety New Zealand

Daniel Gerrard will commence as Chief Executive from 24 May 2021.

Preventable drownings are down on last year. The Cross-Sector Reference Group (CSRG) meeting was held several weeks ago, the strategy launched several months ago is now in the implementation phase.

NZSAR Secretariat

Carl van der Meulen has left the Secretariat after almost 13 years. A Rauora exercise was run in early May, which went well and had good engagement. The 2022 Budget is a current focus, please approach Duncan if any more funding is required by your organisation.

6. NZSAR Risk Matrix

The Committee discussed the Health, Safety and Wellbeing aspect of the Risk Matrix.

The Committee considered the report on the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Workshop held in Wellington in mid-April.

Jodi Starr of LandSAR gave a presentation on the psychological wellbeing programme which has recently been rolled out to LandSAR volunteers. The focus is to build resilience relating to trauma caused by SAR exercises. The initial feedback has been positive.

The Committee suggested that the Risk Matrix include separate treatment of overlapping PCBUs.

Decision: The Committee endorsed the recommend changes to the NZSAR Risk Matrix.

7. SAR Lessons Framework

The proposed SAR Lessons Framework is designed to be an overarching guidance document for management of lessons across the SAR sector. The OILL (Observation, Insight, Lesson identified, Lesson learned) methodology will be used to develop lessons learned. The lessons learned can then be put into an agency's own operating procedures.

Decision: The Committee endorsed the SAR Lessons Framework.

8. Proposed NSSP Programme for 2021/22

The proposed NSSP programme was shared verbally with the Consultative Committee. The original plan for 2021/22 was to continue the same as the previous year however a lot of plans were put on hold due to COVID-19, which means a bigger budget is required for this year. The Secretariat is also facing capacity issues which needs to be considered.

A main focus of the programme is to align the various SAR agencies towards a common goal.

Priorities include the Recreational Safety and SAR review, sustainability, workshops, revalidation of SAR coordinators and bringing paid staff together to collaborate while providing assurance to the Ministry of Transport that their investment is being used wisely.

9. Volunteer Workshop Update

The Volunteer Workshop took place on 11 and 12 May 2021. Representatives from Coastguard NZ, SLSNZ, AREC and LandSAR met in Auckland to learn from each other, share information, and collaborate on volunteerism issues. Key topics included retention, induction, training and diversity. Rachael Utumapu from FENZ gave a talk on diversity.

Feedback from attendees showed that the workshop was valuable and a good opportunity to share cross-organisational volunteerism insights.

10. Innovation in Technology Strategy Update

The NZSAR Secretariat is developing an Innovation in Technology strategy. To help develop the strategy, representatives from Coastguard NZ, SLSNZ, AREC and LandSAR, as well as RCCNZ and NZ Police spent a day workshopping the strategy. The strategy is in draft and feedback and comments are welcomed.

Decision: The Committee endorsed the proposed Innovation in Technology Strategy.

11. NIWA Demonstration of Forecasting

Nava Fedaeff, Forecaster/Science Communicator with NIWA (the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) provided an overview of the new NIWA forecasting project with the Department of Conservation.

NIWA forecasting for DOC commenced in March 2021.

The NIWA website (weather.niwa.co.nz/parks) currently provides forecasting for various DOC locations which will increase later this year.

12. Public Consultation on Enabling Drone Integration

Marion Hiriart from the Ministry of Transport provided a short brief on the consultation process for Enabling Drone Integration. A month-long consultation roadshow was recently completed. The initial closing date has been extended until 4 June 2021. Submissions are encouraged through the website transport.govt.nz/consultations/enabling-drone-integration/.

Agencies which may be affected by changes have already been consulted and policy developments are due to be completed around October or November 2021.

13. Ambulance and SAR Agreement Update

NZ Police, RCCNZ, NASO and NZSAR are continuing to work on the updated agreement to confirm the relationship between the coordination authorities, NASO and the ambulance sector. The agreement will include St John, Ambulance NZ and possible Wellington Free Ambulance.

14. Research into (1) SAR expectations and (2) outcomes of Distress Beacons campaign

A research agency has been engaged to conduct research around the expectations of search and rescue in New Zealand as well as awareness and outcomes of the Distress Beacon campaign run during October 2020 and April 2021.

Feedback from the Committee on the proposed approach was requested.

15. SLA & MOU Investment Report Q3 2020-21

Bridget thanked the agencies for their timely submissions. Overall the template worked well for NZSAR but feedback from agencies was invited. Work is continuing around how best to use the information provided.

The Sector Updates will be written before the Council Meeting along with a cover report with the purpose of assisting the Council to provide the best guidance possible. NZSAR is open to ideas on this topic.

16. Quarterly Activity Report

The Committee was provided with a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 January to 31 March 2021. Daryl is currently engaging with the SARdonyx partner agency about what additional information may be beneficial to include in future reports.

17. National SAR Support Programme 2020/21

A large number of projects are currently underway and the aim is for them to be completed by June. Some activities have fallen off this year's programme and have been deferred to next year's for various reasons.

18. SARdonyx System Update

CR14 is working its way through testing with a view to implementation in July. CR16 is complete and is awaiting RCCNZ implementation.

19. Volunteer Data Privacy Work Update

Info By Design has been contracted to address the privacy implications of the sharing of volunteer data between each of the four organisations (CGNZ, SLSNZ, AREC and LandSAR) and the NZSAR Secretariat.

20. SAR Training Update

The training course suite for 2021 is now accessible. Please contact Alita or the training agencies directly to register interest in particular courses. Workshops are underway to train new and retain existing tutors. The SAR Managers Workshop with NZ Police will be taking place in June.

The student survey results for 2020 indicated good feedback for training providers. The Secretariat strongly encourages people to take advantage of the courses currently available.

21. Reviews Recommendations Register

Outstanding actions are still being worked through. Please contact Rhett with any queries or to seek clarification.

22. General Business

Discussion on format of future Consultative Committees

The Committee discussed the format of future Consultative Committee meetings. The Cabinet Order of 2003 requires a Consultative Committee to be in place, although the Order does not mandate the format.

The general feedback is that the meeting is valuable, but it could be reduced in length and be more relevant to all agencies.

Next meeting: Tuesday 17 August 2021

Action and Responsibility Table

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
6.	NZSAR Risk Matrix	Decision: The Committee endorsed the recommend changes to the NZSAR Risk Matrix	NZSAR	NZSAR Council to consider changes
7.	SAR Lessons Framework	Decision: The Committee endorsed the SAR Lessons Framework	NZSAR	NZSAR Council to consider SAR Lessons Framework
10.	Innovation in Technology Strategy Update	Decision: The Committee endorsed the proposed Innovation in Technology Strategy	NZSAR	NZSAR Council to consider the Innovation in Technology strategy
22	General Business	Action: Consider a new and more relevant format for the Consultative Committee	NZSAR	Format changed – reduced timeline with more presentations.