

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



## Minutes of Meeting NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting Wednesday 17 February 2022, 9.30am to 11.30am NZSAR (Ministry of Transport) MS Teams

### In attendance

Name	Agency
Andy Greig (Chair)	NZSAR Secretariat
James Fryday	Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)
Adam Wooler	Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ)
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Mick Kearney	SLSNZ
Paul Newnham	SLSNZ
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Don Robertson	Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)
John Murphy	Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)
Alex Hardy	Land Safety Forum
Brendan Comerford	Maritime Operations Centre (MOC)
Peter Jackson	NZDF
Brett Clayton	NZDF
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Nicky Burgess	Antarctica NZ
Chris Lind	NEMA
Mike Ambrose	LandSAR
Mike Daisley	Mountain Safety Council (MSC)
Don Bogie	Department of Conservation (DOC)
Daniel Gerrard	Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ)
Scott McKenzie	Aviation NZ
Kathryn Steel	St John
Jono Curran	National Ambulance Sector Office (NASO)
Justin Allan	RCCNZ

Kate Weinberg	RCCNZ
Nicole Martin-Lupp	NZ Police
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
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
Evan Hughes	NZSAR Secretariat
Wendy Harrison (minutes)	NZSAR Secretariat

### 1. Welcome

Andy Greig opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

### 2. Apologies

Ian Duncan	FENZ
Kevin Banaghan	RCCNZ
Pete Theobold	NZ Police
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard NZ
Mark Bailey	NASO
Craig Rendel	NZ Police
Nic Brown	NZ Police
Matt Wheble	NZSAR Secretariat

### 3. Minutes of meeting 10 November 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

David Waters advised under the Sector Updates, for Ambulance NZ, there was a statement regarding a number of rotary incidents. This should be changed to read there have been a number of rotary incidents in Australia.

#### 4. Matters arising from previous meeting:

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
8.	<b>COVID Impacts – summer 2021/22</b>	<b>Action:</b> Chris to send Response Global report to Group	Chris Lind, NEMA	Complete

There were no other issues arising from the minutes.

#### 5. Sector updates

Agencies provided brief verbal updates.

##### *Ambulance NZ*

The review of the *New Zealand Aeromedical and Air Rescue Standard* is deferred to June due to the COVID surge. Both road and air are preparing by bringing on more staff to support the COVID response. Both air and road ambulances are starting to go through a new commissioning phase from NASO.

##### *AMSA*

Coping with the COVID situation quite well. There are strict working conditions in the office. Australia is relaxing rules at the end of February. Maritime systems services and pollution are triaging into the centre as well. There are 34 staff in training for the triaging process.

Working with WA Health in relation to medivac services and relying on the mining companies for this support.

On the International front, working on the Antarctica liaison towards an Indian Ocean Rim SAREX in Sri Lanka. DPAC are paying for this exercise. There are about 30 SAR countries involved.

JRCC are recruiting for six additional SAROs at the end of this month for a June course start. This is a 25-week programme.

##### *Antarctica NZ (Summary provided)*

Just completed the annual ship off/on load for Ross Island, which included a successful first loading of HMNZS Aotearoa.

Both Antarctica NZ chartered twin otter and helicopter have left the continent, along with the US C-130 Hercules fleet.

The summer season operations have now wrapped up and they are in the process of handing over to the winter SAR team. There are two weeks of US C17 missions left with one RNZAF Boeing flight in March.

Antarctica NZ's 2022-23 summer recruitment campaign has begun.

No SAR incidents to report.

#### *AREC*

Managed to complete lower North Island training that had been rolled out to the South Island. Still to do upper North Island.

Xero finance system is fully operational. Also have Microsoft Teams and Sharepoint structure in place for document management.

Building the website is underway and starting to onboard people into the new membership system so they will have online access.

There are two projects that are running behind: training, because of COVID, and volunteer response from the previous survey.

Have been working with NZ Police and Tait Communications around portable repeaters. These are being tested next week and should be distributed in late March to various police districts.

#### *Aviation NZ*

Nothing significant to report.

#### *CAA*

Nothing to report.

#### *Coastguard NZ*

Nothing to report.

#### *Department of Conservation*

Alpine rescue team at Mt Cook have had one of its quietest years. Number of incidents are down. Have put this down to COVID and a short climbing season, late September through to mid-December. It was noted that the ACR team recorded its highest rescue.

It was also noted at Aoraki that there have been a lot of landslides and several huts are in landslide paths.

The team have been doing a series of exercises and training with other groups and are continuing to work on the Visitor safety system.

#### *Fire and Emergency New Zealand*

Nothing to report.

### *LandSAR*

Quite busy over summer. Going into Christmas there were 113 search and rescue operations. There were 62 people assisted over the summer months. Eight lives were lost.

### *Land Safety Forum (summary provided)*

Terms of reference and three-year strategy have been agreed in principle. With a couple of tweaks, it will be sent out to members before the end of February for final sign-off.

The group agreed that a data and insights workstream should be formed, ready to begin work before the next forum meeting in May. Work on how this group will be structured has begun.

COVID-19 continues to have an impact on the outdoor recreation sector with very degrees of impact from lack of participation from activities usually frequented by overseas visitors to increased activity in the outdoors particularly from those regions heavily impacted from lockdowns.

Discussion around safety messaging and how it needs to be more consistent, strategic, and targeted correctly to the varying audiences through different channels. The group continues to demonstrate collaboration in communications and work programmes where it did not exist before.

### *Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia*

December and January have been chalk and cheese months. December has been the quietest in 20 years and January being the busiest in the last 10 years. Also been involved with Tongan volcano eruption support.

Planning for decentralising MOC services if it becomes necessary and full time COVID preparation.

### *Ministry of Health*

Nothing to report.

### *Mountain Safety Council*

Summer has been busy.

Strategy plan review is in progress. The Plan my Walk app is a key cornerstone project for the organisation. There are 210,000 active users on the app since the launch last August so pleased with the growth. Working with TLAs, local authorities and regional councils to build in more tracks.

In terms of outdoor land-based tramping there was only one fatality.

Work continues with data analysis, projects have been delayed with DOC personnel being taken off their normal jobs so causing bottlenecks.

### *NASO*

For road, air rotary and fixed, there are COVID preparations for protocols and business continuity planning. Move to phase 2 has been welcomed as RATs can be used. Working on contingency plans on the basis of losing 25 percent of available staff.

The Aeromedical Commissioning Programme (ACP) has commenced. Engagement with the sector is starting and involves DHBs. The first part of the programme is focussed on future state, looking at assets and infrastructure within the next few years.

Working with coordinating agencies on how to better coordinate assets with COVID surge and the better utilisation of assets we have at our disposal.

### *NEMA*

Well progressed with 24/7 monitoring, alerting and reporting (MAR) centre. Will have a fully equipped on call centre from mid-year, and this will replace NEMA staff providing this service.

NEMA fully entrenched with COVID, fully involved in various districts.

NEMA staff are split into two teams and have RATs testing.

Involved in recent weather events.

Online learning platform will soon be up and running.

Accreditor training kicks off in the first week of March and have lined up a two-hour training session.

### *New Zealand Defence Force*

Last year was quiet, this summer has also been quiet despite the west coast.

Three Squadron have proven their capability for long-range flights (250 miles from NZ).

Wet winch capability is yet to be assessed.

Maritime aircraft: left with 2-3 crews due to preparing for the P-8 Poseidon. They are still able to support SAR requirements.

### *New Zealand Police*

Nothing to report due to involvement in current events.

### *Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand*

Has been a busy summer with job numbers.

With COVID preparation, systems and processes have been put in place to be able to deliver. There are minimum staff at RCCNZ and staff are working from home.

Kicking off induction training at the end of the February.

Upgraded incident management system goes out for testing next week. Will be delivered this month.

### *St John*

Entrenched in COVID. Staff wearing N95 masks and have started RAT testing before coming into work.

Operators coming up with their own contingency plans.

Modelled off SAR process in draft agreement form. Conversation will come through Air Desk.

Also had busy summer with recent weather events.

Agreement with Ambulance and SAR around the process by which St John help get the resources that are needed.

### *Surf Life Saving New Zealand*

Introduced Paul Newnham as the new COVID Support Manager. Paul will be able to share learnings in the COVID space. He has taken this burden off senior managers and allowed them to continue to support lifeguards.

A link was sent out for the national beach and coastal safety report. Thought we would be saying positive things because last year the beach and coastal fatal drownings dropped to 225 which is the lowest since 2013.

Some good research has been conducted in NZ, similar to previous research conducted in Australia. This shows there were 12 million visitations to beaches each year and gives an understanding of the people we are dealing with and the understanding of the risk rate.

Surf beaches are still a major risk because of rip currents. A third of New Zealanders can't float or swim at the beaches. Back to drawing board on how to teach people how to float.

Started to expand the national communications centre in Auckland to improve communication. Going to be in a better position to talk to all clubs at once.

Signed MOU with NIWA to do research into a beach hazard predictor model that will be rolled out nationally and appear on the Safeswim platform for the public to use.

Close to agreeing with northern region clubs a way forward to become part of the SLSNZ national body.

Quarter leading up to December was the busiest period. There were 26 CAT 1s and operational hours were well up in that area. Weather pattern has been a factor in increased beach use. Drownings were not in the traditional patrolled areas and Surf were heavily used outside normal areas like the Manawatu river. So far this quarter, there are 19 CAT1s with 155 people rescued.

### *Water Safety New Zealand*

Incredibly busy period. Completed the process of reorganising, restructuring and realigning the organisation. First person to come onboard is the GM of Data Research and Insights, Simon Williamson.

First meeting of Wai Ora strategy will be to focus on central and local government engagement.

### *NZSAR Secretariat*

Matt Wheble joined in December; the staffing for the NZSAR Secretariat are now at 10.

The 2022 Volunteer Engagement Survey will be launched in March/April.

NZSAR Secretariat will carry out a survey in March to capture information about the New Zealand public's awareness and expectations of the SAR sector; and also attitudes towards the current Distress Beacons social media campaign.

Working on developing a sector wide training framework.

Several forums have been cancelled, postponed or moved online. If anyone has any ideas that the NZSAR Secretariat can assist with and likely to be done before June, please reach out. Have started planning for financial year 2022/23.

## **6. NZSAR Risk Matrix**

### **a. SAR Expectations**

The risk description regarding SAR Technology was accepted by the NZSAR Council in December last year. The Council asked for some additions which are on page 7 in red text.

Risk homeostasis is mentioned. This theory postulates that people assume the same risk, meaning if there are devices to alleviate risk such as a beacon, they change their behaviour to make the overall risk the same as it was prior.

Additional alerting technologies have been added.

The Committee was happy with the changes to this risk.



**Decision:**

- *The Consultative Committee endorsed the recommended additions to the Risk Matrix.*

**b. COVID-19**

The COVID risk is high now and should be assessed. With the forecast increased numbers of COVID cases, there may be a risk to SAR delivery.

Under this risk, the NZSAR Secretariat is chairing a weekly meeting to ensure all agencies are up to date with any COVID related issues. The NZSAR Secretariat will use this forum to liaise with the Government.

**Decision:**

- *The Consultative Committee endorsed the recommended additions to the Risk Matrix.*

**7. COVID-19 Impacts – ongoing issues**

As discussed above, COVID will have an increased impact on all services over the next period. It is important that communication channels remain open.

Anyone with issues or comments about COVID and its impacts on SAR are welcome to contact Duncan Ferner or Andy Greig direct. And, as mentioned above, NZSAR Secretariat is leading weekly meetings with key SAR agencies to discuss and keep up-to-date with how COVID is impacting SAR delivery.

**8. Review – Recreational Safety and SAR update**

Bev gave a presentation and an update on the review. Bev intends to circulate the presentation soon.

The approach continues to be collaborative with all organisations involved in recreational safety and SAR.

The terms of reference should be publicised soon on the Ministry of Transport website.

An Advisory Group has been set up with both government and non-government members. This Group provides systems knowledge and expertise and helps support wide-ranging engagement. It also helps provide advice on recommendations and implications of the review.

There is foundation research underway including an international scan, an environmental scan in partnership with the NZSAR Secretariat, and collation of previous reviews. Systems maps are being prepared to depict the existing roles across the land and water safety sectors.

Bev also mentioned the deliverable and timelines, as well as showing what is in scope and what is outside of scope of the Review. She outlined the current work in progress and introduced members of the Review team.

## **9. Water Safety over Summer 2021/22**

Daniel Gerrard gave an update on water safety over the recent summer period. His presentation will be circulated.

There have been some horrible drownings over the summer period. There were 44 preventable drowning deaths this summer. Older men feature a lot in these statistics. Swimming fatalities are up 38 percent on the five-year average. Underwater activities are also up on average. Most drownings occurred in the North Island.

Allan Mundy stated they are working with Police in the freshwater space to get an idea of the driving factors.

## **10. Freshwater Lifeguards**

Due to the extended COVID discussion, there was insufficient time to discuss this agenda item. Adam Wooler sent out a paper about freshwater lifeguard options.

## **11. Public Rescue Equipment Guidelines – update**

Due to the extended COVID discussion, there was insufficient time for this agenda item. Mick Kearney briefly mentioned he is working to get national standards on public rescue equipment across the country.

## **12. Police District SAR Assistant Coordinators**

The Police have employed new District SAR Assistant Coordinators (DSARAC) for each Police District. A briefing on the DSARACs and their roles will be covered at a future meeting.

## **13. Quarterly Activity Report**

The Quarterly Activity Report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 October to 31 December 2021.

## **14. National SAR Support Programme Intent 2021-22**

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

## **15. Beacons campaign update**

This paper provides a summary of the progress to date on the 2021-22 distress beacons digital marketing campaign.

## 16. NZSAR Awards

This paper provides a summary of the progress to date on the 2021 NZSAR Awards.

The NZSAR Awards will be held on the evening of Tuesday 17 May 2022 at Government House in Wellington.

## 17. SAR Awareness and Distress Beacons Survey

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Consultative Committee that 750 members of the New Zealand public will soon respond to an NZSAR survey about their perceptions and expectations of the SAR sector and the current Distress Beacons social media campaign.

## 18. General Business

There was no general business.

**Next meeting:** 17 May 2022

### Action and Responsibility Table

#	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.		