

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa ● ● ● ——— ● ● ●

## NZSAR Council Minutes

Monday, 18 March 2024, 2.00pm – 4.30pm  
3 Queens Wharf, Wellington and MS Teams

### 1. Present

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Kirstie Hewlett	Maritime NZ	Andy Roberts	DOC
Bronwyn Turley	MoT	Mike Hill	CAA
Penny Gifford	NZ Police	Russell Wood	FENZ
Robert Shearer	NZDF		

### In attendance

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Graham MacLean	Maritime NZ	Justin Allan	Maritime NZ
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR	Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR
Andy Greig	NZSAR	Wendy Harrison	NZSAR
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR	Matt Wheble	NZSAR
Matt Mintrom	NZSAR	Tania Seward	NZSAR
Aimee Flanagan	NZSAR	Megan Campbell	MoT

### 2. Apologies

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Andrew Shaw	NZDF	Stephanie Rowe	DOC
Brendan Nally	FENZ	Mike Rusbatch	NZ Police
Simon Kernahan	NZ Police	Giuliana Petronelli	Independent

### 3. Welcome & Interests Register

Kirstie Hewlett opened the meeting and advised due to Audrey’s commitments, she will be chairing the NZSAR Council meeting until the end of June.

## 4. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 12 December 2023

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

Kirstie raised a concern from MNZ regarding the Lead Agency Workshop being held in April. Kirstie noted that MNZ are not the only a lead SAR agency but one with statutory responsibilities for Maritime incidents. MNZ has also just completed a large restructure and review of how they deliver incident readiness and response. April is now no longer a convenient time for MNZ exercise participation. Maritime will not be ready to exercise the reviewed delivery aspects in time for the April workshop.

The Secretariat was unaware of this concern and agreed that a meeting be set up with MNZ staff to discuss this further.

### Action:

- Duncan and Graham to meet and discuss Maritime's concern and look at the meeting dates for the Lead Agency Workshop in April and ODESC meeting in May.

## Summary of actions from previous meetings

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
6.	Directors Report	<p><b>Considered</b> the Director's Report.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Q1 2023-24 SLA and MOU Investment Report.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the level of SAR operational activities for the first quarter of 2023/24 reporting year, 1 July to 30 September 2023.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> based on the incident levels recorded across the first quarter, there is a strong expectation that recorded SAR incidents for 2023/24 will exceed the numbers from last year.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Include information regarding participation/contribution</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Implemented</p>

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		and SAR type in future SAR Activity Reports.		
7.	Strategic Discussion: Australian environmental scan	<p><b>Action:</b> <i>Prepare advice for the NZSAR Council regarding search and rescue possibilities for both mobile phone locating and drone/UAV/RPAS technologies. The advice is to include clear definitions, what the blockages/challenges to operational implementation are and options to address these.</i></p> <p><b>Considered and discussed</b> the 2023 Australian SAR Environmental Scan.</p>	<p><i>Secretariat, with Council agency support.</i></p> <p><i>Council</i></p>	<p>Under development</p> <p>N/A</p>
8.	Risk item update – SAR demand	<b>Action:</b> Separate agency specific needs and scenarios for future modelling into two different risk treatments within the SAR demand risk.	Secretariat	Completed
9.	Independent Council Member	<p><b>Agreed</b> Giuliana Petronelli is the preferred candidate for the Independent NZSAR Council Member role.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Duncan to contact the candidates to thank them for their application and also clarify to the sector that this was a long-term appointment process.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Giuliana advised.</p> <p>Completed</p>

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<b>Agreed</b> to increase the daily fee in line with Cabinet Office Circular CO (22) 2 from \$400 to \$440 subject to viewing the Circular.	Secretariat	Implemented.  Circular sent to Council members
10.	SAR & Emergency Management	<b>Noted</b> progress to better align the SAR and emergency management sectors.  <b>Endorsed</b> the proposed systemic improvements listed in Paragraph 5.	Council	Positive engagement with FENZ. Further meeting with ESOLG 21 March 2024. Action plan developed
11.	Recreational Safety and SAR Review discussion	<b>Action:</b> Advise the Council on the next steps regarding the review recommendations.	Bronwyn - MoT	Next available meeting
12.	Telecommunications Strategy	<b>Noted</b> there is no current Search and Rescue telecommunications strategy to provide direction to SAR agencies for the development of interoperable (connected) networks across the sector.  <b>Noted</b> the proposed Strategy has been consulted across all key agencies and organisations involved in SAR.	Council	N/A

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p><b>Adopted</b> the land-only components and recommendations of the NZSAR Telecommunications Strategy.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> <i>The maritime components and recommendations NZSAR Telecommunications Strategy be considered for inclusion at a later date.</i></p>		
13.	NZSAR Secretariat Budget mid-year update	<p><b>Approved</b> the NZSAR Secretariat budget reforecast for the remainder of the 2023/24 financial year totalling \$5,253,575.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> the NZSAR Secretariat reforecast budget for the 2024/25 financial year totalling \$4,046,000.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> the NZSAR training budget of \$1,457,047 for the 2024 calendar year.</p>	Council	Approved budgets passed to MoT for inclusion in their processes.
14.	Enchanter recommendations update	<b>Action:</b> Provide further advice on TAIC recommendation two of the Enchanter report	Maritime NZ	TBC

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15.	Aviation Futures progress	<p><b>Noted</b> progress on the Aviation Futures project</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Aviation Futures project key milestones are to be adjusted to aligned with the requirements of MoT led s9(1) funding process in late 2024.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Aviation Futures project team</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Under action</p>
16.	Kaihautū Leaders and CE Hui	<p><b>Noted</b> the successful conduct of the Kaihautū Leaders and CE hui 1 – 3 November 2023.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Hui discussed a range of challenges regarding effective engagement with Māori.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Secretariat intends to arrange a small, SAR focussed hui in 2024 for the Kaihautū leaders from key SAR agencies in order to progress practical aspects of SAR with a te ao Māori lens.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Planned for 22 May 2024</p>
17.	Exercise Whakarauora Tangata	<p><b>Action:</b> Meet to discuss exercise criteria.</p> <p><b>Approved</b> the proposed scope of the Wellington tabletop exercise.</p> <p><b>Endorsed</b> the higher-level participation of their agencies in the exercise.</p>	<p>Ex Whakarauora Tangata steering committee.</p> <p><i>Council</i></p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>N/A</p>

## 5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 6. Directors Report

Duncan highlighted key points from the Directors Report.

Whakarauora Tangata – there have been two successful exercises, and the next one is planned in Wellington on Wednesday. There has been considerable interest and participation. The final IMTEX will be held in Napier in May.

National SAR Support programme – a summary of the status of NSSP activities is provided in the noting papers. The Secretariat has completed, or has underway a significant number of workshops, SAREXs, projects and investments.

Data and Information – there are data sharing agreements in place with Water Safety New Zealand and the USA based author of “Lost Person Behaviour”.

SAR Research – the research plan is back on track as a contractor has been hired to progress a range of research projects. There is the volunteer strategy and looking at engaging NZIER to develop a cost benefit analysis on investment.

SAR Training – this has been the most successful training yet and were able to use all the available funding for training. The three-year SAR training funding arrangement with TEC has been renewed and agreements with Land Search and Rescue for Land Search and Rescue training and multiagency training have been agreed.

Te Ao Māori – a SAR Kaihautū hui is planned for 22 May which will have more of a SAR focus. Also have commissioned a piece of work around rāhui and SAR.

Search and Rescue briefing to the Associate Minister of Transport – a brief is being prepared for the associate minister focussing on search and rescue, frontline safety services and recreational safety.

SAR reviews and lessons management – Duncan has met with Police and Maritime. It was agreed the SAR Coordinators Workshop planned for later in 2024 will be focussed on learning SAR lessons and also agreed to review the Council’s SAR review policy.

SAR and Emergency Management – this is progressing slowly but have met with FENZ and hope to attend NEMA’s Emergency Services Operational Leadership Group meeting later in March.

Maritime said it would be good to have a discussion once the North Island Inquiry report is out to shape priorities and address anything mentions as required and implications for the sector looking at insights and opportunities.

Budget bids – The two Budget 2025 bids (front line water safety services cost pressures and readiness for future civil emergencies) continue to progress.

Anticipated FED Funding applications - in paragraphs 41-44 outlines what agencies indicate they are likely to prepare funding applications for. Not all of these will make

the cut. The first step is to resolve or remediate. There are cost pressures across all the agencies and agencies will need to make decisions on their own bids.

Maritime said that need to be cautionary here and cost pressures and new programmes need to be considered and there is a need to moderate expectations.

Bronwyn strongly agreed with this and there are hard and difficult decisions that the government are making at the moment. The Government will want to see what options and measures are taken to reduce costs.

Secretariat activities and engagements – the Secretariat has limited in capacity and are still wanting to recruit two funded positions. One role is temporarily filled by a specialist contractor and the other vacancy continues to limit the ability to deliver major components of the approved work programme.

#### **Decision**

- The Council **considered** the Director's Report.

### **6.a SLA and MOU Investment Report Q2 2023/24**

The two programmes are progressing well.

Justin asked DOC, regarding the ACR team, is there anything the Council ought to be aware of. Andy Roberts replied that the team continues to function, there is regular turnover and continue to balance between staff turn over and retention. Always after additional resource but no real concerns. They have been part of DOC's restructuring and have been gutted out too much in the past, so hopefully a better balance will be struck this time.

#### **Decision**

- The Council **noted** the Q2 2023-24 SLA and MOU Investment Report

### **6.b SAR Sector Update**

This paper was taken as read and there were no questions.

### **6.c SAR Operational Activity Reports**

There is a small increase over the last year, but the rate of increase is levelling off. The resource information was helpful, but it was asked as the Y-axis are different, can this be altered to make comparison easier.

#### **Decision**

The Council **noted**:

- the level of SAR operational activities for the second quarter of 2023/24.
- based on the incident levels recorded across the first six months of 2023/24, there is a strong expectation that recorded SAR incidents for 2023/24 will be of a similar volume to last year.



## 6.d SAR Sector Assurance report

Focussing on paragraph two of the report, the overall assessment is that the SAR system is fit for purpose. There are areas of concern are:

- *Secretariat* - have had to prioritise work.
- *SAR Aviation assets* - work continues to consider possible tasking options and implementing standards to address discrepancies and concerns.
- *Funding* - has been downgraded given the current level of time-limited FED funding, it is hard to find funding. While agencies have been encouraged to explore other avenues, they are getting turned down. People are not giving as much, not buying lottery tickets and gaming trusts are being reduced in a conscious manner. Trusts don't have large investments. Surf and Coastguard are forecasting deficits this year.
- *Operational Management* – replacing a multitude of systems is continuing. No sector-wide common operating picture system or process exists.
- *Operational currency* – wish to continue reviews and have a process to resolve these difficulties.
- *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015* – PCBU duties are still being worked through.

Proposed criticality weightings (out of 10) with the Coordinating Authorities being considered a '10' have been included in this report. This had been discussed with the Senior Officials Group (SOG) meeting and judgements made about the proposals. The revised proposed ratings have been incorporated into the weighting tables. These are all subjective ratings, presenting a systemic view is therefore challenging.

Graham asked if SOG considered if the report incorporated a risk view, as without it results might not reflect all future challenges like RCC's capability challenge resulting from unprecedented numbers of call outs and responses.

Justin asked for it to be noted that he is not happy with the RCCNZ unit of MNZ being coloured 'green' and would like it changed to 'moderate'.

Rob mentioned that they try and use the safety management system assurance. They have a massive assurance framework, and this is audited.

Graham suggested that may need to marry the narratives. Past, current, and future views need to be included in the assurance report at a particular point.

### Action

- Ensure the Assurance Report clearly reflects its purpose, and the ratings encompass a global strategic position at the date of the report. SOG is requested to consider this carefully when reviewing the next Assurance report.

## Decision

The Council **noted**:

- a. the current level of assurance that operational search and rescue is fit for purpose is 'considerable.'
- b. since December 2022, the 'considerable' assurance raw rating has slipped from 72.3% to 70.1% now representing the increasing pressure on the sector and the time it takes to resolve the complex issues presenting.
- c. that the following areas of focus of the Framework's elements have been assessed at either 'low' or 'moderate' and work is in progress as follows to improve the level:
  - i. *Secretariat* – work is being prioritised with non-urgent activities being postponed until current vacancies can be filled.
  - ii. *SAR Aviation Assets* - NZ Police, RCCNZ, and the NZSAR Secretariat continue working together to consider possible tasking options and implementing standards to address discrepancies and concerns.
  - iii. *Funding* – Given the current level of time-limited FED funding, the tightening of available funding and increasing costs, consideration is being given to the implications for both the next FED funding and Budget rounds. SAR NGOs are also being encouraged to continue to explore all avenues of funding though the environments e.g. fundraising is very difficult. Funding is critical for robust, sustainable organisations and agencies are forecasting material deficits.
  - iv. *Operational Management* – Work to scope an appropriate Category 1 incident management operating system to replace the multitude of current methods and systems is paused while responsibility for the work is resolved. No sector-wide common operating picture system or process exists.
  - v. *Operational Currency* – Discussions continue to permit the resumption of NZSAR Council sponsored independent reviews. A process will be developed to address the current gap between lessons identified and lessons learnt.
  - vi. *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015* – A set of guidelines to clarify overlapping PCBU duties has been drafted and agencies are considering how to implement them and are intending to leverage off the Aviation Futures workstreams.

- The Council **agreed** the proposed weighted levels of element criticality to assurance noting that in future assurance will be reported using a weighted view of criticality and the feedback received from SOG representatives.
- The Council **discussed** the levels of assurance reflected in this report and the actions to address lower levels of assurance.

## 7. 2023 NZSAR Awards

This was a robust process to get to this point and all conflicts of interest have been noted. It should be noted that the subcommittee should be acknowledged for all the work they have done.

Tania also mentioned that WorkSafe have 12 months to raise an investigation, and this may occur. This was a large field, and the decision was difficult.

Russell asked if any problems were anticipated with Cyclone Gabrielle.

Tania advised that with the Enchanter nominations last year, a footnote was put in the booklet saying that a number of other agencies were recognised, and this can be done the same this year with Cyclone Gabrielle.

Russell also asked about what is meant by “FENZ Whangārei”? Tania advised that there has been difficulty determining who this is so will have a discussion to clarify.

### Decision

The Council:

- **Noted** the advice provided by the Awards subcommittee.
- **Noted** the selection criteria in the NZSAR Awards policy (enclosed).
- **Confirmed** the recipients for the 2023 NZSAR Awards, including the two additional Awards.
- **Confirmed** that letters of recognition should be sent to the agencies and individuals whose nominations were unsuccessful.

## 8. Risk Item – Cohesive and Effective SAR Training

The Cohesive and Effective SAR Training risk detailed on page three has several edits and where training is reflected elsewhere in the register, changes have also been made. This has been to the Consultative Committee and their feedback has been incorporated.

There was some discomfort with the treatments as they were felt to be agency focussed. The Council queried whether training currently undertaken is the correct treatment to address presenting risks and the ownership of those risks.

The risk treatments are used to guide the work programme. Exercising and retraining are important parts of the SAR experience and build cohesiveness and keeps volunteers engaged and retrained. Organisations set up their own competencies and deliver their own training and it is funded through a variety of

means. There are inequities and how government fund each organisation is very different.

Russell asked how does the Council assure itself that training is okay? Under SLAs agencies are required to provide competent volunteers for operations. If this does not occur Coordinating Authorities enter 'breaches' in SARdonyx that are then followed up by the Secretariat. This process could be reflected in the risk treatment. Operation reviews also provide an opportunity to consider whether an appropriate competency standard has been shown.

It was also asked if Council needs to set levels for training. Competency levels are considered an agency operational matter with the need for competent service delivery during operations being managed through SLAs.

Graham said the Operational Capability risk on page eight needs to be updated. New Zealand lacks emergency towage vessels. Essentially advice has been submitted to the Minister and until something is done about it, the risk keeps growing. This risk should be moved to red.

#### **Action**

- Graham will provide Duncan with more information regarding the emergency towage vessels and Duncan will update the Operational capability risk on page eight of the document.

## **9. Recreational Safety and SAR Review**

Kirstie noted the completion of the Review and that there has been no conversation with the Council on the recommendations. However, the ability to do implement the resourcing as recommended is no longer viable. The Council needs to support the Ministry of Transport's ministerial advice process.

To do this the Council needs to consider its own destiny and have a conversation about its value add to the sector. This conversation should include all Council members and key NGO partners to see what this is and then sell this to the Minister(s) through the MoT process.

This discussion should cover what does the future look like and therefore what are the priorities; what does good look like; what should be kept/started/stopped. Then there will be an agreed position to go to the Minister with and enable decisions to be made around funding bids and work programmes. Not proposing to get rid of the Council and Secretariat but look to see what good looks like.

Mike asked where do we start? He suggests looking at the Cabinet Minute 2004 and what it should look like 20 years later. Maritime have international regulations that they are audited against - what is the expectation of the SAR system in relation to this.

Bronwyn replied that this would be incredibly helpful. It does raise the question on how you can get the best out of the system.

Russell wondered about the stewardship role and what the difference is between this Council and an Advisory Board.

Bronwyn replied that the stewardship requires what good looks like and for this to be monitored. This is top down driven and depends on what you want out of the system. Given the number of players there is a need for coordination and how this is best achieved.

Kirstie thought it would be good to set up a half day workshop with someone independent facilitating.

It was also asked if helicopters should be involved. Justin replied that Ambulance desk should be included. NEMA is also a possibility.

It was agreed that the workshop will focus on SAR and the set-up minute with only Council members and NGO CE's at the table.

#### **Action**

- NZSAR Secretariat will organise a meeting for Council members and NGO CE's to look at the Councils value add and what the future looks like focusing on SAR and the original Cabinet minute. An independent facilitator will be engaged to lead a half day strategic workshop.

#### **Decision**

- The Council **discussed** the recommendations from the 2023 Recreational Safety and Search and Rescue Review and provide Council input to the Ministry of Transport's advice process.

## **10. Strategic Discussion: SAR Sector Priorities**

As the Annual Letters of Intent meetings are in the next couple of weeks, this paper included suggestions for Council priorities following discussions at the Partnership Meeting and what might be in the Letters of Intent. Priorities help us to focus where we should be focusing our work on. Funding is a critical focus for the next year. NGOs have a wide range of areas to focus on with sustainability of their organisation and keeping people being a common theme.

Kirstie said to invite people into the system to discuss priorities and this will be done as part of the workshop to be scheduled.

#### **Action**

- Defer the priorities discussion until after the strategy session.

#### **Decision**

The Council:

- **Did not Agree** the Council's search and rescue / frontline safety service priorities for the 2024/25 year.
- **Noted** the Chair will approve and sign the annual letters of intent and agreement on behalf of the Council.

## 11. Aviation Futures progress

Andy reported that the development of the Aviation Standards are progressing. The scope of the standards have changed since the committee met back in February. It was decided that the SAR Aviation Standards will probably only apply to non-Air Ambulance civilian aircraft.

Air ambulance standards do not cover SAR and both standards will potentially need to apply so the nuance needs to be managed.

The tasking side is potentially where the RCC will look after Cat 1 and Cat 2. Craig Rendel, from NZ Police, is developing a paper to take through the Police system and districts to make sure they all have input.

There are different ways of tasking and Police tend to look at other things whereas RCC tend to know the aircraft better. If Police are doing the search and give RCC the aircraft tasking, then Police can concentrate on the search. Resourcing is key for tasking and working towards FED bids at the end of the year.

Justin advised that will continue to work with FENZ amongst other resources available to them e.g. the resource database but needs to be uplifted to have a fit for purpose tasking model.

### Decision

The Council:

- **Noted** progress on the Aviation Futures project
- **Commented** on aspects of the project.

## 12. Enchanter TAIC recommendations update

Justin advised this is progressing. The Aviation Futures work picks up a big chunk of these.

The second recommendation has been paused as need to talk about an aviation asset assessment and a gap analysis. The fuel one is ongoing.

The tasking proceedings is underway and the other one with the joint training is a bit difficult with Police and NZSAR so looking at on-scene coordination approach.

Heading into court in May with Enchanter so noise around this will come up again.

It was also advised that the coroner has reopened the investigation around the Essence Inquiry so working with Maritime on this. The coroner has asked questions relating to competencies regarding winching.

## 13. SAR Sector Carbon Emissions report 2022/23

Carbon emissions have gone up during the last year and the assessor had put this down to the number of search and rescues being done.

There may be some point having a conversation about how carbon emissions can be reduced but due to people being operational it may not be possible.

### **Decision**

The Council:

- **Noted** SAR Sector Carbon Emission Report 2022/23.
- **Discussed** options to manage SAR sector carbon emissions.

## **14. Land quarterly survey**

This survey has mimicked the Mountain Safety Council's survey. Been doing it for a short period and reported back to the Land Safety Forum. The numbers are interesting and informing on how people are recreating and their understanding of risk. The survey has been done three times but not convinced the right people are being asked but want to continue.

### **Decision**

- The Council **considered** the outputs of the Land Based Quarterly Survey.

## **15. Technology in SAR**

Duncan advised there is a technology strategy, and this is being supported to achieve it. There is going to be a forum on UAVs and for mobile phone locating where phones are deemed to be in the coverage areas. There are processes to follow and now have the capacity to find out from the technology provider where the phone is. A new project is being set up to find people who are out of the coverage areas. Will bring in contractors to help with this as there are privacy issues and who owns the frequencies.

Kirstie asked Bronwyn if this could be done along side the security work done by the Ministry. Bronwyn replied that yes it could potentially.

### **Action**

- Bronwyn and Duncan to meet to discuss whether the mobile phone locating project can be done along side the security work that is being done by the Ministry.

Justin mentioned from a RCC perspective, this is a critical tool to use these devices.

Duncan also said that need to work on messaging on how people can ask for help. People text each other if they need help but cannot text 111.

Mike said records need to be kept of why certain services couldn't be used especially if there is a coroner's enquiry.

### **Decision**

The Council noted:

- the Council approved the 2020 SAR technology strategy which provides direction to SAR agencies for the development and integration of existing or emerging technologies.
- the Secretariat hosts an Innovation and Technology Forum twice annually to support cross sector collaboration. An additional Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) online workshop will be held on 26 March 2024.
- processes now exist for SAR coordinators to locate mobile phones of missing persons (responsive or non-responsive) inside coverage areas.
- the Secretariat is establishing a project to explore options to locate the mobile phone of missing persons (responsive or non-responsive) outside of coverage areas.

## **16. Noting paper – SAR Training update**

The NZSAR Secretariat has successfully negotiated a new three-year MoU with TEC for 2024-2027. The amount the sector will receive each year from TEC for total training delivery is \$1,372,047.32. The training contracts between NZSAR and Land Search and Rescue for 2024 have been successfully negotiated and signed.

2023 saw a total of 133 courses delivered to the SAR sector via these contracts, which meant the underspend of TEC money was approximately \$22,000. This is a marked improvement on recent years.

The SAR Training Programme Advisory Committee met in early March and are committed to ensuring that the training calendar for 2024 remains full, with a waitlist of courses available to draw upon if there are cancellations.

## **17. Noting paper – NZSAR 2023-24 Workplan Update**

The Secretariat remains short one FTE which limits delivery of the agreed work programme.

## **18. Noting paper – Distress beacons behaviour change campaign**

Following on from three previous summer campaigns, NZSAR is again running a behaviour change campaign encouraging the hireage of beacons. This started on 4 December 2023 and is scheduled to run through to Anzac Day 2024. We are running a variety of ads across social media, relevant websites, and apps, as well as utilising several micro-influencers in the trail running, tramping, and boating communities.

As at 18 January, the campaign had delivered 10.1 million impressions resulting in 35,000 visits to the Maritime New Zealand beacons.nz website – strong results for only one-third of the way through. By comparison, last year's entire campaign delivered 8.4 million impressions resulted in 45,000 website visits.

Last year's campaign contributed to a 20% increase in beacons hired and 13% increase in beacons sold, compared to the previous summer period.



## 19. General Business

There was no general business.

## 20. Next meeting

11 June 2024

## 21. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
4.	Minutes of meeting Tuesday 12 December 2023	<b>Action:</b> Duncan and Graham to meet and discuss Maritime's concern and look at the meeting dates for the Lead Agency Workshop in April and ODESC meeting in May.	Duncan Ferner/Graham McLean	Exercise Whakarauora Tangata is complete.
6.	Directors Report	<b>Considered</b> the Director's Report.	N/A	N/A
6a.	SLA and MOU Investment Report Q2 2023/24	<b>Noted</b> the Q2 2023-24 SLA and MOU Investment Report	N/A	N/A
6c.	SAR Operational Activity Reports	<b>Noted</b> the level of SAR operational activities for the second quarter of 2023/24.  <b>Noted</b> based on the incident levels recorded across the first six months of 2023/24, there is a strong expectation that recorded SAR incidents for 2023/24 will be of a similar volume to last year.	N/A  N/A	N/A  N/A
6d.	SAR Sector Assurance report	<b>Action:</b> Ensure the Assurance Report clearly reflects its purpose, and the ratings encompass a global strategic position at the date of the report. SOG is requested to consider this carefully when	NZSAR	

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>reviewing the next Assurance report.</p> <p><b>Noted:</b></p> <p>a. the current level of assurance that operational search and rescue is fit for purpose is ‘considerable.’</p> <p>b. since December 2022, the ‘considerable’ assurance raw rating has slipped from 72.3% to 70.1% now representing the increasing pressure on the sector and the time it takes to resolve the complex issues presenting.</p> <p>c. that the following areas of focus of the Framework’s elements have been assessed at either ‘low’ or ‘moderate’ and work is in progress as follows to improve the level:</p> <p>i. <i>Secretariat</i> – work is being prioritised with non-urgent activities being postponed until current vacancies can be filled.</p> <p>ii. <i>SAR Aviation Assets</i> - NZ Police, RCCNZ, and the NZSAR Secretariat continue working together to consider possible tasking options and implementing standards to address</p>	N/A	N/A

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>discrepancies and concerns.</p> <p><i>iii. Funding</i> – Given the current level of time-limited FED funding, the tightening of available funding and increasing costs, consideration is being given to the implications for both the next FED funding and Budget rounds. SAR NGOs are also being encouraged to continue to explore all avenues of funding though the environments e.g. fundraising is very difficult. Funding is critical for robust, sustainable organisations and agencies are forecasting material deficits.</p> <p><i>iv. Operational Management</i> – Work to scope an appropriate Category 1 incident management operating system to replace the multitude of current methods and systems is paused while responsibility for the work is resolved. No sector-wide common operating picture</p>		

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p>system or process exists.</p> <p>v. <i>Operational Currency</i> – Discussions continue to permit the resumption of NZSAR Council sponsored independent reviews. A process will be developed to address the current gap between lessons identified and lessons learnt.</p> <p>vi. <i>Health and Safety at Work Act 2015</i> – A set of guidelines to clarify overlapping PCBU duties has been drafted and agencies are considering how to implement them and are intending to leverage off the Aviation Futures workstreams.</p> <p><b>Agreed</b> the proposed weighted levels of element criticality to assurance noting that in future assurance will be reported using a weighted view of criticality and the feedback received from SOG representatives.</p> <p><b>Discussed</b> the levels of assurance reflected in this report and the actions to address lower levels of assurance.</p>		

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
7.	2023 NZSAR Awards	<p><b>Noted</b> the advice provided by the Awards subcommittee.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the selection criteria in the NZSAR Awards policy (enclosed).</p> <p><b>Confirmed</b> the recipients for the 2023 NZSAR Awards, including the two additional Awards.</p> <p><b>Confirmed</b> that letters of recognition should be sent to the agencies and individuals whose nominations were unsuccessful.</p>	N/A	Successful 2023 Awards event completed Tues 21 May 2024.
8.	Risk item – Cohesive and Effective SAR Training	<p><b>Action:</b> Graham will provide Duncan with more information regarding the emergency towage vessels and Duncan will update the Operational capability risk on page eight of the risk register.</p>	Graham McLean / Duncan Ferner	Not yet complete
9.	Recreational Safety and SAR Review	<p><b>Action:</b> NZSAR Secretariat will organise a meeting for Council members and NGO CE's to look at the Councils value add and what the future looks like focusing on SAR and the original Cabinet minute. An independent facilitator will be engaged to lead a half day strategic workshop.</p> <p><b>Discussed</b> the recommendations from the 2023 Recreational Safety and Search and Rescue Review and provide Council input to</p>	<p>NZSAR</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>MNZ took over and ran this workshop. No Secretariat involvement.</p> <p>N/A</p>

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		the Ministry of Transport's advice process.		
10.	Strategic Discussion : SAR Sector Priorities	<p><b>Action:</b> Defer the priorities discussion until after the strategy session.</p> <p><b>Did not Agree</b> the Council's search and rescue / frontline safety service priorities for the 2024/25 year.</p> <p><b>Noted</b> the Chair will approve and sign the annual letters of intent and agreement on behalf of the Council.</p>	NZSAR  N/A	<p>Priorities approved by Chair out of session.</p> <p>To occur in June 2024</p>
11.	Aviation Futures progress	<p><b>Noted</b> progress on the Aviation Futures project</p> <p><b>Commented</b> on aspects of the project.</p>	N/A	N/A
13.	SAR Sector Carbon Emissions report 2022/23	<p><b>Noted</b> SAR Sector Carbon Emission Report 2022/23.</p> <p><b>Discussed</b> options to manage SAR sector carbon emissions.</p>	N/A	N/A
14.	Land Quarterly survey	<b>Considered</b> the outputs of the Land Based Quarterly Survey.	N/A	N/A
15.	Technology in SAR	<b>Action:</b> Bronwyn and Duncan to meet to discuss whether the mobile phone locating project can be done along side the security work that is being done by the Ministry.	Bronwyn Turley / Duncan Ferner	Continuing to follow up.

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
		<p><b>Noted:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Council approved the 2020 SAR technology strategy which provides direction to SAR agencies for the development and integration of existing or emerging technologies.</li> <li>• the Secretariat hosts an Innovation and Technology Forum twice annually to support cross sector collaboration. An additional Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) online workshop will be held on 26 March 2024.</li> <li>• processes now exist for SAR coordinators to locate mobile phones of missing persons (responsive or non-responsive) inside coverage areas.</li> <li>• the Secretariat is establishing a project to explore options to locate the mobile phone of missing persons (responsive or non-responsive) outside of coverage areas.</li> </ul>		N/A