



New Zealand Search and Rescue

**Minutes of the Combined Meeting of the
NZSAR Council and NZSAR Consultative Committee
2:00 – 4:00pm Wednesday 13 May 2009
6th Floor, Novell House,
89 The Terrace, Wellington**

Attendees:

Martin Matthews (MoT)	Catherine Taylor (MNZ)
Steve Douglas (CAA)	Gerry Prins (NZ Police)
Rachel Roberts (NZSAR)	Nigel Clifford (MNZ)
Peter Williams (MNZ)	Zelda Coetzee (MoT)
Roger Brown (MoT)	Viv Rickard (NZ Police)
Bruce Johnston (NZ Police)	John Fogden (CAA)
Jeff Sayer (AREC)	Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ)
Kevin Arlidge (NZDF)	Chris Tews (NZ MSC)
Mike Davies (DoC)	David Shearer (SARINZ)
Hadyn Smith (LandSAR)	John Scobie (LandSAR)
Bruce Reid (Coastguard NZ)	Colin Small (Coastguard NZ)
Ian Coard (Coastguard NZ)	Brendan Comerford (MOC)
Simon Eichelbaum (NZDF)	Darryl Carpenter (NZ MSC)
Erik Barnes (Antarctica NZ)	Rodney Bracefield (RCCNZ)
Doug Saunders-Loder (NZ FCF)	John Seward (RCCNZ)
David Waters (Ambulance NZ)	John Funnell (AIA/Ambulance NZ)
Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat)	
Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR Secretariat)	

1. Welcome

Martin Matthews (Chair) welcomed everyone to the combined meeting of the NZSAR Council and NZSAR Consultative Committee.

2. Apologies

Pete Dawson (NZ FCF)

2.1 Absent

Jim Stuart –Black (NZFS)

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting held on 19 February 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous Minutes

All matters arising from the previous minutes were on the agenda.

5. Strategic Discussion

5.1 The Chair invited strategic conversation around the future of the NZSAR sector and how it may be shaped in the next 20 years.

Hadyn Smith (LandSAR) and Bruce Reid (Coastguard) lead off the discussion with a though provoking presentation (enclosed) of where Search and Rescue might be in 20 years. Suggestions included:

- Changes to how we organise – perhaps one lead agency for SAR (a combined professional amalgam of volunteers and professionals).
- A SAR sector that is more proactive and less reactive.
- One set of SAR resources used and tracked across NZ.
- Compulsory live tracking of all groups or individuals that are legally at sea or in the outdoors.
- All SAR volunteers are selected based on support needs by the lead professional agency.
- An important ongoing challenge for the sector will be how best to train and retain volunteers.
- Have SAREXs coordinated nationally.
- CIMS, communications, etc are the same for the whole sector.
- Increased personal responsibility.
- Better use of advanced technology for things like up to date weather forecasting, providing locations, tracking.

Lengthy general discussion was held following the presentation. The discussion emphasised the need for the SAR sector to be involved in preventative strategies and in support of public education. The meeting also agreed that the SAR sector had a place in promoting greater responsibility and accountability by individuals for their actions (or inactions) and perhaps less on rescue organisations.

The meeting also noted a trend towards by the New Zealand public towards “SAR dependence” and the development of unrealistic expectations by some about the effectiveness of SAR.

6. Service Level Agreements

6.1 Monitoring Report

Carl van der Meulen presented a report (enclosed) on Coastguard and LandSAR’s outputs and performance in the 1 January 2009 - 31 March 2009 quarter.

- LandSAR met all its reporting requirements as laid out under the terms of the SLA, and the Coordinating Authorities are satisfied with the services provided by LandSAR during the quarter.
- Coastguard has met the majority of its reporting requirements as laid out under the terms of the SLA, and the Coordinating Authorities are satisfied with the services provided by Coastguard during the quarter.

- Coastguard reported that five of their volunteers required medical assistance after an incident at Tutukaka on 4 March 2009.
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand was not required to produce a report this quarter.
- The AREC SLA has not been signed yet.

Concern was expressed that some volunteers experienced difficulty with life insurance while involved in SAR activities, and attendees were requested to report any such issues to the NZSAR Secretariat.

7. NZSAR training review implementation

The NZSAR Council adopted recommendations of the NZSAR Training review at their previous meeting and instructed the Secretariat to present a proposed training review action plan for consideration at this meeting.

NZSAR Council members **approved** the proposed action plan (enclosed).

8. Draft NZSAR Plan

The Secretariat Manager distributed the Draft NZSAR Plan prior to the meeting. The draft plan was **approved**, subject to a section on SAR Prevention being included in the plan.

The Secretariat Manager was tasked to prepare the additional SAR Prevention section for approval by the Chair.

9. Sector Update - focus on finances

- **RCCNZ**
RCCNZ is currently projecting a deficit budget. The beacons database and associated staff remains critical but unfunded. Noting that variable search costs continue to increase, RCCNZ should be able to maintain current services. With the increase in PLB usage, RCCNZ anticipates the numbers of hours per rescue to go down but the numbers of rescues to increase.
- **LandSAR**
LandSAR is operating on a small surplus for 2008/09 but is trying to improve its level of support at the coal face. They are looking to appoint a National Training Coordinator, and an extra Field Officer in each Island making a total of up to five paid positions for the organisation.
- **SARINZ**
Both costs and income are increasing for SARINZ, with income being assessed as secure until 2010. The ability to deliver training has not yet been affected.

- **Antarctica NZ**
Antarctica NZ has made internal efficiency gains which will ensure its short term operations. Serious long term funding issues remain. SAR services will not be compromised.
- **DoC**
DoC is facing budget reductions but these will have no impact on the ACR SAR team at Aoraki Mt Cook. The reductions will have some impact on day to day recreational operations and some risk management projects. DoC continues to work on risk reduction and prevention initiatives, including the visitor risk management system. DoC, MSC and other partner agencies are collaborating to improve the consistency of and public access to safety messages for the land environment.
- **Mountain Safety Council**
MSC may have to reduce services due to reduced funding. At the same time, there are increased expectations of MSC's services. MSC is now trying to reposition for sustained education focusing efforts of research, addressing identified need and evaluating the effectiveness of programmes.
- **NZDF**
They will be continuing their contracted service including SAR to the Government. RNZAF SAR hours are trending downwards when compared to historic data. In noting that land based rotary operating costs are escalating, the NZDF requested that the coordinating authorities use the most appropriate SAR resource, not the cheapest (NZDF). Over the next 12 to 18 months NZDF resources are expected to be stretched due to the need to bring new equipment into service. In the long term, the NZDF will have enhanced capabilities which will be available for SAR responses.
- **Federation of Commercial Fishermen**
The Federation of Commercial Fishermen noted their strong commitment to SAR and intent to continue to participate as required. They also remain focussed on SAR preventative measures and education among Federation members.
- **Maritime Operations Centre**
The MoC is having some staff retention issues due to their well trained staff being seen as highly desirable by other organisations.
- **Coastguard**
Coastguard activities are continuing to be restricted by the funding that is available. Some projects, such as capital replacements have been delayed. Most of the available funding is being directed to the regions and units. Coastguard maintains its commitment to invest funds received back into the community.

The successful Now-Casting service is short of funding and is being examined closely in order to reduce the existing costs of this service.

Overall Coastguard revenue is down with fewer Coastguard lottery tickets being purchased but the level of donations is rising.

Lottery Grants Board funding (a vital income source for Coastguard) for the coming year is unknown at this time. Two 42 year old vessels need replacing @ \$1m each. The overall number of Coastguard volunteers remains static.

- **Surf Life Saving New Zealand**

Surf Life Saving New Zealand noted a 20% decline in funding for 2008/09. In response, they have developed a lean management plan for 2009/2010 and will postpone and/or delay projects as necessary. It was noted that in lean years, preventative work, awareness and education are the first to be scaled down. Project "Groundswell", a club driven re-examination of how SLSNZ is organised and operates has suggested the removal of the nine SLSNZ regions and may potentially save \$1m in costs.

- **Civil Aviation Authority**

The CAA noted that it receives most of its income from levies and industry charges. This income is reducing and they are now operating on a deficit budget. A funding review is being conducted but the meeting was reassured that core roles such as certification, safety, accident investigations and support to SAR will continue.

- **Ambulance NZ**

Ambulance NZ is partially Crown funded (\$130m Crown, \$70m Health, \$60m ACC) but the overall funding is significantly less than that which is required to maintain service levels. A further \$100m is needed from the community.

It was noted that as injury prevention efforts succeed, then operational funding reduces. Also the cost of capital assets and of service delivery was rising. A National Ambulance Strategy is being considered by the Government. A funding increase is not expected and they are anticipating a reduction in community support. They may have to consider reducing services.

- **NZ Police**

The Police noted that the demand for service was growing but funding was not. In response, the Police will concentrate on core business noting that this will create a tension around prevention issues, affecting medium and long term safety strategies. The 12 Police District's funding will remain and changes to SAR at district level are not anticipated. The Lady Elizabeth in Wellington will be replaced with a similar vessel as that purchased for Auckland and digital radios will be introduced shortly.

- **AREC**

To date, AREC's only funding comes from a grant from the NZ Police. Some additional funding will become available when the AREC Service Level Agreement has been signed.

10. NZSAR Secretariat Matters

10.1 SLA/MOU Map

The Secretariat Manager presented a draft map (enclosed) that illustrates the current and planned formal SLA and MOU linkages between SAR sector organisations. Members were asked to check these, and to inform the Secretariat Manager of any changes or updates.

10.2 GIS

The Secretariat Manager presented two GIS maps (prepared by Massey University) that were produced using Police land SAROP data for the first three quarters of the financial year. These were presented as examples of what can be produced very quickly and easily by using accurate operational data.

10.3 Beacons Registration

Beacons registrations are over 15,000 at the end of April 2009. There is a steady trend of large numbers (over 500) of PLBs being registered every month. It is likely that this will lead to an increase in the number of land based beacon alerts.

10.4 Water Safety New Zealand Conference

The Secretariat Manager promoted the WSNZ conference that will be held in Wellington 26-27th November 2009. WSNZ are calling for organisations to register to make presentations to the conference.

11. NZSAR Asset Database Update

Nigel Clifford gave a brief presentation on the creation of an online map/database of SAR assets throughout New Zealand which was approved by the NZSAR Council at their previous meeting. He illustrated a mock up of how the proposed database might look and perform. He reported that the initial concept design had been completed and the process to work with stakeholders has started. The purchase of hardware has been planned and software was under development. Initial data entry was planned for June 2009 and the roll out phase was expected in the fourth quarter of 2009.

10. General Business

10.1 Air Ambulance and Air Rescue Standard

The Aviation Industry Association and Ambulance NZ have agreed on the scope of the Standard. Ambulance NZ will lead the work on the Standard and a draft should be ready for consultation by June 2009, with publication expected by the end of 2009.

10.2 NZSAR Awards function

Duncan Ferner reminded all present of the NZSAR Awards function to be held at Parliament later in the day.

10.3 Expression of condolences

Martin Matthews expressed his condolences to the NZ Police and acknowledged the ultimate sacrifice made by their colleague.

Proposed Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 3:06pm

Martin Matthews
Chair

1 Action Tasks

Action	Responsibility
6.1 Consultative Committee members to inform the Secretariat Manager of any issues that their volunteers are facing with regard to insurance.	Consultative Committee
8 A section on SAR prevention is to be included in the NZSAR Plan.	Secretariat Manager
10.1 Consultative Committee members are to inform the Secretariat Manager of any updates to the SAR SLA/MOU Map.	Consultative Committee