



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

## Minutes of Meeting

Combined meeting of the Search and Rescue

Consultative Committee and Search and Rescue Council.

12:15 – 4:00pm Wednesday 23 August 2006

6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference rooms, Novell House,

89 The Terrace, Wellington

**Attendees:** Alan Thompson, Russell Kilvington, Peter Stockwell, Tony Mcleod, Kevin Rangi, John Funnell, Peter Williams, Mike Cuddihy, Geoff Logan, Ian Nicholson, Laurie Gallagher, Chris Raley, David Waters, Paul Fistonich, Jim Stuart-Black, Brendan Comerford, Graeme McKay, Duncan Ferner, Lyn Turner

### 1. Welcome

The new Chairman, Alan Thompson, welcomed everyone to the combined meeting, and asked for everyone to introduce themselves as there were three new members attending their first meeting.

### 2. Apologies

John Jones, Rodger Pringle, Roscoe Tait, Peter Garnett, Jeff Sayer

### 3. Minutes of previous combined meeting (26 April 2006)

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted.

### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The matters arising from the previous minutes are on the agenda as separate items.

### 5. ZK-HTF Independent Review Action Plan

The SAR Secretariat Manager (SSM) spoke to the ZK-HTF Independent Review recommendation response plan distributed prior to the meeting.

The paper is now available for download on the NZSAR Council website and it was sent to the Klatte and Erceg families as well as Paul Fitzharris. There has been no feedback from the families to the Secretariat at this time, nor has there been any follow up media interest.

John Funnell noted that he had recently visited the Netherlands and had been in contact with the Klatte family. He indicated that they were grateful for the

contact they had received during and after the search. He passed along their thanks to the Council.

Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) outlined their progress in responding to the recommendations relevant to MNZ. Of the 24 major recommendations involving MNZ, most have been implemented. The remaining recommendations have resource and cost implications and will, therefore, take longer to deal with. It is anticipated that the NZSAR Strategic Funding Paper, if it is approved, will assist in addressing these recommendations.

The SSM spoke to 2 recommendations; f. relating to mapping software and w. relating to SAR technology.

**Mapping Software.** A comparison table of four mapping software applications was examined. It was noted that each application produced proprietary electronic data which, for the most part, was not compatible with the other applications. It was also noted that most SAR agencies which used mapping software had a level of established investment in whatever application they had selected.

**Action:** In order to address the recommendation for the short to medium term, it was agreed that the RCCNZ would develop itself so that it was able to adapt to whatever electronic mapping information it was sent from other SAR agencies.

For the long term, it was agreed that a single mapping application would be the ideal for the SAR sector and that the process to identify what that software application might be should be incorporated into the SAR strategic plan.

**Technology.** To address recommendation w. relating to SAR technology, the SSM recommended that the Secretariat become the New Zealand information collation point for new SAR technology developments. The SSM requested that as people become aware of new technology, they provide relevant information to the Secretariat where it can be managed and distributed as appropriate.

## **6. Strategic Funding process update**

SSM informed the meeting that the NZSAR Strategic Funding Cabinet paper is currently with Ministers. The chair indicated that it is possible that there may be some limited additional funding in the current financial year but that it is likely that any major funding increase would be deferred to the next budget round.

## **7. NZSAR Secretariat Funding 2007/2008**

The Chair requested that, as a precaution, should funding for the Secretariat via the NZSAR Strategic funding paper not eventuate, all current contributing agencies make allowance for continued funding from budgets of \$45,000 each (an increase of \$5,000 from previous years), in order for the Secretariat

to be able to continue to operate. There was no dissention from members present.

## 8. General Business

a. **ZK-NCA – Coroners Report.** The SSM spoke to the papers about the Search and Rescue aspects of the Air Adventures incident. These papers had been distributed prior to the meeting.

MNZ Director questioned the paper being publicised with the SAR Council letterhead, without having been endorsed by all members of the the Council. It was suggested that it should have come out under the SAR Secretariat banner.

There was some discussion about the document and the general purpose of it, which generated further discussion around the inconsistent use and interpretation of Search and Rescue language.

**Action:** The SSM is to consult with RCCNZ and Police to verify if ZK-NCA SAR papers issued to date require further follow up clarification and to issue such a clarification if it is deemed necessary.

b. **NZSAR Funding.** SSM identified two instances where the NZSAR Council has been requested to assist with funding SAR initiatives. Guidance was requested on how to address these requests and any such future requests. It was noted that neither the NZSAR Council, Consultative Committee nor Secretariat has discretionary funding available to disperse. The two requests involved funding for:

- direction finding equipment for LandSAR; and,
- the conduct of marine SAR training for an emergency response group on the Chatham Islands.

After discussion, it was agreed that the NZSAR Council was not in a position to provide financial assistance nor would it try to create that capacity. It was agreed that these types of request would be better redirected to other bodies with funds for assistance such as the Lottery Grants Board. In certain circumstances, bids for Crown funding could also be developed for inclusion in the annual budget process.

MNZ noted that as a result of an independent review, Crown funding had been made available to upgrade the radio communications on the Chatham Islands. This was due to be completed within six to eight months.

**Action:** It was agreed that that the SSM would write back to each applicant advising that there is currently no Crown funding available via the NZSAR Council and directing them to other sources of funding.

c. **RCCNZ Service Level Agreements.** RCCNZ advised the meeting of the advances being made in relation to the development of Service Level Agreements (SLA), as raised in the ZK-HTF Independent Review. RCCNZ is

currently working with the AIA to develop a 'strawman' SLA and is a work in progress.

e. **SAR Training.** The nature and structure of SAR sector training was discussed. It was noted that at the higher levels of SAR organisation, there is a lack of consistent documentation. The fragmented nature of SAR training delivery was also noted. It was agreed that the NZSAR Council and Consultative Committee needed to provide leadership in this area in order to coordinate the delivery of appropriate SAR training for the entire sector within an agreed doctrinal framework. MoT suggested that further discussion on a framework for SAR training in New Zealand.

It was also agreed that the NZSAR Strategic Plan required updating and that it was to be reviewed at the next meeting of the NZSAR Council.

**Action:** The SAR Secretariat is to work on the coordination of SAR training, including the development of appropriate training standards and the development of a capstone SAR doctrinal document for use by SAR training providers. The SSM requested input from SAR organisations to enable this work to proceed.

d. **On Scene Coordinators.** RCCNZ advised that work continues to train and develop On Scene Coordinators. It was noted that this matter was also identified in the ZK-HTF Independent Review. Further work on this issue remains to be done.

**Action:** RCCNZ, the SSM and Police will work together to progress the development of On Scene Coordinators.

f. **NZSAR Statistics.** The SSM raised the issue of a lack of coordinated, sector wide, SAR statistics for the New Zealand SAR region. It was noted that while agencies keep their own incident statistics, the lack of a coordinated statistical framework for recording SAR incidents hinders the sectors ability to engage effectively with Government and The Treasury in an evidence based manner. The Chair reinforced this concern. The SSM has been in preliminary discussions with the statistics element of the MoT to develop an understanding of the scope of the issue.

**Action:** The development of effective SAR statistics is a high priority for the secretariat and this is to be recognised in the revised NZSAR strategic plan.

g. **NZSAR Awards – 2005 and 2006.** The SSM requested some guidance on the NZSAR Awards process. It was agreed that the nominations would close on 31 October 2006 and that any award would be for service "over and above" normal duties. Deserving recipients should be considered from 2005 and 2006 calendar year as the award was not given in 2005. If no-one meets the criteria from either year then the award will not be given.

**Action:** SAR agencies are to forward nominations for the New Zealand SAR award, if any, to the NZSAR Secretariat prior to 31 October 2006.

h. **Beacons.** The SSM briefed the meeting on the progress of the beacons campaign. He also provided information to the meeting on the decommissioning of the GOES 9 satellite and the potential impact for New Zealand on the effectiveness on the 406 MHz when this satellite is decommissioned in mid 2007.

**Action:** The SSM will continue to work with COSPAS-SARSAT, NOAA and Australia and keep the Council updated.

i. **Channel 16.** Police raised concern over a problem being experienced with Channel 16 in certain circumstances. MOC responded identifying a specific radio related problem occurring when ships were in close proximity to each other and that work was being done to resolve the issue.

9. **Next meetings**

- a. NZSAR Consultative Committee – 15 Nov 06 – at RCCNZ. Meeting date agreed.
- b. NZSAR Council – 22 Nov 06 – Novell House. Conflicts with other MNZ meeting. The SSM to identify a different date suitable for all NZSAR Council members.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3pm.