



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

14:00 – 15:30pm Wednesday 22 November 2006

### Minutes

**Present:** Kevin Rangi, Mike Cuddihy, Geoff Logan, Laurie Gallagher, Chris Raley, David Waters, Paul Fistonich, Jim Stuart-Black, Brendon Comerford, Graeme McKay, Jeff Sayer, Duncan Ferner, Lyn Turner, Jean Murray, Brian Murray.

#### 1. Welcome

The SAR Secretariat Manager (SSM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the two guests to those present: Brian Murray who is undertaking a review of the SAR Secretariat and Jean Murray, the Chief Executive of the National Search and Rescue Secretariat in Canada.

#### 2. Apologies:

Ian Nicholson, Roscoe Tait

#### 3. Minutes of previous combined meeting of 23 August 2006

Minutes of the previous minutes were accepted (Rangi/Waters). It was noted that the previous minutes were from a combined meeting.

#### 4. Matters arising from the previous combined Minutes

- a. **SAR Awards.** SSM informed the meeting that there had been no nominations put forward for the SAR Award, covering both the 2005 & 2006 years. Some disappointment was expressed but there was also the view that not having any nominations served to ensure that the prestigious nature of the award is maintained by not awarding it if the strict criteria had not been sufficiently met.
- b. **Mapping Software.** RCCNZ informed the meeting that it had been researching the various mapping software used by a number of different sector agencies. It was noted that any additional software needed to work within the current IT environment of Maritime NZ. More time is required to progress this action point.
- c. **NZSAR Funding.** SSM briefed the meeting on strategic funding issues. The request for between-budget funding has been declined, but a new initiative bid for Budget 2007 will be made by 1 December 2006. Following discussions with Treasury and the Ministers office, the initiative will be based around Option 2 from the original draft strategic funding paper. The initiative will be supported by a policy Cabinet paper as there are policy implications.

- d. **SAR Training.** SSM advised the meeting that this action point has not progressed due to work on higher priority strategic matters. It was agreed that fundamental organisational aspects needed to be resolved and the strategic plan updated before this could be fully addressed.
- e. **Beacons and Cospas-Sarsat update.** SSM gave a presentation on developments with the beacons campaign and regarding Cospas-Sarsat. It was agreed that the [www.beacons.org.nz](http://www.beacons.org.nz) website would be amended to strengthen the advice in relation to GPS equipped 406MHz beacons.

## 5. **Drowning Prevention Strategy**

SSM informed the meeting of the existence of the Drowning Prevention Strategy (DPS) being managed by the ACC. The DPS management group has invited the SSM to represent the NZSAR Council as it deliberates its implementation plan. The SSM noted that the existence and responsibilities of the NZSAR Council and its associated bodies are now known to the DPS management group.

## 6. **NZSAR Strategic Plan**

SSM sought comments on the current National Strategic Plan (2004 – 2014) as a precursor to its revision. Discussion ensued regarding:

- Developing a framework document with a supporting strategic and operational objectives document or annex .
- The need to clarify the definitions of what is (and is not) search and rescue.
- The concept of an annual SAR report being published
- The development of a SAR risk register
- There was support for an audit of current SAR capacity and an analysis of gaps in coverage and capacity.

## 7. **Current organisation update**

Each represented sector agency gave a brief on their current SAR work and issues for the benefit of the others present.

- AREC. New callsign system has been introduced and members are adjusting to it.
- LandSAR. The new organisation of LandSAR is now in effect. Board has been selected and business manager should be appointed soon. Very successful conference held in Dunedin.
- NZDF. Largely business as usual for the NZDF in relation to SAR. Outline of resources given.
- DoC. Outline of DoC involvement in SAR within New Zealand including responsibility for very large land holdings and the dedicated mountain rescue unit for Aoraki Mt Cook.
- MoT. No specific issues were raised.

- Ambulance NZ. Air Ambulance reference group has been established by Min Health & ACC to examine air ambulances. SAR taskings will be included in these deliberations. Ambulance Services Sector Standards DZ 8156 is in draft form and is currently open for public comment.
- Maritime NZ. A new director of MaritimeNZ has been appointed, Cath Taylor. A brief update on the work of RCCNZ was given.
- Fire Service. Various engagements relating to SAR including with Maritime NZ regarding dealing with fire at sea, dealing with oil spills etc. It was agreed that a briefing from Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) would be of benefit to the Consultative Committee. This will be arranged for a meeting in 2007.
- MOC. MOC parent organisation now rebranded from BCL to Kordia. The parent company provides same service for Australia as it does in NZ in relation to SAR.
- Coastguard NZ. SAR business as usual. New strategic plan has been adopted and new structures are settling in. A training study has been established.
- NZ Police. Police statistics indicate a 10% drop in incidents although the poor weather conditions over the winter may be partly responsible for a lack of activity.
- Updates for the Aviation Industry Association, Surf Life Saving New Zealand and the Civil Aviation Authority were not given.

#### 8. **New NZSAR Consultative Committee Members**

It was noted that NZ Surf Life Saving has agreed to join the NZSAR Consultative Committee following an approach by the SSM. Further matters relating to this item were not discussed due to time limitations.

#### 9. **General Business**

- a. Cook Strait Ferry Review. MNZ briefly outlined the existence of this review and its relationship to SAR.
- b. Australian Emergency Management Conference. SSM noted the existence of this conference and associated games. Offered to provide further information to anyone who was interested.
- c. Met Service. SSM briefed on proposed enhancements to service.

**10. Proposed next meetings 2007:**

<b>NZSAR Counsultative Committee</b>	<b>NZSAR Council</b>
21 Feb	28 Feb
23 May (Combined)	23 May (Combined)
15 Aug	22 Aug
14 Nov	21 Nov

**Closure.** The meeting closed at 3:40pm.

Duncan Ferner  
NZSAR Secretariat Manager  
Chair

Following the meeting, Jean Murray, the Executive Director of the Canadian National Search and Rescue Secretariat provided a very informative presentation and then went on to host a Q&A session. A number of very important issues were raised during this time, not least Jean's professional view on the status of the NZ SAR system. I believe it would be in everyone's best interest to include some of her comments in the Minutes. Particular her comment that ' the NZ system appears to be made up of disparate groups of SAR participants and the big question is what level of co-ordination of these participants is appropriate for NZ'. This international perspective she was able to provide was most useful.