



State Rescue Board

of

New South Wales

ANNUAL REPORT

2006-2007

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE - PRELIMINARY 5

 LEGISLATION AND ESTABLISHMENT 5

 CHARTER 6

 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES 6

 STATE RESCUE BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2006-07 7

 ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE BOARD 8

 SUB COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD 9

 Annex 1-A. State Rescue Board – Member’s Attendance 10

 Annex 1-B. Volunteer Marine Rescue Council – Member’s Attendance 11

CHAPTER TWO - OVERVIEW OF STATE RESCUE BOARD AND VOLUNTEER
MARINE RESCUE COUNCIL OPERATIONS 2006-2007 13

 PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS 13

 ADVISORY BODIES 14

 GENERAL 15

 OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS - VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE COUNCIL
2006-2007 15

 Annex 2-A. Summary of Accredited Land and Vertical Rescue Units 20

 Annex 2-B. Summary of Accredited Marine Rescue Resources 30

CHAPTER THREE - REPORT OF OPERATIONS 38

 RESCUE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING 38

CHAPTER FOUR - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESCUE
OPERATIONS 46

 OVERVIEW OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESCUE
ARRANGEMENTS AND RESOURCES 46

 DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESCUE
RESOURCES 47

 THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DISTRICT RESCUE COMMITTEE
STRUCTURE 48

 DISTRICT RESCUE COMMITTEES 48

CHAPTER FIVE - BOARD SECRETARIAT SERVICES 56

 THE STAFF OF THE STATE RESCUE BOARD 56

 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 56

 CONSULTANTS 56

 PUBLICATIONS 57

 FINANCE 57

 CONTACT DETAILS 57

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CHAPTER ONE - PRELIMINARY

LEGISLATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

The key piece of legislation relating to the rescue arrangements in New South Wales is the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act, 1989*.

Section 42 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act* (the Act) provides for a corporation with the corporate name of the State Rescue Board of New South Wales (the Board). The Board is, for the purposes of any Act, a statutory body representing the Crown.

Section 43 (1) of the Act provides that the Board is to consist of not less than eight members, being:

- the State Emergency Operations Controller;
- the Director General of the State Emergency Service;
- a member of the Police Senior Executive Service nominated by the Commissioner of Police;
- the Commissioner of the New South Wales Fire Brigades;
- the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service;
- the State Superintendent of the Ambulance Service of New South Wales;
- the President of the Volunteer Rescue Association of New South Wales;
- the Chairperson of the Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of New South Wales; and
- the heads of any other volunteer rescue agencies approved for the time being by the Minister.

Section 43 (2) of the Act provides that one of the members of the Board is to be appointed as Chairperson by the Minister.

Section 45 of the Act provides that the Board is, in the exercise of its functions, subject to the control and direction of the Minister.

CHARTER

Corporate Objective

The Corporate Objective, which flows from the Act, is to ensure the maintenance of efficient and effective rescue services throughout New South Wales.

Functions

The Board is required to:

- develop policies to promote the provision of comprehensive, balanced and coordinated rescue services throughout the State;
- make recommendations to the Minister on policy matters relating to the provision of rescue services within the State;
- review planning for single incident rescues within the State;
- review and disseminate to relevant agencies technical information relating to rescue operations;
- ensure proper liaison and coordination with Federal and other State organisations in connection with rescue services;
- provide advice and recommendations on the compatibility of rescue equipment, including communications equipment;
- make recommendations to the Minister on the accreditation of rescue units (both permanent and volunteer) for participation in rescue operations;
- make recommendations to the Minister on levels of Government support (including financial assistance under Section 60 of the Act) to volunteer organisations providing rescue services;
- assist in the conduct of training exercises in rescue operations involving the various agencies concerned;
- monitor the training standards of the permanent and volunteer services in rescue;
- review proposals for amendment of legislation relating to rescue and make recommendations to the Minister; and
- make reports or recommendations to the Minister on any matter referred to the Board by the Minister.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

There were no amendments to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act, 1989* during the reporting period.

STATE RESCUE BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2006-07

- Chairperson Mr P C Koperberg AO AFSM BEM
Commissioner
NSW Rural Fire Service
(to 15 December 2006)
- Brigadier P McNamara CSC
Director General
NSW State Emergency Service
(from 16 December 2006)
- Members Deputy Commissioner A Scipione APM
State Emergency Operations Controller
- Assistant Commissioner M Goodwin APM
Commander, Central Metropolitan Region
NSW Police Force
(to 26 December 2006)
- Assistant Commissioner D Owens APM
Commander, Central Metropolitan Region
NSW Police Force
(from 27 December 2006)
- Mr G Mullins AFSM
Commissioner
NSW Fire Brigades
- Mr G Rochford PSM
Chief Executive Officer
Ambulance Service of NSW
- Mr R Rogers AFSM
Acting Commissioner
NSW Rural Fire Service
(from 16 December 2006)
- Brigadier P J McNamara CSC
Director General
State Emergency Service
- Mr R G Gill ESM
President
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc
- Commodore M Stringer ESM OAM
Chairman
Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of NSW

ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE BOARD

The Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of New South Wales

The Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of NSW advises the Board on all maritime rescue matters.

Chairperson: Mr D Morgan ESM (to 30 July 2006)
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association

Commodore M Stringer ESM OAM (from 30 July 2006)
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol

Members: Commodore F Robards ESM
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association

Commodore B Mitchell (from 31 July 2006)
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association

Sergeant D Buchanan (from 1 January 2007 to 11 April 2007)
NSW Police Force Marine Area Command

Superintendent T Dalton (Deputy Chair)
NSW Police Force Marine Area Command

Sergeant A Hill (from 12 April 2007)
NSW Police Force Marine Area Command

Sergeant R Trussell (to 1 January 2007)
NSW Police Force Marine Area Command

Mr W Carter
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc

Mr S Reading
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc

Mr R King (to 8 October 2006)
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol

Commodore S Denneen (from 8 October 2006)
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol

SUB COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Training Policy Committee

The Training Policy Committee has been established as a standing committee to provide subject matter advice to the Board on rescue training issues. The Committee is comprised of representatives of each of the agencies providing rescue services in New South Wales, and is chaired by the State Rescue Board's Planning Officer.

A Technical Rescue Sub-Committee can be established at the request of the Chair, to advise the Training Policy Committee on technical rescue training, techniques, procedures and equipment, as the need arises.

The Training Policy Committee did not meet during the reporting period.

Table 1-A. State Rescue Board Members' Attendance

Member	Present	Represented
Mr P Koperberg Commissioner NSW Rural Fire Service	2/2	Nil
Brigadier P McNamara Director General State Emergency Service	4/4	Nil
Deputy Commissioner A Scipione State Emergency Operations Controller	1/4	3
Assistant Commissioner M Goodwin Commander, Central Metropolitan Region NSW Police Service Force	1/2	1
Assistant Commissioner D Owens Commander, Central Metropolitan Region NSW Police Service Force	1/2	1
Mr G Rochford Chief Executive Officer Ambulance Service of NSW	3/4	1
Mr G Mullins Commissioner NSW Fire Brigades	3/4	1
Mr R Rogers Acting Commissioner NSW Rural Fire Service	0/2	2
Mr R Gill President NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc	4/4	Nil
Commodore M Stringer Chairman Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of NSW	4/4	Nil

Note: The State Rescue Board conducted four meetings during the reporting period - 23 August 2006, 11 December 2006, 7 March 2007 and 6 June 2007.

Table 1-B. Volunteer Marine Rescue Council Members' Attendance

Member	Present	Represented
Commodore B Mitchell Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association	5/5	Nil
Mr D Morgan Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association	1/1	Nil
Commodore F Robards Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association	6/6	Nil
Sergeant D Buchanan NSW Police Force Marine Area Command	1/1	Nil
Superintendent T Dalton NSW Police Force Marine Area Command	1/6	5
Sergeant A Hill NSW Police Force Marine Area Command	3/4	1
Sergeant R Trussell NSW Police Force Marine Area Command	1/1	Nil
Mr W Carter NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc	6/6	Nil
Mr S Reading NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc	6/6	Nil
Mr S Denneen Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	5/5	Nil
Mr R King Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	1/1	Nil
Commodore M Stringer Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	6/6	Nil

Note: The Volunteer Marine Rescue Council conducted six meetings during the reporting period - 30 July 2006, 8 October 2006, 3 December 2006, 4 February 2007, 1 April 2007 and 3 June 2007.

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CHAPTER TWO - OVERVIEW OF STATE RESCUE BOARD AND VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE COUNCIL OPERATIONS 2006-2007

The Board is responsible for the development and promulgation of rescue policy, the setting and monitoring of training standards, providing advice and recommendations on the compatibility of rescue equipment, assisting in the conduct of training exercises and for recommending the accreditation of rescue units to the Minister.

The Board held four meetings over the year, focusing much of its attention on progressing the recommendations of the Performance Audit into the Coordination of Rescue in NSW.

PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

In July 2005 the NSW Auditor General presented to the NSW Parliament a report titled *Coordination of Rescue Services: State Rescue Board of New South Wales*. The audit sought to examine the extent of strategic planning for land rescue and how the Board assigns rescue units and establishes and maintains minimum service levels. It did not comment on which agency or agencies should be providing rescue services, nor evaluate the performance of individual providers in regard to rescue.

The Audit Report made a series of recommendations which were endorsed by the State Rescue Board in 2005. These relate to the need to:

- Develop a strategic approach to rescue
- Introduce service standards
- Enhance accreditation criteria
- Improve information on performance
- Improve compliance

In light of the Audit Report, the State Rescue Board commissioned a strategic analysis of land rescue, which is being undertaken by NSW Rural Fire Service Assistant Commissioner Croweller AFSM. At its meeting in June 2007, the State Rescue Board considered a draft interim report on the strategic analysis. The draft interim report provided the Board with a series of recommendations for consideration ahead of the final report expected to be completed in 2007/08. The draft interim report guided the Board to adopt the following strategic directions to progress on going work to address the recommendations of the Audit Report:

- Define Metropolitan, Regional and Remote areas for general land rescue
- Develop draft response time standards for those areas
- Develop data management principles to record information on rescue responses
- Develop an Incident Control System for rescue
- Develop a Risk Management framework for general land rescue

The Board has recruited a Planning Officer who will work with the rescue agencies to progress the strategic directions during 2007/08.

ADVISORY BODIES

The Board's Volunteer Marine Rescue Council met six times during the reporting period. In addition to providing advice to the Board on applications for marine accreditation, the Council focused on monitoring the annual inspection program, monitoring the progress of the marine rescue services improvement program and finalising a system of vessel survey and certification with the NSW Maritime Authority.

The Board's Training Advisory Panel, in accordance with the revised Policy, was disbanded and replaced by a Training Policy Committee, to be supported by Technical Rescue and Marine Technical Sub-committees.

Rescue Committees are established at both Local and District Emergency Management levels. The Committees comprise representatives of emergency service organisations that operate at the respective levels. These committees are chaired by an appropriate senior NSW Police officer in recognition of the responsibility of Police to coordinate rescue operations. The Committees are responsible for ensuring an appropriate level of rescue resources in their defined geographic area and for making recommendations to the Board concerning the accreditation of land and maritime rescue resources.

GENERAL

The agencies provided statistical information on road accident rescue to be submitted to the Productivity Commission for the Report on Government Services. The information required for the Report at this stage remains confined to the reported number of road rescues and the number of reported road rescue extrications. For the year 2006-07 the agencies reported 6,932 road rescues, of which 4,476 involved extrications. This compares with 6,358 rescues for 4,073 extrications in 2005/06.

The Board recommended to the Minister that \$1.2 million be made available to the Volunteer Rescue Association for the 2006-07 financial year.

The Board also made recommendations to the Minister on the disbursement of \$1,258,800 provided in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement negotiated with the NSW Maritime Authority.

The Minister for Emergency Services again made provision of \$250,000 for cross agency emergency management and rescue training. Of this \$54,000 was made available to the Board. Allocations were made from these funds to help conduct 24 rescue training activities across the State, involving members from all the rescue agencies.

The training of individual rescue operators to the Board's rescue training standards and the recording of information relating to qualified operators is the responsibility of the individual rescue agencies.

At the conclusion of the reporting period, there were 193 primary and 130 secondary accredited land rescue units. Of the 323 accredited land rescue units, 94 units are accredited for vertical rescue operations.

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS - VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE COUNCIL 2006-2007

The Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of New South Wales is an advisory body to the State Rescue Board on all maritime rescue matters. The Council comprises representatives of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association, the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and the NSW Police Marine Area Command.

The close working relationship between the marine rescue agencies was evident with the transfer from of assets and accreditations between agencies at Wollongong, Bermagui and Norah Head (see Accreditations section, below). These transfers were undertaken to enhance the efficiency of marine rescue arrangements.

Mission Statement

The Council's Mission Statement is:

To provide the necessary climate and environment for the achievement of a fully integrated and coordinated marine rescue service for the New South Wales Coastline.

Corporate Objectives

In 1996 the Minister for Emergency Services issued the Council with the following Corporate Objectives as part of the Memorandum of Agreement between the organisations represented on Council:

- Ensure that member organisations implement the State's Marine Rescue Policy.
- Assist in the further development of Marine Rescue Policy.
- Ensure that member organisations train members to standards required by the State Rescue Board for marine accreditation.
- Assist in the further development of marine rescue procedures and marine rescue resource capabilities.
- Provide advice and recommendations to the State Rescue Board on the status of Marine Rescue Units (MRU), Search and Rescue Coordination Centres (SARCC) and Marine Radio Bases (MRB) and on the funding needs of the volunteer organisations.
- Provide a coordinating body to the State Rescue Board on marine rescue matters.
- Maintain effective liaison with the NSW Police Marine Area Command and ensure that member organisations continue to accept Police responsibilities for the control and coordination of rescue.

Marine rescue operations are normally conducted by the local accredited units to a level consistent with their equipment and capability. Operations are conducted in cooperation with the NSW Police Marine Area Command which is responsible for the coordination of search and rescue operations within State waters. During the year, 2,309 Search and Rescue incidents were attended by the accredited marine rescue units in NSW.

When an incident is beyond the capability of the rescue assets in NSW, the State Coordinator may request the Commonwealth to take over the coordination of operations. The Commonwealth automatically has responsibility for incidents beyond the limit of state waters.

Funding

The member organisations of the VMRC continue to rely heavily on the support of the general public, the boating community and corporate sponsorship to meet their significant capital and operational costs.

In recognition of the vital contribution of volunteers, the State Government provides funding support through the Agreement between the NSW Maritime Authority and the State Rescue Board. Funding provided under this agreement in 2006-07 was \$1,258,800, comprising \$453,830 towards capital improvement of volunteer marine rescue units, \$304,970 provided to offset operational expenses such as fuel, insurance and administration, and \$500,000 to support the volunteer marine rescue agencies' competency-based training activities. Funding provided by NSW Maritime is increased annually in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

In 2006-07, funding was distributed to the volunteer organisations as follows:

Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	\$560,682.11
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard	\$412,269.59
Volunteer Rescue Association, Marine	\$285,848.30

Funding Expenditure

Capital improvement

The Agreement between the NSW Maritime Authority and the State Rescue Board requires the total funds of \$453,830 disbursed to the marine rescue organisations for Capital Improvement in 2006-07 to be expended proportionately against three specified categories as follows:

Category 3 & 2 Rescue Vessels	68%
Base Level Funding	29%
SARCC	3%

The funds for Capital Improvement were disbursed within respective marine rescue organisations as follows:

Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (\$202,140.42)

Upgrade Cat 2 engines – Sydney Division	\$30,000
Upgrade Cat 3 engines – Batemans Bay Division	\$30,000
Upgrade Cat 2 engines – Broken Bay Division	\$20,000
Upgrade Cat 2 engines – Coffs Harbour Division	\$19,500
Upgrade Cat 2 engines – Narooma Division	\$12,000
Upgrade Cat 3 engines – Ulladulla Division	\$25,000
Radios/Firefighting equip Cat 3 – Wollongong Division	\$955
Upgrade SARCC Comms - Port Stephens Division	\$6,064
Upgrade other communications	\$58,621

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (\$148,633.86)

Replacement vessel NF-03 Ku-ring-gai	\$63,176
Replacement vessel NF-07 Shellharbour	\$63,176
Radio upgrade/equipment	\$22,281

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc (\$103,055.72)

Replacement vessel – Hawkesbury River Rescue	\$70,078
Upgrade SARCC – Port Macquarie	\$3,092
Base level funding	\$29,886

Operational support

The disbursement of the allocated \$304,970 for purposes of operational support was based on an agreed formula developed by the constituent members of the VMRC. The resultant disbursement for 2006-07 was:

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association	\$69,252.59
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association	\$99,252.59
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	\$135,836.69

Accreditation

All accredited Marine Rescue Units, Search and Rescue Coordination Centres and Marine Radio Bases are inspected in accordance with the NSW State Rescue Policy. Prior to a new unit or vessel receiving accreditation, it must first undergo a needs analysis at Local and District Level to ensure it is required.

During the reporting period the following changes in accreditation were approved by the Minister:

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard

AVCGA Wollongong

Change of accreditation from Category 3 Marine Rescue Unit to Category 2 Rescue Unit, following change-over from RVCP and boat swap with Bermagui MRU.

Closure of Marine Radio Base as a service was already provided by AVCGA Port Kembla.

Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol

Botany Bay RVCP

Accreditation of the Search and Rescue Coordination Centre changed to Marine Radio Base.

Bermagui Division RVCP

Change of accreditation from Category 2 Marine Rescue Unit to Category 3 Rescue Unit, following change-over from AVCGA and boat swap with Wollongong MRU.

Change from SARCC to Marine Radio Base due to inappropriate base.

Moruya Division RVCP

The Marine Radio Base and Marine Rescue Unit's accreditation was revoked on the recommendation of the VMRC, due to low volunteer numbers and inadequacy of equipment and facilities.

NSW Police Force Marine Area Command

The accreditation of a number of Marine Radio Bases operated by the NSW Police Force was revoked as the Police centralised their operations at the Marine Area Command, Balmain.

Botany Bay Water Police

Accreditation of the Marine Radio Base was revoked.

Coffs Harbour Water Police

Accreditation of the Marine Radio Base was revoked.

Batemans Bay Water Police

Accreditation of Marine Radio Base was revoked.

Nowra Police

Accreditation of Category 1 Marine Rescue Unit was revoked.

Volunteer Rescue Association

Tuross Head

Accreditation of Marine Radio Base was revoked.

Terrigal Sea Rescue

Accreditation of Marine Radio Base and Category 1 Marine Rescue Unit was revoked (Cat 3 MRU was retained).

Norah Head Search and Rescue Boat Club Inc

Disaffiliated from the AVCGA and affiliated with the VRA.

Aviation Fire and Rescue

Accreditation of Category 1 Marine Rescue Unit was revoked.

Recreational Vessel Advisory Group

The VMRC is a standing member of the Recreational Vessel Advisory Group (RVAG) established as a sub-group of the NSW Maritime Authority Council and contributes to the development of the NSW Maritime Authority safety and emergency policies.

Awards

Two members of rescue units were recipients of the Emergency Service Medal (ESM) during the period. The Emergency Service Medal is awarded in recognition of 'Distinguished Service' to emergency services. Those awarded were Mr Steven Stranks ESM of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and Mr Wilfred John Thompson ESM of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol.

Table 2-A. Summary of Accredited Land and Vertical Rescue Units

Accreditation by District

District	Primary	Secondary	Vertical
Central West	15	12	6
Far West	9	3	5
Hunter	17	5	10
Illawarra	6	4	5
Mid North Coast	16	14	9
Monaro	13	8	10
Murray	14	12	2
Northern Rivers	11	19	7
Peel	24	16	10
Riverina	15	9	7
Southern Highlands	12	7	5
Western Slopes	19	14	7
Georges River	2	0	1
Sydney East	1	1	1
Sydney Mid West	1	0	0
Sydney North	5	0	2
Sydney S West	5	2	3
Western Sydney	8	4	4
TOTAL	193	130	94

Accreditation by Service

Service	Land Rescue		Vertical Rescue
	Primary	Secondary	
Police Service	9		9
Ambulance Service	14		10
Fire Brigades	45	121	12
State Emergency Service	79	9	38
Volunteer Rescue Association	46		25
TOTAL	193	130	94

Central West District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Bathurst	Bathurst PRS (v)	Bathurst City SES (v)
Blayney	Blayney SES	Blayney FB
Canowindra	Canowindra SES	Canowindra FB
Condobolin	Condobolin SES (v)	Condobolin FB
Cowra	Cowra AMB	Cowra FB
Eugowra	<i>Canowindra SES</i>	Eugowra SES
Forbes	Forbes SES	Forbes FB
Lake Cargelligo	Lake Cargelligo SES	Lake Cargelligo FB
Lithgow	Lithgow VRA (v)	Lithgow FB
Molong	Molong FB	
Oberon	Oberon SES (v)	Oberon FB
Orange	Orange FB	
Parkes	Parkes SES (v)	Parkes FB
Peak Hill	Peak Hill SES	Peak Hill FB
Sofala - Hill End	Turon SES	
Trundle	Trundle SES	

Far West

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Bourke	Bourke SES	Bourke FB
Brewarrina	Brewarrina SES (v)	
Broken Hill	Broken Hill SES (v)	Broken Hill FB
Cobar	Cobar SES (v)	Cobar FB
Menindee	Menindee SES	
Nyngan	Nyngan FB	
Tibooburra	Tibooburra SES (v)	
White Cliffs	White Cliffs SES (v)	
Wilcannia	Wilcannia SES	

Legend

- AMB Ambulance Service of NSW
 FB NSW Fire Brigades
 PRS Police Rescue Squad
 SES State Emergency Service
 VRA Volunteer Rescue Association
 (v) Vertical Rescue accredited unit
Unit Primary Unit from another location

Hunter-Central Coast

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Branxton	Branxton FB	
Cessnock	Cessnock District VRA (v)	
Dungog	Dungog SES (v)	Dungog FB
Gosford	Gosford AMB (v)	Gosford FB
Lake Macquarie	Cooranbong SES (v)	
Maitland	Rutherford AMB	
Merriwa	Merriwa VRA	Merriwa FB
Murrurundi	Murrurundi VRA (v)	
Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook SES	
Nelson Bay	Nelsons Bay FB (v)	
Newcastle	Newcastle PRS (v) Hamilton AMB (v)	Cooks Hill FB
Raymond Terrace	Port Stephens SES	
Scone	Scone SES	
Singleton	Singleton AMB	Singleton FB
Tea Gardens	Tea Gardens FB (v)	
Wyong	Central Coast VRA (v)	

Illawarra District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Kiama	Kiama SES (v)	Kiama FB
Nowra	Bomaderry AMB (v)	Nowra FB
Shellharbour	Shellharbour FB	
Ulladulla - Sussex Inlet	Ulladulla FB (v)	
Wollongong	Wollongong AMB (v) Wollongong PRS (v)	Wollongong FB Bulli FB

Mid North Coast District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Bellingen	<i>Urunga SES</i>	Bellingen FB
Bowraville	<i>Nambucca Dist VRA</i>	Bowraville FB
Bulahdelah	Bulahdelah VRA	
Coffs Harbour	Coffs Harbour City SES (v)	Coffs Harbour FB
Dorrigo	Dorrigo SES (v)	Dorrigo FB
Forster	Forster FB (v)	
Gloucester	Gloucester Shire SES (v)	Gloucester FB
Kempsey	Kempsey Shire SES (v)	Kempsey FB
Laurieton	Laurieton FB (v)	Camden Haven SES
Lord Howe Island	Lord Howe Island SES (v)	
Macksville	Nambucca Dist VRA	Macksville FB
Nabiac	Nabiac SES	
Nambucca Heads	<i>Nambucca Dist VRA</i>	Nambucca Heads FB
Port Macquarie	Hastings SES	Port Macquarie FB
Sawtell	<i>Coffs Harbour City SES</i>	Sawtell FB
South West Rocks	South West Rocks FB (v)	
Taree	Taree VRA (v)	Taree FB
Urunga	Urunga SES	Urunga FB
Wauchope	Wauchope FB	
Wingham	<i>Taree VRA</i>	Wingham FB
Woolgoolga	Woolgoolga FB	

Monaro District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Batemans Bay	Batemans Bay VRA	Batemans Bay FB
Bega	Bega VRA (v)	Bega FB
Bombala	Bombala FB	
Braidwood	Braidwood FB (v)	
Cooma	Cooma PRS (v)	Cooma-Monaro SES
Eden	Eden SES (v)	Eden FB
Jindabyne	Snowy River SES (v)	Jindabyne FB
Merimbula	Merimbula FB	
Moruya	Eurobodalla SES (v)	Moruya FB
Narooma	Narooma VRA (v)	Narooma FB
Perisher Valley	Perisher Valley FB (v)	
Queanbeyan	Queanbeyan FB	Queanbeyan SES (v)
Thredbo	Thredbo FB (v)	

Murray District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Albury	Albury VRA (v)	Albury Central FB
Balranald	Balranald VRA	Balranald FB
Barham	Barham FB	
Berrigan	<i>Tocumwal VRA</i>	Berrigan FB
Corowa	Corowa-Rutherglen VRA	Corowa FB
Culcairn	Culcairn SES	Culcairn FB
Deniliquin	Deniliquin VRA (v)	Deniliquin FB
Echuca/Moama	Echuca-Moama VRA*	Moama FB
Finley	<i>Tocumwal VRA</i>	Finley FB
Henty	<i>Culcairn SES</i>	Henty FB
Holbrook	Holbrook SES	Holbrook FB
Jerilderie	Jerilderie FB	
Mulwala	Mulwala FB	
Tocumwal	Tocumwal VRA	Tocumwal FB
Urana	Urana SES	
Wentworth	Wentworth FB	Wentworth SES
Tumbarumba	Tumbarumba FB	

* In May 2007, Echuca-Moama Search and Rescue Squad was disaffiliated from the VRA for non compliance with operational standards. NSW State Rescue Policy requires accredited units to be members or affiliates of one of the agencies that operates accredited rescue units. As Echuca-Moama Search and Rescue was no longer affiliated with the VRA, the Board put interim arrangements in place, so that NSW Fire Brigades Moama, the secondary accredited unit, would be utilised for primary rescue response rather than the EMSRS.

Northern Rivers District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Alstonville	<i>Ballina SES</i>	Alstonville FB
Ballina	Ballina SES	Ballina FB
Bangalow	<i>Brunswick Valley VRA</i>	Bangalow FB
Brunswick Heads	Brunswick Valley VRA (v)	Brunswick Heads FB
Byron Bay	<i>Brunswick Valley VRA</i>	Byron Bay FB
Casino	Casino VRA (v)	Casino FB
Coraki	<i>Woodburn SES</i>	Coraki FB
Evans Head	<i>Woodburn SES</i>	Evans Head FB
Grafton	Grafton City SES (v)	Grafton FB South Grafton FB
Kingscliff	Tweed District VRA (v)	Kingscliff FB
Kyogle	Kyogle SES (v)	Kyogle FB
Lismore	Lismore PRS (v)	Lismore FB Lismore SES
Maclean	Maclean SES	Maclean FB
Mullumbimby	<i>Brunswick Valley VRA</i>	Mullumbimby FB
Murwillumbah	<i>Tweed District VRA</i>	Murwillumbah FB
Tabulam	Tabulam SES	
Tweed Heads	<i>Tweed District VRA</i>	Tweed Heads FB
Urbenville	Urbenville SES (v)	
Woodburn	Woodburn SES	
Yamba	<i>Maclean SES</i>	Yamba FB

Peel District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Armidale	Armidale SES (v)	Armidale FB
Ashford	Ashford SES	
Barraba	Barraba VRA	Barraba FB
Bingara	Bingara Shire SES (v)	Bingara FB
Boggabri	Boggabri SES	Boggabri FB
Burren Junction	Burren Junction VRA	
Deepwater	Deepwater SES (v)	
Glen Innes	Glen Innes VRA (v)	Glen Innes FB
Gunnedah	Gunnedah SES	
Guyra	Guyra VRA	Guyra FB
Inverell	Inverell VRA	Inverell FB
Manilla	Manilla VRA (v)	Manilla FB
Moree	Moree Plains SES	Moree FB
Narrabri	Narrabri VRA (v)	Narrabri FB
Nundle	Nundle SES (v)	
Quirindi	Quirindi VRA	Quirindi FB
Tambar Springs	Tambar Springs SES	
Tamworth	Tamworth AMB (v)	Tamworth Central FB
Tenterfield	Tenterfield SES (v)	Tenterfield FB
Uralla	Uralla FB	
Walcha	Walcha SES (v)	
Warialda	Warialda SES	Warialda FB
Wee Waa	Wee Waa SES	Wee Waa FB
Werris Creek	<i>Quirindi VRA</i>	Werris Creek FB
Yetman	Yetman SES	

Riverina District

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Coleambally	Coleambally VRA (v)	
Coolamon	Coolamon FB	
Goolgowi	Goolgowi SES	
Griffith	Griffith SES (v)	Griffith FB
Hay	Hay SES	Hay FB
Hillston	Hillston SES	Hillston FB
Junee	Junee VRA	Junee FB
Leeton	Leeton VRA (v)	
Lockhart	Lockhart FB	
Narrandera	Narrandera VRA (v)	Narrandera FB
Temora	Temora SES	Temora FB
The Rock	The Rock SES	
Wagga Wagga	Wagga Wagga VRA (v) Wagga Wagga AMB (v)	Turvey Park FB
West Wyalong	West Wyalong SES (v)	West Wyalong FB
Yenda	<i>Griffith SES</i>	Yenda FB

Sydney Metropolitan Area

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Bankstown	Bankstown AMB (v)	
Berowra	Berowra FB	
Blacktown	Blacktown FB (v)	
Bundeena	<i>Caringbah AMB</i>	Bundeena FB
Burwood	Burwood FB	
Camden	Camden AMB (v)	
Caringbah	Caringbah AMB (v)	
Castle Hill	Castle Hill FB	
Crows Nest	Crows Nest FB	
Eastwood	Eastwood FB	
Hurstville	Hurstville FB	
Katoomba	Katoomba PRS (v) Katoomba FB	
Liverpool	Liverpool FB	
Macquarie Fields	Macquarie Fields FB	
Mittagong	Berrima VRA (v)	
Narrabeen	Narrabeen FB (v)	
Parramatta	Parramatta AMB	
Penrith	Penrith VRA	Penrith FB
Picton	<i>Camden AMB</i>	Picton FB
Richmond	Hawkesbury SES (v)	Richmond FB
Springwood	Springwood PRS (v)	Springwood FB
St Ives	St Ives AMB (v)	
Sydney	<i>Zetland PRS</i>	City Of Sydney FB
Windsor	<i>Hawkesbury SES</i>	Windsor FB
Zetland	Zetland PRS (v)	

Southern Highlands

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Batlow	Batlow VRA	Batlow FB
Binalong	Binalong VRA (v)	
Boorowa	Boorowa FB	
Cootamundra	Cootamundra FB (v)	Cootamundra SES
Crookwell	Crookwell FB	
Goulburn	Goulburn PRS (v)	Goulburn FB
Grenfell	Grenfell SES (v)	Grenfell FB
Gundagai	Gundagai SES	Gundagai FB
Harden	Harden SES	Harden FB
Tumut	Tumut SES (v)	Tumut FB
Yass	Yass FB	
Young	Young FB	

Western Slopes

Location	Primary Unit	Secondary Unit
Baradine	Baradine SES	
Collarenebri	Collarenebri SES	
Coolah	Coolah VRA (v)	Coolah FB
Coonabarabran	Coonabarabran VRA (v)	Coonabarabran FB
Coonamble	Coonamble FB	Coonamble SES
Dubbo	Dubbo VRA (v)	Dubbo Central FB
Dunedoo	Dunedoo SES	Dunedoo FB
Gilgandra	Gilgandra SES	Gilgandra FB
Glengarry	Glengarry SES (v)	
Gulgong	Gulgong VRA	Gulgong FB
Lightening Ridge	Lightening Ridge SES (v)	Lightening Ridge FB
Mendooran	Mendooran VRA	
Mudgee	Mudgee VRA	Mudgee FB
Narromine	Narromine VRA	Narromine FB
Rylstone-Kandos	Rylstone-Kandos VRA (v)	Kandos FB
Trangie	Trangie FB	
Walgett	Walgett SES	Walgett FB
Warren	Warren VRA	Warren FB
Wellington	Wellington SES (v)	Wellington FB

Table 2-B. Summary of Accredited Marine Rescue Resources

Accreditation by Service

Service	SARCC	MRB	MRU	Total Units	Vessels
NSW Water Police	1	0	11	11	25
Volunteer Rescue Association	3	4	12	13	24
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	8	17	20	25	35
Aust. Volunteer Coast Guard	6	7	16	18	20
Other	0	0	1	1	1
TOTAL	18	28	60	68	105

Operational Area Categories For Marine Rescue Units	Police	RVCP	AVCGA	VRA	Other	TOTAL
Category 1	0	10	3	6	1	20
Category 2	11	14	10	7	0	42
Category 3	8	10	5	4	0	27
Operational Coordination						
SARCC	1	8	6	3	0	18
MRU	11	20	16	12	1	60
MRB	0	17	7	4	0	28
Sub Total	12	45	29	19	1	106

Note: Accreditation for SLSA Ballina is Ministerial Limited for operations on the Ballina bar only.

Legend

AVCGA	Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association
Cat 1	Smooth waters, partially smooth waters, enclosed waters and bars (within a limit of 0.5 nm seaward)
Cat 2	Restricted Offshore (within a limit of 7 nm seaward)
Cat 3	Offshore (within a limit of 15 nm seaward)
LAC	Police Local Area Command
MAC	Police Marine Area Command
MRB	Marine Radio Base
MRU	Marine Rescue Unit
RVCP	Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol
SARCC	Search & Rescue Coordination Centre
VRA	Volunteer Rescue Association Inc

Northern Rivers District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
1	Volunteer Marine Rescue Point Danger	VRA	SARCC MRU Category 1, 2, & 3
3	Kingscliff Flotilla	AVCGA	SARCC MRU Category 1 & 2
4	Tweed Coast Sea Rescue	VRA	MRU Category 1
5	Brunswick Valley Rescue Squad Inc	VRA	MRB MRU Category 2
6	Cape Byron Division	RVCP	MRB
7	Ballina Flotilla	AVCGA	SARCC MRU Category 3
9	Evans Head Flotilla	AVCGA	MRB MRU Category 3
10	Iluka/Yamba Flotilla	AVCGA	SARCC MRU Category 3
12	Wooli Rescue Squad	VRA	MRB MRU Category 2
13	Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Life Saving Club	SLSA	Ministerial Limited. Ballina Bar Operation only. MRU Category 1

Mid North Coast District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
14	Woolgoolga Sea Rescue Inc	VRA	MRB MRU Category 2
15	Coffs Harbour Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 2
16	Coffs Harbour Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2 & 3
17	Trial Bay Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 1 & 3
18	Port Macquarie Sea Rescue Inc	VRA	SARCC MRU Category 1 & 3
19	Camden Haven Sea Rescue Squad Inc	VRA	MRB MRU Category 3
20	Crowdy Harrington Division	RVCP	MRB
21	Forster Tuncurry Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 2
81	Nambucca River Marine Rescue Inc.	VRA	MRU Category 2

Hunter – Central Coast District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
24	Port Stephens Flotilla	AVCGA	MRB MRU Category 2
25	Port Stephens Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 2 & 3
26	Port Stephens Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2 & 3
27	Newcastle Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2 & 3
28	Lake Macquarie Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1 & 2
29	Swansea Flotilla	AVCGA	SARCC MRU Category 1 & 2
30	Norah Head Search & Rescue Boat Club Inc	VRA	MRB MRU Category 2
31	Central Coast Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1 & 2
32	Terrigal Division	RVCP	MRB
33	Terrigal Sea Rescue Service Inc	AVCGA	MRU Category 3
34	Brisbane Waters (Woy Woy) Police	Brisbane Waters Police LAC	MRU Category 2
35	Hawkesbury River Rescue Inc.	VRA	MRB MRU Category 1 & 2
36	Hawkesbury River Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1
80	Tuggerah Lakes Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1
82	Newcastle Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 2

Sydney North District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
37	Brooklyn Police	Ku-Ring-Gai Police LAC	MRU Category 2
38	Ku-Ring-Gai Flotilla	AVCGA	MRB MRU Category 2 & 3
39	Broken Bay Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1, 2 & 3
40	Broken Bay Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2 & 3
41	Sydney Command – Terrey Hills Division	RVCP	MRB
42	Sydney Division – The Spit	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1, 2 & 3

Sydney East District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
43	Sydney Water Police	NSW Police MAC	SARCC MRU Category 2 & 3
45	Port Jackson Flotilla (South Head Signal Station)	AVCGA	MRB

Sydney Mid West District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
44	Port Jackson Flotilla (Birkenhead Point)	AVCGA	MRB MRU Category 2

Georges River District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
47	Botany Bay Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 3
48	Botany Bay Flotilla	AVCGA	MRU Category 2
49	Botany Bay Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2 & 3
50	Solander Division Flotilla	AVCGA	MRB
51	Port Hacking Flotilla	AVCGA	MRU Category 2
52	Botany Bay (Cronulla) Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2

Illawarra District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
53	Bellambi Flotilla	AVCGA	MRU Category 2
54	Wollongong Flotilla	AVCGA	MRU Category 2
55	Port Kembla Flotilla	AVCGA	SARCC
56	Port Kembla Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2 & 3
57	Lake Illawarra Flotilla	AVCGA	MRU Category 1
58	Shellharbour Flotilla	AVCGA	MRU Category 2
61	Jervis Bay Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1 & 3
63	Shoalhaven Marine Rescue Association	VRA	SARCC MRU Category 3
64	Sussex Inlet Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 1 & 2
65	Ulladulla Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 2 & 3
79	Kioloa Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 2

Monaro District

Squad Number	Unit – Marine Rescue Area	Organisation	Accreditation and Category
66	Batemans Bay Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 1, 2 & 3
69	Tuross Rescue Squad Inc.	VRA	MRB MRU Category 1
70	Narooma Rescue Squad Inc	VRA	MRU Category 1
71	Narooma Division	RVCP	SARCC MRU Category 3
73	Bermagui Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 3
74	Merimbula Division	RVCP	MRB MRU Category 2
75	Eden Division	RVCP	SARCC
76	Eden Police	NSW Police MAC	MRU Category 2

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CHAPTER THREE - REPORT OF OPERATIONS

RESCUE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Objective One: To Control and Coordinate the Rescue Agencies in Connection with Rescue Operations

Identify the need for, and recommend the accreditation of rescue units throughout the State

The Board, with the support of District Rescue Committees, makes recommendations to the Minister regarding rescue accreditations in accordance with the established protocols for the accreditation of rescue units.

During the reporting period one additional rescue unit was granted secondary land rescue accreditation. Two primary units, one secondary unit, and one vertical rescue unit were de-accredited.

During the period, the accreditations of five Marine Rescue Unit, and six Marine Radio Bases were revoked. One Search and Rescue Coordination Centre was changed to a Marine Radio Base, and the accreditation categories of two Marine Rescue Units were changed.

In conjunction with the Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of New South Wales, the Board completed an inspection of all accredited marine rescue units, search and rescue coordination centres and marine radio bases.

At the conclusion of the reporting period there were 193 primary and 130 secondary rescue units accredited for land rescue in NSW (of which 94 were accredited for Vertical Rescue), along with 60 Marine Rescue Units, 18 Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Centres and 28 Marine Radio Bases.

Develop and promulgate state rescue policies

The Board approved a number of minor amendments to the State Rescue Policy during the reporting period. The amendments concern changes to:

- the titles of people, organisations and legislation;
- clarify that response arrangements differ in Sydney and Newcastle from those applying in the rest of the State;
- allow DEOCONs the flexibility to respond secondary units as well as the primary unit in certain circumstances;
- clarify the role of the Police Rescue Coordinator;
- clarify the role of the local and district rescue committees in the accreditation process;
- correct the definition of Category 1 marine rescue vessels; and,
- the activation and call-off of land rescue units.

The State Rescue Policy has now been distributed as Version 3.1 of the Third Edition, and is available on the emergencyNSW website.

Develop Standing Orders, Instructions and Standard Operating Procedures

In 2001 the State Rescue Board, in conjunction with the VMRC, developed SRB Standard Operating Procedures for Marine Rescue Units. These were promulgated to all District Rescue Committees, accredited marine rescue units and appropriate local Police and Police communication centres.

A number of minor amendments were made to the Marine SOPs during the reporting period. The amendments concern tracking of off-shore vessels, and contact arrangements between the volunteer marine rescue agencies and the NSW Police Force. The SOPs have now been distributed with Amendment List 2 and are available on the emergencyNSW website.

Develop liaison links with all rescue agencies

The following sub-committees are established:

- Training Policy Committee;
- Volunteer Marine Rescue Council of NSW;
- 17 District Rescue Committees;
- 103 Local Rescue Committees; and
- District Marine Advisory Sub-Committees in the Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast, Hunter, Illawarra and Monaro Emergency Management Districts.

Establish interstate liaison with rescue organisations

Liaison has been established with appropriate agencies in the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. In addition, liaison is maintained with Air Services Australia and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Monitor rescue response arrangements

In accordance with the State Rescue Policy, District Rescue Committees include representatives from relevant agency Control Facilities. District Rescue Committees monitor rescue response arrangements and resolve minor issues regarding rescue operations in their areas of responsibility.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Performance Audit conducted by the Auditor General, further work has been undertaken to gather additional information relating to responses by accredited land rescue units. Assessing this additional information will allow advisory performance standards to be set. This process is ongoing.

Monitor accredited rescue unit performance

Performance by accredited land and marine rescue units is monitored by the respective committees.

The Productivity Commission has been recording data on road crash rescues in the Emergency Management chapter of the Report on Government services since 2003.

The agencies are reporting to the Board on the following criteria:

- Date and time of call out,
- Location of incident,
- Was unit called-off,
- Was extrication performed, and
- The elapsed time at the incident.

For the year 2006-07 the rescue agencies reported 6,932 instances in which rescue units were responded to road accidents. Of these, 4,476 responses involved extrications.

The rescue agencies maintain a register of current and competent rescue operators. A summary of each agency's rescue operator register is provided to the Board as part of the annual operational capability reports.

The numbers of Registered Land Rescue Operators by Service at the end of the period were:

Service	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
NSW Police Force	137	98	105	99
Ambulance Service of NSW	211	185	189	181
NSW Fire Brigades	2051	2056	1822	1833
State Emergency Service	918	898	840	709
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc	597	429	429	386
TOTAL	3914	3666	3385	3208

The numbers of Registered Marine Rescue Operators by Service at the end of the period were:

Service	2003/4	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
NSW Police Force MAC	118	138	140	99
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard	530	485	489	608
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	840	874	871	1065
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association	341	329	331	477
Others	32	36	30	11
TOTAL	1861	1862	1861	2260

Recommend changes to accreditation for rescue units to participate in rescue operations

Rescue accreditations are reviewed annually by Rescue Committees. The following table details the number of accredited land and marine rescue units at the end of the reporting period.

Accredited Rescue Units	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
General Land Rescue Units	326	325	325	323
Vertical Land Rescue Units	92	94	96	94
Marine SAR Coordination Centres	20	18	19	19
Marine Radio Bases	32	34	33	28
Marine Rescue Units	65	64	64	60

Objective Two: To Ensure the Maintenance of Efficient and Effective Rescue Services throughout the State.

Establish District and Local Rescue Committees

Seventeen District and 103 Local Rescue Committees are established. In November 2005 the Board approved the disbandment of the Sydney Metropolitan Area Rescue Committee, which was to be replaced by six District Committees aligning with the existing Emergency Management Districts. Five of these six committees have been established. The remaining one, the Sydney Mid-West District Committee, will be established in 2007/08.

Police Commanders with responsibilities for marine rescue have also established Maritime Rescue Advisory Sub-Committees. These are currently established in the Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast, Hunter – Central Coast, Illawarra and Monaro Emergency Management Districts.

Review District and Local Rescue Committee reports and actions

District Rescue Committee Minutes and Reports are reviewed by the Board Secretariat.

Evaluate the level of skills needed for rescue personnel to determine the training standards required

The skill levels of Rescue Instructors, Assessors and Operators are now administered by the rescue agencies in accordance with the Australian Qualifications Framework. These skill levels are encapsulated in the Public Safety Training Package.

Develop training standards to meet the training skills requirements

The Board has endorsed competency based training as the system by which land and marine rescue operators at all levels will be assessed for registration purposes. The training standards for general land rescue have been developed in consultation with industry representatives. All agencies have accepted the package as the basis for the standards required by the Board.

The training standards for marine rescue have been reviewed by the VMRC. The Board's marine rescue training package has been completed and is being introduced following the allocation of an additional \$500,000 to support its implementation.

An inter- agency agreement between the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association will see the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association becoming the Registered Training Organisation responsible for the delivery of training to the marine units of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

The Training Policy Committee will periodically review the training requirements for general land rescue and for specialist rescue accreditations.

Develop training packages

The following training packages and material have been distributed to accredited units, registered operators and rescue agencies:

- General Motors Emergency Service Bulletin Booklet concerning the safety arrangements for Air Bags.
- 5700 copies of a Federal Office of Road Safety publication on Supplementary Restraint Systems.
- Australian Defence Force Publication Military Aircraft Accident Sites – Safety Guidelines for Emergency Services Personnel.
- NSW Police Force Publication NSW Emergency Services Organisations.
- Board video on the Brifen Safety Fence.
- Video Working Safely with Aircraft.
- Electrical Awareness Safety Package.
- Reference notes relating to Procedures of the Coroner’s Court.
- SRB Marine Standard Operating Procedures.
- Urban Search & Rescue Category 1 compact discs.
- US Emergency Services Response to September 11 Attack compact discs and video.
- Public Safety Training Package compact discs.
- Maritime Training Package compact discs.
- Hybrid vehicle package compact disc.
- Railcorp - Accessing Passenger Trains in Emergency Situations compact disc

Arrange and conduct rescue training

Rescue agencies are responsible for the conduct of rescue operator training in accordance with the minimum standard endorsed by the Board.

Monitor rescue training standards

Training standards are now administered by the agencies in accordance with the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Recommend amendments to legislation

There were no recommended changes to the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act, 1989* considered by the Board during the period.

Develop and distribute appropriate rescue publications

Rescue publications, safety and training publications and videos are continually being developed and distributed to rescue agencies and rescue units as required.

See also *Develop Training Packages* section, below.

Determine and recommend on rescue equipment standards and needs

The land rescue agencies are responsible for ensuring their rescue units have equipment that is appropriate for the risks that exist in the local area. Minimum equipment lists for marine rescue units are incorporated in State Rescue Board Marine Rescue Standard Operating Procedures.

Recommend on levels of government support to volunteer organisations

The Board made recommendations to the Minister resulting in the provision of \$1.2 million to the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc. These funds were distributed as general and capital grants to affiliated land, marine and specialist units, and are also used to cover organisational costs such as insurances.

The funds for the marine rescue units were disbursed according to arrangements agreed between the Board and the NSW Maritime Authority and incorporated in a Memorandum of Agreement between those bodies.

The amount of funding allocated to each of the marine rescue organisation for capital replacement, operating costs and training is shown below. It incorporates a significant proportion for the replacement of rescue vessels to conform to the standards set out by the NSW Maritime Authority.

Organization	Amount Allocated 2006-07
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc	\$285,848.30
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association Inc	\$412,269.59
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol	\$560,682.11
TOTAL	\$1,258,800.00

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CHAPTER FOUR - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESCUE OPERATIONS

OVERVIEW OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESCUE ARRANGEMENTS AND RESOURCES

In accordance with Section 48 A of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act*, District Rescue Committees are established in the Central West, Far West, Hunter, Illawarra, Mid North Coast, Monaro, Murray, Northern Rivers, Peel, Riverina, Southern Highlands and Western Slopes Emergency Management Districts.

Previously, a Sydney Metropolitan Area Rescue Committee was established with responsibilities for all Police Districts within the area served by Police Radio (VKG) Sydney. The Board resolved in November 2005 that the Sydney Metropolitan Area Rescue Committee should be disbanded and replaced by six District Rescue Committees serving the existing metropolitan emergency management districts. The committees in the Georges River, Sydney East, Sydney North, Sydney South West and Western Sydney districts have been formed. The Sydney Mid West District Rescue Committee will be formed in 2007/08.

Each District Rescue Committee is chaired by the relevant District Emergency Operations Controller and comprises senior representatives of the emergency services organisations operating within the district.

The District Rescue Committees are required to meet quarterly unless arranged otherwise. Their functions reflect those of the State Rescue Board at Emergency Management District level and are set out in the State Rescue Policy. The functions are to:

- Implement the policy directions of the State Rescue Board within the District.
- Make recommendations to the State Rescue Board on policy matters relating to rescue.
- Coordinate and review planning for rescue within the District.
- Provide guidance and direction to Local Rescue Committees established within the District.
- Produce and disseminate standing orders and instructions and standing operating procedures for rescue operations.
- Make recommendations to the State Rescue Board on the accreditation of rescue units (both permanent and volunteer) for participation in rescue operations.
- Identify and arrange for training in those Local Rescue Committee areas pertinent to local rescue requirements.
- Conduct training exercises in rescue operations.
- Make recommendations to the State Rescue Board on any matter referred by the Board.

DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESCUE RESOURCES

District	Local Rescue C'tees	Primary Land Rescue Units	Secondary Land Rescue Units	Marine Rescue Units	SAR Coord. Centres	Marine Radio Bases
Central West	10	15	12	0	0	0
Far West	7	9	3	0	0	0
Hunter – Central Coast	9	17	5	14	2	9
Illawarra	3	6	4	10	3	3
Mid North Coast	8	16	14	8	4	3
Monaro	6	13	8	7	4	1
Murray	11	14	12	0	0	0
Northern Rivers	7	11	19	9	4	4
Peel	12	24	16	0	0	0
Riverina	12	15	9	0	0	0
Southern Highlands	8	12	7	0	0	0
Western Slopes	9	19	14	0	0	0
Georges River	0	2	0	5	0	2
Sydney East	0	1	1	1	1	1
Sydney Mid West	0	1	0	1	0	1
Sydney North	0	5	0	5	0	4
Sydney South West	1	5	2	0	0	0
Western Sydney	0	8	4	0	0	0
TOTAL	103	193	130	60	18	28

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DISTRICT RESCUE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The District Rescue Committees and where applicable their associated Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committees continue to provide valuable input into the considerations of the Board. The work of the District Marine Inspection Teams continues to provide a valuable input to the units and the considerations of the District Rescue Committees and the VMRC.

A number of District Rescue Committees report the ongoing desirability for rescue units of all Services to undertake joint training. The Board strongly endorses the concept of combined rescue training being undertaken and encourages District Rescue Committees to consider this aspect during the conduct of district rescue exercises. Funding support for these activities is available from the Board's allocation of funds for cross agency training.

The Board is satisfied that the revised District Rescue Committee structure set up during the reporting period will provide a more rigorous assessment of the effectiveness of the rescue arrangements in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

DISTRICT RESCUE COMMITTEES

Central West District

There are ten Local Rescue Committees in the District: Bathurst, Lithgow, Orange, Cabonne, Cowra, Blayney, Oberon, Parkes, Forbes and Lachlan.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07, as part of the Combined Western Slopes, Central West and Far West committee.

There were no changes to accreditations during the reporting period.

Airport exercises were held at Bathurst, Orange, Cowra and Parkes.

Far West District

There are seven Local Rescue Committees in the District: Broken Hill and unincorporated area (with a sub-committee for Tibooburra), Central Darling-Wilcannia, Cobar, Bogan-Nyngan, Bourke, Brewarrina and Wentworth.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07, as part of the Combined Western Slopes, Central West and Far West committee.

There were no changes to accreditations in the District during the reporting period.

Local-level exercises conducted during the period included airport exercises at Broken Hill, Bourke, Brewarrina and Tibooburra, and an exercise with a level-crossing crash scenario conducted by Barrier Highway committee which brings together emergency services from both New South Wales and South Australia.

Georges River District

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the District.

The District Rescue Committee met three times during 2006-07.

NSW Fire Brigade Bundeena was granted secondary rescue accreditation in September 2006.

RVCP Botany Bay SAR Coordination Centre was downgraded to a Marine Radio Base, the accreditation of the Botany Bay Water Police Marine Radio Base was revoked, and the accreditation for the Aviation Fire and Rescue Marine Rescue Unit was revoked.

A multi-agency marine rescue and emergency service open day was held at Sans Souci. During that activity, rescue service personnel became familiar with the vessels, equipment and operating procedures of the participating agencies: NSW Police Force, State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service, Surf Life Saving Australia, Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Air Services Australia, NSW Maritime, and NSW Fire Brigades.

Hunter – Central Coast District

There are nine Local Rescue Committees in the District: Cessnock, Dungog, Gosford, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle-Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Singleton, Wyong and Upper Hunter. The District also has a Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committee.

Three District Rescue Committee meetings and three Marine Advisory Sub-committees were held in 2006-07.

The Denman Rescue Squad disbanded during the reporting period. Land rescue services are being provided by NSW Fire Brigade Denman pending an application for primary rescue accreditation.

Dungog and Lake Macquarie SES units have moved at the local rescue committees to relinquish their accreditation for Vertical Rescue.

The accreditations for Terrigal Sea Rescue's Marine Radio Base and Category 1 Marine Rescue Unit were revoked, however the Category 3 Marine Rescue Unit accreditation was retained.

Significant rescue incidents during the reporting period included a number of incidents relating to the Hunter Valley-Central Coast storms and flood event in June 2007.

NSW Police Marine Area Command conducted a Search and Rescue exercise at Port Stephens in October 2006.

Illawarra District

There are three Local Rescue Committees in the District: Wollongong, Kiama-Shellharbour and Shoalhaven City. The District also has a Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committee.

Three District Rescue Committee meetings and three Marine Rescue Advisory Committee meetings were held during 2006-07.

Changes to accreditations in the District during 2006-07 included the withdrawal of the Wollongong RVCP marine radio base, the transfer of the Wollongong RVCP Category

3 Marine Rescue Unit to Bermagui, and the transfer to Wollongong of an AVCG Category 2 Marine Rescue Unit. The accreditation of Nowra Police Marine Rescue Unit was also revoked.

Multi-agency rescue training and exercise camps were held at Shoalhaven and Wollongong. A program of multi-agency rescue training activities culminated with an exercise at Port Kembla with a Hazmat/mass casualty scenario.

Amended land rescue arrangements were trialed in Wollongong in the latter part of the reporting period. Under this trial arrangement, the Police and Ambulance primary rescue units respond during the day and the NSWFB Wollongong and Bulli secondary units respond during the night, while primary units retain an on-call capability.

Mid North Coast District

There are eight Local Rescue Committees in the District: Bellingen, Coffs Harbour City, Greater Taree, Great Lakes, Gloucester, Kempsey, Port Macquarie Hastings and Nambucca. There is also a Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committee.

Three District Rescue Committee meetings and three Marine Rescue Advisory Committee meetings were held during 2006-07.

The accreditation for a Marine Radio Base at Coffs Harbour Police was revoked.

The Local Emergency Management Committees at Greater Taree, Great Lakes, Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour held tabletop/discussion exercises in relation to rail level crossing emergencies involving a rescue component. These exercises were followed by a District-level multi-agency rescue forum during August 2006. The aim of the forum was to increase awareness of site control and rescue resource coordination requirements in response to a mass passenger rail emergency

Monaro District

There are six Local Rescue Committees in the District: Lake George, Cooma-Monaro, Snowy River, Bombala, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley. There is also a Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committee.

The District Rescue Committee met three times in 2006-07.

Changes to accreditations included the change of volunteer marine rescue services in Bermagui from the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard with a Category 2 vessel to Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol with a Category 3 vessel. The Marine Radio Base and Marine Rescue Unit accreditations of the Moruya Division of the RVCP was revoked. The accreditation for the Marine Radio Base at Batemans Bay Police was revoked.

A major transport rescue exercise was conducted by Cooma-Monaro Local Rescue Committee. The exercise was a desktop exercise followed by field exercise in November 2006.

Murray District

There are currently eleven Local Rescue Committees in the District: Albury, Balranald, Berrigan, Corowa, Deniliquin-Conargo, Greater Hume, Jerilderie, Murray, Tumbarumba, Urana and Wakool. The Wentworth Local Rescue Committee was transferred to the Far West District during the reporting year.

Five District Rescue Committee meetings were held in 2006-07.

During the reporting period, the rescue accreditation of the Oaklands SES Unit was revoked.

The Echuca-Moama Search and Rescue Squad is no longer being used for primary land rescue response, following disaffiliation with the Volunteer Rescue Association for non compliance with operational standards. NSW Fire Brigade Moama is upgrading equipment and undertaking additional training to assume primary rescue responsibility in Moama.

A District-level exercise was held at Henty in March 2007.

A South-West NSW and Victoria Control Room Committee was formed to enhance the management of cross-border rescue arrangements.

The NSW SES has been working with Victoria SES, NSW Police, Victoria Police and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to improve training, equipment and procedures for Alpine search and survival.

Northern Rivers District

There are seven Local Rescue Committees in the District: Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Clarence Valley. There is also a Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committee.

The District Rescue Committee met three times.

A multi-agency Rescue Training day was conducted at Broadwater Sugar Mill in April 2007.

DEMO was observer at an exercise at the Gold Coast Airport which straddles the Queensland – New South Wales border. Local rescue committees also conducted airport exercises at Grafton and Lismore. CASA waived the requirement for an exercise at Ballina Airport this year due to an actual airport alert and subsequent after action review. A rail crossing/hazmat exercise was conducted at Grafton in November 2006.

Peel District

There are twelve Local Rescue Committees in the District: Armidale Dumaresq - Uralla, Glen Innes – Severn, Gunnedah, Guyra, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield and Walcha.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07.

During the reporting period, the rescue accreditations for the Tamworth-Parry SES units were revoked.

Significant rescue incidents during 2006-07 included a multiple casualty road crash at Warialda which required a significant and coordinated response.

Local level exercises conducted during the year included a Warialda combined services exercise.

Other strategic initiatives included a State Emergency Service general rescue course conducted specifically for members of the indigenous community at Moree.

Riverina District

There are twelve Local Rescue Committees in the District: Bland, Carrathool, Coolamon, Griffith, Hay, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Temora and Wagga Wagga.

The District Rescue Committee met three times during 2006-07.

There were no changes to accreditations in the District during the reporting period.

Significant training activities included a Vertical Rescue Skills and Hazard Awareness Workshop conducted at Narrandera in April 2006. Participating organisations included NSW Ambulance Rescue, NSW Fire Brigade and Volunteer Rescue Association. Rescue units were represented from Coleambally, Leeton, Narrandera and Wagga.

A joint Murray-Riverina District Exercise "Double Crossing" was conducted in March 2007 at Henty. "Double Crossing" was a large scale emergency and rescue field exercise involving a freight train and bus crash. The exercise received solid support with a wide range of agencies taking part in the conduct of the many facets of the activity. Comments from rescue units at the hot debrief conducted at the conclusion of the exercise indicated that all felt that it was "very realistic", and that having scrapped railway rolling stock and a scrapped bus to work with added to the experience gained by attending the activity.

The Narrandera Airport Emergency Field Exercise incorporated a rescue scenario component at night.

Southern Highlands District

There are eight Local Rescue Committees in the District: Boorowa, Cootamundra, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Gundagai, Harden, Tumut, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Yass Valley and Young. Harden Local Rescue Committee has been re-formed and is now functioning well.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07

There were no changes to accreditations in the District during the reporting period. After a temporary suspension in primary rescue response, the Batlow Rescue Squad (VRA) re-invigorated with new members and an active training program.

The District conducted a District-level exercise, and there were three local exercises conducted at Young, and one each at Cootamundra and Yass.

There is a continuing emphasis on cross-agency training in the District.

Sydney East District

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the District.

The District Rescue Committee met on two occasions during 2006-07.

The Sydney Metropolitan Marine Rescue Advisory Sub-Committee, which encompasses the District, met four times during the reporting period.

Significant rescue incidents during the period included two marine collisions on Sydney Harbour.

One district-level marine Search and Rescue exercise was conducted during the period, and two railway rescue exercises.

Sydney Mid West District

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the District.

The District Rescue Committee did not meet in 2006-07. The Committee is to be re-established in 2007/08.

The Marrickville Local Emergency Management Committee conducted a desktop exercise based on a scenario of an aircraft accident in Sydenham.

Sydney South West District

Wingecarribee Shire Local Rescue Committee is the only Local Rescue Committee in the District.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07.

There were no changes to accreditations in the District during the reporting period.

Significant rescue incidents during the period included a bush search during which searchers and rescue personnel and equipment were transported by SES boat to the search area, a search for missing persons, vertical rescue of bushwalkers, recovery from the bush and transportation of victims and personnel from the scene again by flood boat.

In March 2007 a multi-agency training activity and exercise was held. This activity resulted in about 100 emergency service personnel from NSW Police Force, NSW Fire Brigades, Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW SES, combining in a display of equipment, sharing of information and techniques.

Sydney North District

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the District.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07.

Western Slopes District

There are nine Local Rescue Committees in the District: Coonamble, Dubbo City, Gilgandra, Narromine, Mid Western Regional, Warren, Walgett, Warrumbungle and Wellington.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07, as part of the Combined Western Slopes, Central West and Far West committees.

The Coonamble SES Unit was reinstated as the secondary rescue unit during the reporting period.

Significant rescue incidents during the period included a number of major road crashes in the Dubbo and Gilgandra areas.

Exercise Hawk was conducted at Dubbo Airport by NSW Police Force to examine emergency services' responses to a 'White Powder' Rescue / Hazmat / Security incident, including command, control and coordination functions. The rescue services also participated in Exercise Aroona 2 at Dubbo.

The issue of volunteer availability within agencies has impacted upon several rescue units. This has resulted in a joint call out arrangement between with the Primary and Secondary rescue units at Coolah; Walgett and Warren. In addition, the Mendooran based rescue Unit requires the activation of adjoining rescue units to ensure that an adequate response is generated for incidents within the rescue area.

Western Sydney District

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the District.

The District Rescue Committee met four times during 2006-07.

There were no changes to accreditations in the District during the reporting period.

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CHAPTER FIVE - BOARD SECRETARIAT SERVICES

The Secretariat, which forms part of the Office for Emergency Services, provides the executive support to the State Rescue Board.

THE STAFF OF THE STATE RESCUE BOARD

Secretary	Mr B Goodes (until 31 January 2007)
Executive Officer	Mr H Mueller (from 1 February 2007)
Planning Officer	Mr N Pfister (from 18 June 2007)
Support Officer, Marine	Mr J Rossi

During the reporting period the position of Secretary was abolished and replaced with the position of Executive Officer. The position of Assistant Secretary, which had been vacant, was also abolished and replaced with the position of Planning Officer.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Personnel and Staffing

The equivalent full-time (EFT) staff as at the 30 June 2007 was three.

The profile of the combined staff is as follows:

Management	1
Land and Marine Rescue Accreditation	2

Mandatory reporting detail in relation to the staff is included in the Annual Report of the NSW Rural Fire Service which provides administrative support to the Office for Emergency Services.

CONSULTANTS

Assistant Commissioner M Crossweller of the NSW Rural Fire Service was engaged to conduct a strategic analysis of the Land Rescue Arrangements in NSW in light of the recommendations of the Auditor General.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications have been produced and are available at the Board:

- State Rescue Policy (3rd Edition – 2006);
- State Rescue Board Exercise Management Guide;
- State Rescue Board Supplementary Restraint Systems (SRS) Air Bags;
- State Rescue Board Marine Standard Operating Procedures.

FINANCE

Funding for the Board is provided through the budget of the NSW Rural Fire Service. Financial details are included as part of the Financial Statement in the Annual Report of that Service.

CONTACT DETAILS

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