

State Rescue Board Meeting Communiqué

28 November 2012

The State Rescue Board (Board) held its 106th meeting on Wednesday 28 November 2012.

Rescue Accreditation Changes

The Board was presented with an accreditation application for a new Marine Rescue Unit at Moama. The Board endorsed the application for pre accreditation for Category 1 and agreed to recommend the accreditation to the Minister for endorsement.

New Rescue Arrangements

The State Rescue Board was advised of temporary rescue arrangements in Barraba.

The Barraba Volunteer Rescue Association is unable to meet its requirements to maintain primary rescue status for general land rescue and has stood down. Fire & Rescue NSW Barraba will take up the role of primary general land rescue until 22 February 2013.

Local Rescue Committees

The Board was presented with a proposal to combine the Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla, Guyra and Walcha Local Rescue Committees into a single New England Local Rescue Committee. The Board endorsed the proposal.

The Board was also presented with a proposal to establish a single rescue committee in each of the following Districts: North West Metropolitan, South West Metropolitan and Sydney Metropolitan. The Board endorsed the proposal noting that the rescue committees would perform the functions of both the District and Local Rescue Committees.

State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee

The State Rescue Board has approved the formation of a State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee to provide legislative and policy advice on marine rescue to the Board.

The aims of the Committee are:

- ensure uniformity and consistency in search and rescue procedures within NSW
- assist in the further development of State Marine Search and Rescue Policy
- assist in research and development of marine rescue procedures and rescue resource capabilities
- promote effective coordination between Local, State and National search and rescue authorities
- share information on marine search and rescue issues
- ensure that member organisations continue to recognise Police responsibilities for the control and coordination of marine rescues
- provide guidance for a cooperative approach to the training of search and rescue practitioners at local and State level.

The Committee also reports annually to the National Search and Rescue Council on developments and response within the state marine search and rescue domain.

The Committee is chaired by Marine Area Command, NSW Police Force and includes representatives from Roads and Maritime Services, Surf Life Saving NSW, Marine Rescue NSW, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, NSW Boat Owners Association, NSW Boating Industry Association, Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and Yachting NSW.

An updated Terms of Reference was endorsed by the Board at the meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7 March 2013.