

State Rescue Board Meeting Communiqué

7 March 2013

The State Rescue Board held its 107th meeting on Thursday 7 March 2013.

Rescue Accreditation Changes

The Board was presented with a number of new applications for accreditation.

The Board endorsed the applications for vertical rescue accreditation of Fire & Rescue NSW Newcastle and pre-accreditation of Marine Rescue Toukley as a Category 1 Marine Rescue Unit.

The Board was also presented with a number of applications for flood rescue accreditation of the Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Police Force units. The Board endorsed 23 units for Level 1 accreditation and 16 units for Level 3 accreditation.

The Board also received two accreditation cancellation requests for Urana SES and Scone SES. The Local Rescue Committees have put in place arrangements to cover the areas previously serviced by these units. Consequently, the Board endorsed the accreditation withdrawal of Urana SES and Scone SES as general land rescue units.

The Board will recommend the accreditation changes to the Minister for endorsement.

Rescue Vehicle Drivers Directive

The *Road Rules 2008* (NSW) grant exemptions to drivers of emergency vehicles in certain circumstances. The Board agreed that drivers of rescue vehicles should undertake rescue vehicle driver training. The Policy Advisory Committee subsequently drafted a Rescue Vehicle Drivers Directive detailing the exemptions under the *Road Rules 2008* (NSW) and the training competencies required to be undertaken by drivers.

The Board endorsed the Directive and subsequent amendments to the State Rescue Policy. The changes to the State Rescue Policy will be presented to the Minister for endorsement.

Inshore Water Rescue

The Board agreed to implement the recommendations in the Inshore Water Rescue Report.

SERM Act and State Rescue Policy Review

The Ministry for Police and Emergency Services will conduct a review of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* and the NSW State Rescue Policy commencing this year. The Board agreed to establish two working groups to undertake the reviews.

Minimum Training Standards

The State Rescue Board sets minimum training standards for general land rescue and marine rescue accreditation. The Board requested that the Policy Advisory Committee undertake a review of these standards to ensure they were still current. A number of minor changes were made to the standards and the competencies required for accreditation. These changes were endorsed by the Board at this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 June 2013.