

State Rescue Board Meeting Communiqué

4 December 2014

The State Rescue Board held its 114th meeting on Thursday 4 December 2014.

Edits to the State Rescue Policy

The ongoing review of the *State Emergency Management Act 1989* ('the SERM Act') will delay a holistic review of the State Rescue Policy ('the Policy') as the Policy must reflect the content and intent of the SERM Act.

The Board endorsed amendments to some marine rescue components of the Policy as they were inconsistent with current practice. The amendments clarify the coordination arrangements between Marine Rescue NSW and NSW Police Force Marine Area Command as well as removing references to marine rescue agencies other than Marine Rescue NSW. Version 3.5 of the State Rescue Policy will be published once endorsed by the Minister.

The Board also endorsed the removal of the standalone Marine Rescue Standard Operating Procedures as these have been incorporated into the revised Policy.

Extension for Training Competencies

The Board decided to extend the deadline for all rescue agencies to implement the minimum training standards for General Land Rescue by 12 months. All agencies now have until March 2016 to ensure all of their units are up-to-date with the necessary training. Agencies agreed to report back to the Board in September 2015 to provide an update on their progress.

Rescue Activation Process

The NSW Police Force presented to the Board a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system which uses GPS data to identify the nearest rescue unit to an incident. The CAD system provides numerous benefits over the existing system.

The Board were supportive of the new CAD system. The NSW Police Force confirmed they will commence the process of implementing the new system.

Clarification on Primary/Secondary Accreditation

The Board discussed whether both Primary and Secondary units need to maintain the same units of capability and the original intention of having two levels of accreditation.

The Board recognised the opportunity to develop a capability matrix to identify the existing capabilities of all units and any gaps in service, particularly in regional areas. This will enable analysis of whether Secondary units do need all of the competencies. A sub-group of the PAC will be directed to develop the capability matrix for the Board's consideration in 2015.

State Rescue Board Annual Report 2013 - 2014

The State Rescue Board Annual Report was provided to members for consideration. Pending members' comments, the Annual Report will be signed off by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 March 2015.