

State Rescue Board Meeting Communiqué 10 September 2015

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its 117th meeting on Thursday 10 September 2015.

Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Working Groups

The PAC Chair noted that there had been a constructive discussion about this issue at the previous PAC meeting, at which PAC members agreed to retire the long list of working groups that were reporting to PAC, with two or three exceptions that were continuing to meet and provide useful information. These were the Capability Matrix Working Group (CMWG), the State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee (SMRCC) and the Flood Swift-Water Aerial Operations Group (FSWAOG). Moving forward, working groups would be created for a specific purpose and time limit. This will ensure working groups address specific issues as necessary, reducing the burden on the PAC to continue pursuing sub-groups that were no longer active.

NSW VRA Request for Funding 2015-16

The Board agreed to recommend to the Minister that funding to the value of \$1,360,854 be approved for the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association for the 2015/16 financial year. The VRA noted the Operational Funding Agreement between OEM and the NSW VRA would expire at the end of the current financial year and a new agreement would be negotiated soon.

Capability Matrix Working Group (CMWG) - Update

The Board reviewed a new map that had been produced by the NSWPF showing the gaps in General Land Rescue across NSW with Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries identified. The Board were informed that the NSW Department of Lands and Property Information had also developed a new map where filters could be applied to show or hide certain information. This map would be particularly useful for highlighting where any gaps in rescue services may lie. The next meeting of the CMWG would be on 22 September 2015, following which, the CMWG Chair would report back to the SRB meeting in December. The Board noted the initial Capability Matrix report including the recommendations produced by the CMWG and the progress of those recommendations.

Change in NSW Ambulance Board Representation

The Board noted the departure of the former Deputy Chief Executive Mick Willis from NSW Ambulance and moved a vote of thanks for his work on the SRB.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 December 2015.