

## State Rescue Board Meeting Communiqué 3 December 2015

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its 118<sup>th</sup> meeting on Thursday 3 December 2015.

### **New State Rescue Board Chair and Member**

The Board welcomed Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos as the new Chair of the State Rescue Board. Commissioner Tannos was appointed by the Minister in November 2015, following the resignation of NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons as Chair. Commissioner Fitzsimmons remains a Board member. The Board also welcomed Acting Assistant Commissioner and Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller, Kyle Stewart to the Board, noting his considerable previous experience as a LEOCON and a Deputy REOCON.

### **Capability Matrix Working Group (CMWG) – Update**

The CMWG last met on 22 November 2015. The CMWG was developing a NSW Rescue Capability Statement to provide strategic direction towards 2020 and beyond and a commonly accepted definition for Industrial and Domestic Rescue, adopted from existing training packages. The Chair emphasised the Board's appreciation for the CMWG's work to date.

### **Specialist and Support Units**

The Board noted that minimum training standards of specialist groups needed to be monitored to ensure that Police could be confident in their ability to safely undertake specialist rescue duties. Regional Rescue Committees and the Police VKG needed to be consulted to identify the specialist resources available in all areas of NSW. The Board reaffirmed the proposal that the CMWG look into these issues and report to the next SRB meeting.

### **Minister's SRB Strategic Planning**

Within the Chair's letter of appointment, the Minister set out issues to be addressed by the Board and provided a 12 month deadline by which time all issues needed to be addressed. The Chair acknowledged the timeframe and suggested that the Board finalise all such issues as soon as practicable. The Board tasked the CMWG with exploring these strategic issues using the appointment letter as Terms of Reference.

### **Next Meeting**

Members agreed to hold an extraordinary Board meeting at the Rural Fire Service Headquarters in Dubbo on 29 January 2016. This followed a request from the Regional Emergency Management Officer for the Central West – North Region. The regular meeting schedule will continue with the following meeting in Sydney in March 2016.