

## State Rescue Board Meeting Communiqué 29 January 2016

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its 119<sup>th</sup> meeting on Thursday 29 January 2016 at the Rural Fire Service Orana headquarters in Dubbo.

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

In 2016, the CMWG will meet regularly to address the issues raised within the Chair's letter of appointment and present findings to the Board for consideration. The Board will report back to the Minister within a 12 month period. The Board noted that occasionally, the CMWG may need to call upon subject matter experts to provide specialist advice to the CMWG.

### **Community First Response**

A/Commissioner David Dutton gave a presentation to the Board regarding Community First Responders (CFR). The presentation addressed a number of issues, including:

- differences between volunteer ambulance officers and CFR
- challenges faced in rural areas, especially concerning aging populations
- changing scope of Ambulance personnel's role
- CFR training and equipment.

The Board requested that NSW Ambulance provide an update on the CFR Strategy at a later Board meeting once it has been fully developed.

### **General Land Rescue in Mungindi**

The Board noted a need for a rescue unit in Mungindi, as the next closest unit was located 120 kilometres away in Moree. The Board endorsed pre-accreditation of NSW SES for Primary General Land Rescue and pre-accreditation of NSW RFS for Secondary General Land Rescue, both in Mungindi.

The Board considered whether the State Rescue Policy needed to be amended to allow NSW RFS as an agency not currently accredited for rescue to be considered by the Minister. Members noted that any proposed changes to the Policy would first need to be discussed by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) before forwarding to the SRB for consideration and recommendation to the Minister. The Board tasked the PAC with reviewing the Policy to inform the future status of the NSW RFS as an accredited rescue agency.

### **Rescue Exercises**

The Board noted that the full annual budget of \$20,000 for conducting General Land Rescue exercises was still available for 2015-2016. Members agreed to encourage the development of proposals to utilise the funding.



# State Rescue Board of New South Wales

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 31 March 2016 in Sydney.