



State Rescue Board of New South Wales

Meeting Communiqué

November 24, 2010

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its 98th Meeting on Wednesday, 24 November 2010.

The Board endorsed NSW Rural Fire Service Assistant Commissioner Dominic Lane as the Chair of its Policy Advisory Committee. This Committee provides high-level policy advice to the Board on a range of rescue matters. Assistant Commissioner Lane briefed the Board on the progress of the Rural Service Delivery Model implementation. The model provides a mechanism to help Local Rescue Committees to assess their ability to provide the appropriate level of rescue capability in rural areas of NSW.

The Board agreed to rename its Flood Rescue Directive as the Flood Rescue Policy, in keeping with other rescue guidelines. This policy will now be incorporated in the State Rescue Board Policy Manual.

Progress reports were presented to the Board on the Marine Service Delivery Model (a risk-based assessment of marine rescue services in NSW), Vertical Rescue Policy (a review of vertical rescue service delivery across the State) and also from the Rescue Data working group, which is examining the provision of rescue data for NSW.

The Board noted the proposed transition of 15 Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Australia NSW Flotillas to Marine Rescue NSW on 30 November 2010. These flotillas are Ballina, Evans Head, Illuka/Yamba, Port Stephens, Swansea, Port Jackson, Ku-ring-gai, South Head, Botany Bay, Port Hacking, Solander, Wollongong, Port Kembla, Lake Illawarra and Shellharbour.

The Board supported advice to the Minister on the transfer of the Norah Head Search and Point Danger units' marine rescue accreditation from the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association to Marine Rescue NSW.

The Board noted advice that the Moree State Emergency Service unit has resumed its primary road rescue role, allowing Moree Fire Brigade to resume its role as the secondary rescue response unit in the area. The Gunnedah Fire Brigade is seeking to become a secondary rescue response unit.

The Board subsequently endorsed the following proposed changes to accreditation:

- Gunnedah Fire Brigade – to Secondary General Land Rescue;

- Moree SES unit – resumed primary road crash rescue role;
- Moree Fire Brigade – resumed secondary road crash rescue role; and
- Wee Waa – temporary rescue arrangements in place with NSW Fire Brigades assuming primary rescue responsibilities in lieu of the SES for the interim period.

These changes will now be recommended to the Minister for approval.

The next meeting will be held on February 23, 2011.