



State Rescue Board of New South Wales

Meeting Communiqué

March 23, 2011

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its 99th Meeting on Wednesday, 23 March 2011. The meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday, 23 February, but was postponed due to operational commitments.

A presentation was given to the Board by Chief Superintendent Gary Picken, the Task Force Commander of the recent Urban Search and Rescue deployment to Christchurch, and Station Officer Bruce Cameron, the Team Leader of Alpha One during the deployment. During the deployment the international response team was able to strengthen their already excellent relations with international teams. The multi-agency approach worked seamlessly and was validation that the current rescue training regime is right on target. All agencies involved in this deployment and other recent flood related events deserve credit and recognition for their professional and co-operative response.

The Board reinforced the need to ensure that the best level of community protection is provided by ensuring that the call out procedure for rescue services continues to perform efficiently.

Notification was given to the Board that from 1 January 2011 the NSW Fire Brigades have changed their name to Fire and Rescue NSW. Updates were given from the Vertical and Data working groups, as well as an update report on progress of the Rural Service delivery model.

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 final report on the Marine Service Delivery Model will be sent to Marine rescue units shortly for comment. The final report is expected to be released in the next few weeks.

Advice to the Minister regarding a change of accreditation for the Marine Rescue NSW Shoalhaven unit to cover categories one, two and three was supported.

The Board also endorsed the following proposed changes to accreditation:

- Musswellbrook SES – to deregister from Primary General Land Rescue;

- Musswellbrook Fire and Rescue Unit – register for General Land Rescue; and
- Ivanhoe SES – upgrade from pre-accreditation to full accreditation for General Land Rescue.

The Board endorsed the district proposal for a single rescue committee for the Greater Taree and Great Lakes local government areas, to be known as “Manning Great Lakes local rescue committee.

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

The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2011.