

Meeting 123 – 1 December 2016 Communiqué

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its 123rd meeting on Thursday 1 December 2016 in Sydney.

Membership

The Board welcomed Acting Deputy Commissioner Frank Mennilli who is ex officio State Emergency Operations Controller and member of the SRB.

The Board also thanked Commissioner Greg Mullins for his valuable contribution to the rescue sector over the last two decades and throughout his tenure as a member of the SRB. Commissioner Mullins will retire in January 2017.

NSW State Rescue Policy

The Board acknowledged the revised NSW State Rescue Policy which members had endorsed out of session. The revised policy will be uploaded to the Emergency NSW website once the necessary approvals have been obtained.

General Land Rescue in Tocumwal

Members endorsed the transfer of accreditation from the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Tocumwal unit to the NSW State Emergency Service Tocumwal unit out of session following an inspection of the unit on 29 September 2016. The transfer of accreditation was subsequently approved by the Deputy Premier on 26 October 2016.

Presentation on Rapid Extrication Techniques

The Board noted the presentation from Fire & Rescue NSW regarding rapid extrication techniques. The Board endorsed the establishment of a Working Group to examine the application of these techniques in further detail. The Working Group will be coordinated by NSW Ambulance.

Rescue Unit Offline/Online Notification Form and Protocol

Members endorsed the Rescue Unit Offline/Online Notification Form and Protocol. This reporting procedure will enable the Board as well as Local and Regional Rescue Committees to better monitor the status of rescue units, the local arrangements that are in place when units are offline and assist with forward planning. A uniform offline reporting procedure will also provide a consistent approach for the management of unit status across NSW.

Capability Assurance Framework and Inspection Report Template

The Board endorsed the Capability Assurance Framework and Capability Inspection Report Template for land rescue. The framework will provide the Board with improved visibility of the standards of land rescue capability across the State, and will also support organisations in meeting and maintaining their training, vehicle and equipment requirements for land rescue accreditation. The report template will standardise the process for undertaking land rescue unit inspections and ensure compliance with the NSW State Rescue Policy.

Capability Matrix Working Group

The Board endorsed the key principles and findings of the Capability Matrix Working Group Report: Review of Land Rescue Arrangements in NSW. The Board thanked the Working Group and its Chair for undertaking a significant body of work which will greatly enhance rescue capability in NSW.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled in February 2017 in Sydney.