

## Meeting 124 – 9 February 2017

The State Rescue Board (SRB) held its first meeting of the year on Thursday 9 February 2017 in Sydney.

### **Membership Changes**

The Board noted that Mark Smethurst, the new Commissioner of the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) will commence on 27 February 2017 and Paul Baxter, the new Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) will commence on 24 April 2017.

Members thanked Acting Commissioner Greg Newton and Interim Commissioner Jim Hamilton for their contribution throughout their tenure as members of the Board.

### **Review of Land Rescue Arrangements in NSW**

The Board noted that the former Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon David Elliott, had endorsed the findings of the *Capability Matrix Working Group Report: Review of Land Rescue Arrangements in NSW*. The Chair will meet with the new Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Troy Grant, to brief him on the report.

The Board recognised the key role of Local and Regional Rescue Committees in determining the rescue needs of communities within their areas of responsibility. As such, following a period of internal consultation to be undertaken by emergency services and volunteer agencies, it is anticipated that Regional Emergency Management Officers (REMOs) and the Local and Regional Rescue Committees will be engaged to investigate the development of capabilities in the rural and remote areas identified for improved rescue service delivery.

### **Pre-accreditation of the FRNSW Scone unit for Primary General Land Rescue**

The Board endorsed the pre-accreditation of the FRNSW Scone unit for Primary General Land Rescue.

### **Withdrawal of pre-accreditation of the NSW SES Mungindi unit**

At the request of the NSW SES, the Board endorsed the withdrawal of pre-accreditation of the NSW SES Mungindi unit for Primary General Land Rescue.

### **Review of the SRB Flood Rescue Policy**

The Board endorsed a review of the Flood Rescue Policy. The review will be led by NSW SES, the combat agency for flood rescue, with the support of a multi-agency working group.

### **Operational Capability Assurance Framework – Inspection Program**

The Board endorsed the draft inspection schedule proposed by Acting Assistant Commissioner Stewart. It was agreed that the NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit will liaise with the nominated members of the Board Inspection Team to coordinate the inspections. There will be approximately 12 inspections of land rescue units conducted across NSW in 2017.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled in May 2017.