

Meeting 125 – 21 July 2017

The State Rescue Board held its second meeting of the year on Friday 21 July 2017 in Dubbo.

Membership Changes

The Chair welcomed the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Troy Grant, members and observers to the meeting. The Board welcomed the following ex officio members to the Board:

- Mark Smethurst, Commissioner of the NSW State Emergency Service
- Paul Baxter, Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW
- Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn, State Emergency Operations Controller, NSW Police Force.

Members thanked Assistant Commissioner Kyle Stewart for his contribution as a Board member in his capacity as Deputy State Emergency Operations Controller.

Review of Land Rescue Arrangements in NSW

The Board endorsed the publication of the Capability Matrix Working Group (CMWG) Report: *Review of Land Rescue Arrangements in NSW* on the Emergency NSW website.

The Board endorsed the Terms of Reference for the Capability Working Group which will progress the implementation of the CMWG Report's findings. The Working Group comprises senior members of:

- Fire & Rescue NSW
- NSW Ambulance
- NSW Police Force (Emergency Management Unit, Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, and Radio Operations Group/VKG)
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW State Emergency Service
- NSW Volunteer Rescue Association
- Office of Emergency Management, NSW Department of Justice.

Presentation on Exercise Vas Onero

Members congratulated Mr Greg McMahon, Regional Emergency Management Officer for the Far West, and all participating agencies on the success of Exercise Vas Onero, a multi-agency land search and rescue exercise conducted in Packsaddle on 25 March 2017. The Board agreed that such exercises should be promoted extensively by agencies through their media channels, websites and social media.

NSW VRA Funding for 2017/18

The Board agreed to recommend to the Minister that funding to the value of \$1,360,854 be approved for the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association for the 2017/18 financial year.

Accreditation of the FRNSW Bowraville unit for Primary General Land Rescue

The Board endorsed the Fire & Rescue NSW accreditation application for Primary General Land Rescue in Bowraville for the newly defined rescue area of Bowraville and west of Bowraville.

Accreditation of the FRNSW Brewarrina unit for Secondary General Land Rescue

The Board endorsed the Fire & Rescue NSW accreditation application for Secondary General Land Rescue in Brewarrina, subject to the full accreditation application being signed by the Local and Regional Rescue Committees and circulated to the Board out of session.

Accreditation of the NSW SES Packsaddle unit for Primary General Land Rescue

The Board endorsed the NSW State Emergency Service accreditation application for Primary General Land Rescue in Packsaddle, subject to receipt of a Capability Inspection Report demonstrating that the unit meets all State Rescue Policy requirements.

Establishment of Northern Rivers Local Rescue Committee

The Board endorsed the formation of a single Local Rescue Committee (LRC) for the local government areas of Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley, to be known as Northern Rivers LRC.

Under the proposed new arrangements, the Northern Rivers LRC will replace the Richmond LRC and align the geographic area with the proposed formation of the Northern Rivers Local Emergency Management Committee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on 9 November 2017.