Contents

Section 1: Introduction

Chairs Forward 3
Introduction 4
Role and Functions 4
Membership 5
Executive Support 5

Section 2: Advisory Committees and Working Groups

Policy Advisory Committee 6
Capability Working Group 7
State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee 7

Section 3: Rescue Agency Reports

NSW Ambulance 8
Fire and Rescue NSW 9
NSW Rural Fire Service 10
Marine Rescue NSW 11
NSW Police Force 12
NSW State Emergency Service 13
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association 15

Section 4: Rescue Accreditation 16

Section 5: Rescue Training 16

Section 6: Government Funding 17

Section 7: Regional Rescue Committee Reports

Central West Region 18
Far West Region 19
Hunter Central Coast Region 20
Illawarra South Coast Region 21
New England Region 22
North Coast Region 22
North West Region 23
Riverina Murray Region 24
South East Region 25
South West Metropolitan Region 25
Sydney Metropolitan Region 26

Section 8: Appendices

Appendix A - Land Rescue Statistics 27
Appendix B - Glossary 34
Appendix C - Acronyms 35
Appendix D - Digital Information Security Annual Attestation Statement 37
Appendix E - Financial Statement 38
Chair’s Foreword

The State Rescue Board is established under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 to ensure the maintenance of efficient and effective rescue services throughout the State.

The State Rescue Board plays an integral role in the delivery of rescue services to the communities of NSW. It consists of representatives from the NSW Police Force, Fire & Rescue NSW, Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

At its meeting on 1 December 2016, the State Rescue Board noted the Capability Matrix Working Group (CMWG) Report – Review of land Rescue Arrangements in NSW. The report is a significant body of work with a number of recommendations to improve service delivery across the State, particularly in terms of road rescue. On 20 January 2017, the final report of the CMWG was endorsed by the former Minister for Emergency Services. The Capability Working Group has been established to support the implementation of the CMWG’s findings.

The State Rescue Board held three meetings during the reporting period:

- Meeting 122 - 8 September 2016
- Meeting 123 - 1 December 2016
- Meeting 124 - 9 February 2017

In the 2016/17 reporting period, the State Rescue Board made numerous achievements, including endorsing the following applications:

- 8 September 2016 - NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Narromine unit - Vertical Rescue
- 8 September 2016 - NSW Rural Fire Service Mungindi unit - Secondary General Land Rescue
- 9 February 2017 - Fire and Rescue NSW Scone unit - Pre Accreditation Primary General Land Rescue
- 9 February 2017 - NSW SES Mungindi unit – withdrawal Primary General Land Rescue

The State Rescue Board also progressed work on:

- a review of the State Rescue Policy to accommodate recommendations arising from the CMWG report
- a review of the Flood Rescue Policy

The 2016/17 reporting period has been a period of change. The CMWG’s findings brings significant opportunity to enhance NSW’s approach to rescue accreditation and rescue service delivery in NSW.

I would like to thank all involved in progressing policies to promote the provision of comprehensive and well-coordinated rescue service across NSW. I would also like to thank rescue unit volunteers and paid staff who take the time and effort to respond to incidents and provide a valuable service to their communities.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM
Chair, State Rescue Board of NSW
Introduction

This report has been compiled in accordance with section 49A of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 to describe the work and activities of the State Rescue Board of New South Wales during the financial year 2016-2017. The report has been produced by the Office of Emergency Management, NSW Department of Justice.

Role and Functions

The State Rescue Board is a statutory body constituted under section 42 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. The principal function of the State Rescue Board is to ensure the efficient and effective maintenance of rescue services throughout NSW. The State Rescue Board carries out its responsibilities through the heads of the agencies that provide the accredited rescue units and through the NSW Police Force, which is responsible for the coordination of rescue within the State.

In accordance with section 48 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, the State Rescue Board is required to:

- develop policies to promote the provision of comprehensive, balanced and co-ordinated rescue services throughout the State
- make recommendations to the Minister on policy matters relating to the provision of rescue services within the State
- review planning for single incident rescues within the State
- review and disseminate to relevant agencies technical information relating to rescue operations
- ensure proper liaison and co-ordination with Federal and other State organisations in connection with rescue services
- provide advice and recommendations on the compatibility of rescue equipment, including communications equipment
- make recommendations to the Minister on the accreditation of rescue units (both permanent and volunteer) for participation in rescue operations
- make recommendations to the Minister on levels of Government support (including financial assistance under section 60 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989) to volunteer organisations providing rescue services
- assist in the conduct of training exercises in rescue operations involving the various agencies concerned
- monitor the training standards of the permanent and volunteer services in rescue
- review proposals for amendment of legislation relating to rescue and make recommendations to the Minister
- make reports or recommendations to the Minister on any matter referred to the Board by the Minister.

Local and Regional Rescue Committees are established under the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 to assist the State Rescue Board in the exercise of its functions and, in particular, assist in determining whether the accreditation of a rescue unit to operate in the relevant local or regional area should be recommended to the Minister.
Membership

Membership of the State Rescue Board is in accordance with section 43 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989.

Members

**Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW)**
Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM – Chair of the State Rescue Board

**NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS)**
Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM

**State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCON)**
Acting Deputy Commissioner Geoff McKechnie APM
Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn (from May 2017)

**NSW Police Force (NSWPF)**
Acting Assistant Commissioner Kyle Stewart APM (from December 2015 to February 2017)

**NSW Ambulance (NSWA)**
Commissioner Dominic Morgan ASM

**Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW)**
Commissioner Greg Mullins AFSM
Commissioner Paul Baxter (from April 2017)

**NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES)**
Acting Commissioner Greg Newton
Commissioner Mark Smethurst (from February 2017)

**NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (NSW VRA)**
Commissioner Mark Gibson ESM

Executive Support

Executive support to the State Rescue Board is provided by the Emergency Management Policy and Coordination Unit within the Office of Emergency Management. During the reporting period, the Executive Officer of the State Rescue Board was Mr Sam Toohey.

State Rescue Board Secretariat
Office of Emergency Management
Department of Justice
GPO Box 5434
Sydney NSW 2001
Website: [www.emergency.nsw.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au)
Section 2 - Advisory Committees and Working Groups

The State Rescue Board (SRB) has a number of advisory committees and working groups to assist with the exercise of its functions and provide advice on specific issues.

During the reporting period three groups continued to provide advice to the SRB; the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) the Capability Working Group (CWG) and the State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee (SMRCC).

Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC provides advice to the SRB on rescue policy and other issues as requested. The PAC is chaired by the Executive Officer of the SRB. Membership comprises of senior representatives from NSW Ambulance, Fire & Rescue NSW, Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Service and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Executive support is provided by the Office of Emergency Management.

The PAC met three times during the reporting period:

- Meeting 30 – 11 August 2016
- Meeting 31 – 10 November 2016
- Meeting 32 – 26 April 2017

During the reporting period, the PAC made a number of recommendations to the SRB. These included progressing the following applications:

- NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Narromine unit - Vertical Rescue
- NSW Rural Fire Service Mungindi unit - Secondary General Land Rescue
- Fire and Rescue NSW Scone unit - Pre Accreditation Primary General Land Rescue
- NSW State Emergency Service Mungindi Unit - withdrawal Primary General Land Rescue

The PAC also progressed work on:

- Terms of Reference for the Committee
- overseeing the implementation of the land rescue reforms by the Capability Working Group
- overseeing the State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee
- progressing amendments to the State Rescue Policy
- development of a Rescue Accreditation Database.
Capability Working Group (CWG)

The CWG reports to the SRB through the PAC. The CWG was formed to implement the recommendation of the Capability Matrix Working Group into land rescue arrangements in NSW. Membership comprises subject matter experts from NSW Ambulance, Fire & Rescue NSW, NSW Rural Fire Service, Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Police Force, NSW State Emergency Service and NSW Volunteer Rescue Association. Executive support is provided by the Office of Emergency Management. The CWG had its first meeting on 13 June 2017.

Issues discussed at the first meeting of the Group included: Terms of Reference for the Group, an Implementation Plan for progressing the introduction of General Land Rescue and Road Crash Rescue in lieu of Primary and Secondary General Land Rescue. Members also discussed the Flood Rescue Policy and its incorporation into the State Rescue Policy in order to for all rescue policy documentation to be in one document. A two day workshop was scheduled to develop equipment lists for General Land Rescue and Vertical Rescue.

State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee (SMRCC)

The SMRCC reports to the SRB through the PAC on all matters pertaining to maritime search and rescue. The Committee is chaired by NSW Police Force Marine Area Command and comprises of representatives from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Boating Industry Association, Boat Owners Association of NSW, Marine Rescue NSW, NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit, Office of Emergency Management, Roads and Maritime Services, Surf Life Saving NSW, Westpac Life Saver Helicopter and Yachting NSW. Executive support is provided by the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command.

The SMRCC met twice during the reporting period with the key issues being: the role of drones in rescue, state wide coastal identification markers, state wide aviation changes, commercial vessel evacuation procedures and the coastal rock fishing lifejacket project.
Section 3 – Rescue Agency Reports

NSW Ambulance (NSWA)

NSWA is committed to providing high quality clinical care and health related transport services. NSWA has six Primary General Land Rescue Units in rural NSW with 85 primary rescue operators. Three of these units also hold Vertical Rescue accreditation. Sixteen paramedics are Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Category 2 trained with a further eleven paramedics trained as USAR specialists.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2016/2017

- Provided a Medical Classifier for the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) reclassification of Korean Disaster Relief Team.
- Conducted two, one week General Land Rescue and Vertical Rescue recertification courses.
- Conducted four Swift Water Technician recertification courses.
- Five paramedics successfully completed the FRNSW Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce Specialist course.
- Rescue instructors attended a two day FRNSW road crash workshop.
- 30 Paramedics, configured in a variety of teams, competed in the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association annual NavShield event.
- Deployed specialist paramedic swift water teams to the Lismore floods, assisting the NSW State Emergency Service.
- Deployed specialist paramedics to assist the NSW Rural Fire Service at bushfires in Gloucester, Mudgee, Guy Fawkes and Deua.
- Supported NSWPF Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit search and rescue exercise Barrington Tops.
- Assisted with the provision of rescue judges at NSW State Emergency Service regional rescue competitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Unit – Vertical</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue Operators</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue Operators</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW)

FRNSW is the largest provider of rescue services, carrying out almost 70 per cent of all rescues in NSW. FRNSW operate primary and secondary rescue units in 188 locations across NSW with all firefighters trained in basic rescue. In addition to specialist rescue vehicles, every fire engine carries rescue equipment. FRNSW responded to 19,387 non-fire rescue calls including animal rescues in 2016/17.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2016/2017

- Cyclone Debbie hit Queensland on 28 March 2017 and then crossed the coast near the Queensland / NSW border bringing very heavy rain and flooding to northern NSW. FRNSW deployed a total of 85 personnel as part of Taskforce Debbie to assist in the clean-up operation around the township of Proserpine, including rapid damage assessment teams, hazmat teams and clean-up crews. On average FRNSW had 155 firefighters in the field each day. More than 6,000 rapid damage assessments were completed with 2,887 carried out by FRNSW crews across a massive 4,000 square kilometres of south eastern Queensland.

- A multi-agency rescue workshop was held at the FRNSW training facility at Ingleburn in May 2017. All rescue agencies in NSW participated in this workshop. Two rescue instructors from The Netherlands helped facilitate the workshop and demonstrated the latest road crash rescue techniques. This event was coordinated through the SRB’s Capability Matrix Working Group.

- The NSW State Emergency Service requested assistance from FRNSW to help with the storm recovery where the levee at Lismore was breached. This resulted in an inundation of the central business district, including the local Lismore FRNSW station. A total of six people were confirmed deceased as a result of the severe weather event. FRNSW deployed approximately 730 personnel and the Hytrans high volume transfer tanker to assist and carried out more than 15,000 rapid damage assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Unit – Vertical</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue Operators</td>
<td>2297</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue Operators</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS)

The NSW RFS is the lead combat agency for bush fires in NSW. The NSW RFS is the world’s largest volunteer fire service, with members providing fire and emergency services to approximately 95 per cent of NSW. NSW RFS members attend a range of incidents and activities including bush and grass fires, house and structure fires, storm damage, search and rescue, motor vehicle accidents and bush fire mitigation.

The NSW RFS is working towards establishing a Road Crash Rescue capability in remote and isolated areas of NSW in line with the Capability Matrix Working Group’s review of Land Rescue in NSW and supported by the State Rescue Board.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2016/2017

- In a first for the NSW RFS, Mungiindi Rural Fire Brigade received accreditation in General Land Rescue. The Brigade is a remote brigade located on the NSW and QLD border approximately 120km North West of Moree.

- The NSW RFS joined the Capability Matrix Working Group in the review of land rescue arrangements in NSW. The NSW RFS undertook extensive consultation and information sessions direct to Brigades identified in the Capability Matrix Working Group’s review of Land Rescue. The report identifies a number of areas in remote and isolated parts of NSW where the NSW RFS has Brigades that may be able to support land rescue in the provision of Road Crash Rescue only capability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Unit – Vertical</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue Operators</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue Operators</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW)

MRNSW is the State’s official volunteer marine rescue service. It has more than 3,000 professionally-trained and equipped members based in 45 units along the NSW coastline from Point Danger to Eden and inland on the Alpine Lakes and the Murray River at Moama.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2016/2017

- A series of coordinated regional marine Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX) were staged:
  - Hunter/Central Coast Region in Newcastle in September 2016 with six units participating
  - Monaro Region in Narooma in November 2016 with five units taking part
  - Illawarra Region held at Ulladulla in May 2017 with five units taking part

- A specific local SAREX was held on Lake Jindabyne in March 2017.


- Sydney crews joined Exercise Sydney CBD in August 2016, maintaining an exclusion zone on Sydney Harbour and searching for debris and “casualties” from a simulated plane crash at Barangaroo.

- MRNSW rescue crews responded to 3,257 vessels in trouble on the water, including 827 in life-endangering (notifiable) emergencies. MRNSW radio operators handled 306,405 radio transmissions. A total of 74,299 vessels logged on with MRNSW units, meaning 256,911 boaters headed out on the water knowing a responsible agency was watching over them and would implement search procedures if they did not log off as scheduled.

- As part of its commitment to boating safety education and advocacy, MRNSW has strongly supported the Old4New lifejacket campaign and the NSW Roads and Maritime Services program for the disposal of expired flares. Twenty-two MRNSW units joined 29 Old4New campaign events over the summer season and 13 units assisted the flare collection program.

- MRNSW crews joined the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command and other emergency and rescue agencies in numerous search operations on NSW waterways, including for two fishermen who failed to return from a fishing expedition to Booderee National Park in the Jervis Bay region, a sailor from an empty yacht off Sydney’s Northern Beaches later located on shore and a number of drowning victims.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Rescue Operators</td>
<td>1872</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF) - Rescue & Bomb Disposal Unit (RBDU) and Marine Area Command (MAC)

The NSWPF is one of the world’s largest policing organisations and the combat agency for law enforcement, terrorism and the coordination of Search and Rescue (SAR).

The NSWPF RBDU is based at Alexandria with other Rescue Units located at, Springwood, Lismore, Lake Illawarra, Newcastle, Goulburn and Bathurst.

The MAC has state wide responsibility for coordination and control of all marine search and rescue incidents and is comprised of eight sectors located at: Coffs Harbour, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Broken Bay, Sydney, Botany Bay, Port Kembla and Eden.

The NSWPF MAC conducted annual search and rescue coordination training for MRNSW volunteers, which was partly funded by the NSW Government through the Office of Emergency Management. Excellent support was provided by all agencies involved in the training, including rotary wing assets (helicopters), Surf Life Saving NSW, MRNSW and NSW Ambulance.

**Significant Operations/Activities for 2016/2017**

- Deployment to Northern & Southern NSW supporting flood rescue operations
- 251 Land SAR across NSW
- 144 high risk vertical rescue policing operations
- Lives Saved = 1750 (The number of persons rescued from a distress situation, or a potential distress situation, as a result of a SAR operation. They are lives that would have been lost had the rescue action not been taken.)
- Lives Assisted = 4753 (The number of persons provided assistance but who do not meet the criteria of ‘lives saved’ because they were not in an immediate or potential life threatening situation.)

There were 21 significant SAR incidents for the 2016/17 financial year requiring extended multi agency coordination exceeding 24 hours. Noteworthy incidents include:

- rescue of 2 sailors from the yacht “VAL” 280nm East of Sydney
- multiple EPIRB activations and subsequent rescues

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Primary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Secondary</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Unit – Vertical</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue Operators</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue Operators</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Rescue Operators</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES)

The NSW SES is the combat agency for flood (including flood rescue), storm and tsunami. In addition, NSW SES has capability and capacity in General Land Rescue (GLR), Vertical Rescue (VR) and Road Crash Rescue (RCR).

In the 2016/17 reporting period, the NSW SES received over 118,074 phone calls from communities and key stakeholders resulting in 32,377 requests for assistance with flood rescue activations totalling 126 flood rescues and 120 assisted evacuations. NSW SES volunteers spent 190,000 volunteer hours assisting the community. Throughout the response there were 778 warnings issued to communities of NSW.

Significant Operations/Activities for 2016/2017

- The NSW SES in collaboration with FRNSW has implemented Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) devices in all designated NSW SES Rescue Vehicles in NSW. AVL provides increased situational awareness and provides the ability to respond the closest available resource to an incident. Coupled with the enhanced radio coverage NSW SES has improved the capability to respond to life critical incidents.

- NSW SES has introduced a flexible training model to implement the SRB competency requirements. This model encompasses a team of mobile Operational Trainers who are located strategically across NSW. These trainers have provided a high level of training and coordination of skill advancement across GLR operators in NSW SES. They also undertake the SRB audits as and when required.

- NSW SES initiated the “If it’s Flooded, Forget it” social media campaign in 2017 following on from research that detailed decision points for why people enter (or do not enter) floodwater and flood rescue data indicators for at-risk target groups. The campaign consists of personal story vignettes documenting real life experiences of decisions made about entering or not entering floodwater. The vignettes explore decision point influences, consequences and lessons learned from that decision. Also included in the campaign were messages from a prominent 4WD personality (targeting that demographic as a higher risk), a NSW SES volunteer rescue operator, and a pledge video for never driving through floodwater. The campaign was recently awarded NSW state winner at the Resilient Australia Awards 2017.

- NSW SES initiated Project U-Turn which aims to develop and deliver a community focussed and stakeholder centric, pilot local action plan.

- NSW SES developed a Get Ready Kids Kit, focussed on the prevention of children playing in floodwater. The kits were delivered to approximately 236 NSW SES volunteer units to target local schools with the aim of building curriculum support for the school to deliver sustainable education and engagement around the dangers of floodwater.

- NSW SES will reform emergency management as part of organisational transformation to ensure a modern service delivery model is developed and implemented to meet the needs of the communities of NSW. Organisational transformation is the reform required to enhance capacity and capability of NSW SES and to realise the vision of becoming Australia’s leading volunteer emergency service.

- NSW SES has developed a strategy to increase capacity and capability of volunteering through embracing changes to communities and overcoming constraints of the existing volunteering model which have seen our numbers declining.
- Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie and a low pressure system resulted in the North Coast of NSW receiving heavy rainfall and severe flooding. The operational response of the NSW SES included:
  - 495 flood rescues activations
  - 4 evacuation warnings
  - 11 evacuation orders
  - 21 emergency alerts at various stages of the event, impacting 25,000 residents
  - 11,600 calls to the NSW State Operations Centre
  - responding to more than 3,500 requests for assistance

- Western NSW Flooding occurred from 30 August 2016 until 12 December 2016, impacting 53 per cent of the state. There were four key areas of operation originally aligned to pre-defined boundaries in the Lachlan, Murray, Murrumbidgee and Macquarie Regions. 34,000 phone calls were received from communities and key stakeholders, resulting in 7736 Requests for Assistance with 146 flood rescue activations. NSW SES volunteers spent 190,000 volunteer hours assisting the community. Throughout the response there were 778 warnings issued to communities of NSW.

### Total Rescue Operations for 2016/2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Total Jobs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood Rescue</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Crash Rescue</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Rescue</td>
<td>1860</td>
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</table>

### Accredited Units and Operators (qualified) 2016/17

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<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Primary</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Unit – Vertical</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue Operators</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue Operators</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (NSW VRA)

The NSW VRA comprises of 40 accredited General Land Rescue Squads and 14 support squads, who provide support to VRA Squads and any other organisation to which they may be tasked or needed, and 3 Squads who have a specialised Rescue capability in the area of Alpine Rescue, Cave Rescue and Bush Walking.

The NSW VRA responds to natural disasters, including floods and storms, land searches, vertical rescues, and domestic rescues.

Significant Rescue Operations/Activities for 2016/2017

- Implementation of two swift water training courses, one at Burrinjuck dam and the other at Nymboida for reaccreditation of, and training of, new members.

- Attended a "Large Animal Rescue" course at Windsor with the SES, NSW Police & VRA.

- On the 20th November 2017, Lithgow VRA was called to Glow Worm Tunnel Road, Newnes Plateau, where a motor vehicle carrying 13 people had crashed. Lithgow VRA assisted the Ambulance service to treat 9 people at the scene for injuries including chest injuries, leg injuries, broken arm and pelvis injuries. Two passengers were air lifted to the Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

- On the 5th January 2017, Lithgow VRA attended State Mine Gully Road and Old Bells Line, Newnes for an accident involving two buses. The Lithgow VRA assisted NSW Ambulance personnel treating the 66 people who were injured in the incident. This was a major incident involving emergency services from the surrounding areas.

- In March 2017, Cyclone Debbie hit Queensland and travelled south towards northern NSW, causing significant damage and flooding. Tweed District, Brunswick Valley and Nymboida Rescue Squads provided significant assistance to the community. For the period 30 March 2017 to the 5 April 2017, the three squads volunteered 1247:08 hours to the community, they responded to 65 jobs, including 8 extrication activations where 31 people were safely extricated and attended 55 general assist activations where 79 people were assisted. The NSW VRA did not get activated to any of the jobs involving a fatality. The activations were for swift water incidents, flood water incidents, assisting the ambulance service and attending motor vehicle crashes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accredited Units and Operators (qualified)</th>
<th>2016/17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Primary</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Units – Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accredited Rescue Unit – Vertical</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Land Rescue Operators</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical Rescue Operators</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Rescue Operators</td>
<td>-</td>
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Section 4: Rescue Accreditation

Under section 48(1)(h) of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*, the SRB is required to make recommendations to the Minister on the accreditation of rescue units (both permanent and volunteer) for participation in rescue operations. In support of this duty, both Local and Regional Rescue Committees are required to make recommendations on the accreditation of rescue units in their respective areas.

The SRB made a number of recommendations to the Minister during 2016/17. The changes endorsed by the Minister during the reporting period are detailed in the tables below. This chart does not include units where applications for accreditation are still in progress.

The Emergency NSW website contains information on:

- Summary of Accredited Land Rescue Units
- Summary of Accredited Marine Rescue Units
- Summary of Accredited Flood Rescue Units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rescue Agency</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Accreditation Change</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW VRA</td>
<td>Narromine</td>
<td>Accreditation for Vertical Rescue - 22 September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW RFS</td>
<td>Mungindi</td>
<td>Accreditation for Secondary General Land Rescue - 22 September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRNSW</td>
<td>Murrurundi</td>
<td>Accreditation for Primary General Land Rescue - 10 August 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRNSW</td>
<td>Scone</td>
<td>Pre-accreditation for Primary General Land Rescue - 24 March 2017</td>
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Section 5: Rescue Training

The training standards for General Land Rescue, Vertical Rescue and Marine Rescue operators are set by the SRB on advice from the Policy Advisory Committee. The training standards are based on the Public Safety Training Package.

While the SRB sets standards for training and supports multi-agency rescue exercises and training activities, the training of individual rescue operators to the SRB’s rescue training standards and the recording of information relating to qualified operators is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies.

Marine rescue training standards are based on the Maritime Industry Training Package, supplemented by additional units from the Public Safety Training Package.
Section 6: Government Funding

Individual agencies fund the provision of rescue services through their own budgets. Financial information is reported in the individual agencies’ annual reports.

In 2016/17 the NSW Government providing the following funding:

Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW)

MRNSW is a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee and is funded in part through an Operational Funding Agreement with the Office of Emergency Management and by way of a ‘levy’ collected by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) that is applied to recreational boating licences and registrations.

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (NSW VRA)

In accordance with section 48(1)(i) of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, the SRB recommended to the Minister that $1,360,854 funding be made available to the NSW VRA for its land rescue units in 2016/17.

Multi-agency rescue exercises

Funding of $40,000 was approved for multi-agency, Marine, General and Rescue search and rescue exercise (SAREX) exercises in 2016/2017.

Six exercises were conducted involving multi-agency rescue response:

- 25 March 2017 - Vas Onero - a regional field land SAREX conducted in the Far West region
- 21 May 2017 - Flavius Naviculum – A cross-border field land SAREX conducted in the Riverina Murray region
- 17-18 September 2016 - Marine SAREX – Hunter-Central Coast marine SAREX
- 12-13 September 2016 - Marine SAREX – Monaro marine SAREX
- 13-14 May 2017 Marine SAREX – Illawarra marine SAREX

Section 7: Regional Rescue Committee Reports

Local and Regional Rescue Committees are established under section 48A of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989, to assist the SRB in the exercise of its functions. Each Committee assists in determining the need to recommend accreditation to the Minister for rescue units in their area.

Regional Rescue Committees provide a report on its activities and those of the Local Rescue Committees within its jurisdiction. These committees are based on, but may not include the same representatives as Local and Regional Emergency Management Committees, which are also established under the Act.

Regional Rescue Committees are ordinarily chaired by the Regional Emergency Operations Controller (REOCON) and Local Rescue Committees are chaired by the Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON). Membership for Local and Regional Rescue Committees typically consist of senior representatives of emergency services organisations operating in the local area or region. Support for these committees is provided by the relevant Regional Emergency Management Officers.
Central West Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Central West Regional Rescue Committee met four times in the reporting period as a combined meeting with the Far West Regional Rescue Committee. Meetings were held on 8 September 2016, 1 December 2016, 24 March 2017 and 1 June 2017. The meetings were held at the NSW Rural Fire Service in Dubbo and NSW State Emergency Service in Packsaddle.

Regional Sub-Committees

No Regional Sub-Committees were required or convened during the reporting period.

Local Rescue Committees

There are 19 Local Rescue Committees within the Central West Region. All Committees met at least twice during the reporting period, with the majority meeting four times.

Exercises Conducted

Moolarben Coal Company hosted a multi-agency desktop exercise “Open Cut” on 23 November 2016. This exercise was based on a mine collapse with a large number of miners trapped underground. The exercise was funded by Moolarben Coal.

Warren Shire Council hosted a multi-agency desktop exercise ‘Big N’ on 14 February 2017. The exercise was facilitated by industry experts from Incitec Pivot and was based on an incident involving mobile storage tankers, to test Anhydrous Ammonia emergency procedures. The exercise was funded by Warren Shire Council.

Dubbo Regional Council hosted a multi-agency field Search & Rescue exercise at the Wellington Caves facility on 18 February 2017. Exercise "Wedding Chapel" tested the Wellington Caves/Mine Rescue Plan. This exercise was based on a Mine collapse with persons trapped underground and required vertical rescue techniques. The exercise was funded by the Office of Emergency Management.

Cowra Shire Council hosted a multi-agency field exercise "Dumped" on the 18th March 2017, to test aerodrome emergency response procedures relating to a crash at an airport. This exercise was based on a crop duster loaded with chemicals which sustained damage causing the chemicals to leak immediately after lifting off and crashing in the vicinity of runway. This exercise was funded by Cowra Shire Council.

Parkes Shire Council hosted a multi-agency field exercise "Dusty" on 6 May 2017, to test aerodrome emergency procedures. This exercise was based on an off airport crash of a small twin engine aircraft. This exercise was funded by Parkes Shire Council.

A number of committees held desktop exercises to assist in the compliance of Aerodrome Regulations.

Accreditation Changes

An application for accreditation from NSW VRA Narromine unit for Vertical Rescue was approved by the Minister on 22 September 2016.
Other Items of Interest

Within the Central West Emergency Management Region, GLR and VR services are provided, predominantly by volunteers and retained (paid, on-call) personnel. Acquisition and retention of these people is progressively becoming more difficult, due to the aging and declining population. Employment and contractual arrangements within the predominant industries of agriculture and mining are also reducing the ability for people to volunteer. This, combined with a general decline in volunteering makes it difficult to maintain workforce capacity and capability, with significant demands being placed on those who are prepared to volunteer, around training and skills required by current policy. This time, when balanced against the amount of actual rescue work done and call-outs received, is a factor in volunteer retention. This becomes a significant issue in complex rescue operations where such factors as equipment availability, time delays, casualty/victim condition, rescue operator skills and environmental considerations must be taken into account.

Far West Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Far West Region Rescue Committee has a combined meeting with the Central West Rescue Committee. Four meetings were held during the reporting period on 8 September 2016, 1 December 2016, 24 March 2017 and 1 June 2017. Meetings were held at the NSW Rural Fire Service at Dubbo and NSW State Emergency Service in Packsaddle.

Regional Rescue Committee - Sub Committees

Remote Area Airstrips Sub Committee

The Remote Area Airstrips Sub Committee did not meeting during the reporting period. Roads and Maritime Services have completed a 1600m highway airstrip at Shannon’s Creek, 220km north of Broken Hill on the Silver City Highway. This airstrip was officially opened on 21 July, 2015. In May 2016 RMS advised the Unincorporated Area Road Reference Group annual meeting that no further airstrips would be built in the Far West unless grants can be obtained. The Region Rescue Committee has not expressed a desire to pursue further airstrips until the functionality, availability and usage frequency can be adequately evaluated over the next few years. Three airstrip activation exercises have been conducted on this airstrip over the past 2 years. The airstrip management is a standing agenda item at the Broken Hill Local Rescue Committee meetings.

The Barrier Highway Sub Committee (cross border committee)

The Barrier Highway Sub Committee coordinates planning and arrangements for emergency services to respond into South Australia until South Australian Rescue Units can attend. All NSW rescue agencies are represented on the committee which normally meets twice a year. The last meeting of the committee was on 21 July 2016 and attended by South Australian and NSW rescue agencies. The chairman of the Committee facilitated a discussion exercise aimed at testing the response to a serious motor vehicle collision and requiring cross border response.

Local Rescue Committees

All Local Rescue Committees in the Region have met at least three times in the reporting period. Land Rescue Reforms were introduced to local Committees in early 2017. Seven of the 11 identified rescue service delivery gaps in NSW were in the Far West Region. New quarterly reporting templates were introduced to the Far West Region to simplify agency reporting and to align with new land rescue reforms.
Cobar Local Rescue Committee is investigating interest by three NSW RFS brigades in gaining rescue accreditation in the gap areas.

Bourke Local Rescue Committee is investigating the possibility of one NSW RFS brigade becoming rescue accredited in a gap area. Final determinations should be available in the 2017/18 financial year.

**Exercises Conducted**

Exercise Vas Onero was conducted on 25 March, 2017, at Shannon’s Creek Airstrip, 220km north of Broken Hill. A scenario was developed to test and evaluate a multi-agency rescue and medical response to a mass casualty and livestock transport incident in a remote area of Far Western NSW. The exercise was funded by the OEM.

On 7 November, 2016 a desktop exercise focusing on a serious mining disaster in Cobar was conducted. The exercise built on lessons learnt from the Regional Exercise ‘Broken Backs’ in May 2016 in Broken Hill.

**Accreditation Changes**

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.

**Other items of interest**

With a declining population in the far west, the retention of efficient and effective rescue services remains an ongoing issue. Agency staff and local members are actively recruiting but difficulties remain. Joint call-out arrangements with primary and secondary units are becoming a regular way to ensure rescue coverage in remote areas.

Mines Rescue representatives now regularly attend Local Rescue Committee Meetings. Many are also actively involved with the management and conduct of rescue exercises in their areas. This adds a new layer of rescue resources which may be available if needed. Most Rescue Committees with mines in their area have had familiarisation visits to mine sites to assist with preparation for potential rescues.

**Hunter Central Coast Region**

**Regional Rescue Committee Meetings**

The Hunter and Central Coast Regional Rescue Committee met twice during the reporting period. Key issues addressed included:

- NSW Ambulance proposal to seek Vertical Rescue Accreditation for their units in Maitland and Singleton
- FRNSW intention to seek dual response for Singleton and General Land Rescue Accreditation for Scone
- MRNSW formed a working group to develop predetermined locations for loading/unloading of crew/casualties in the Hunter Central Coast region.

**Regional Sub-Committees**

**Hunter Central Coast Marine Rescue Committee**

The Hunter Central Coast Marine Rescue Committee met during the reporting period with the representatives from the NSW Police Force, Roads and Maritime Services, Marine Rescue NSW, Hunter Surf Life Saving and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.
Local Rescue Committees

During the reporting period, meetings were conducted by each of the Local Rescue Committees. Agency representation at these meetings consisted of members from the respective accredited rescue units and observers from the NSW RFS and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Exercises Conducted

Fire and Rescue NSW conducted a multi-agency rock fishing rescue exercise in June 2017

Accreditation Changes

An application for accreditation from Fire and Rescue NSW Murrurundi unit for Primary General Land Rescue was approved by the Minister on 10 August 2016.

Illawarra South Coast Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Illawarra South Coast Regional Rescue Committee met three times during the reporting period. The meetings were held on 19 July 2016, 15 November 2016 and 15 March 2017 and were held at the Ulladulla Civic Centre. A key issues discussed by the Committee included concerns over delays in repairs to a repeater station in southern NSW.

Sub-Committees

Illawarra Marine Rescue Advisory Sub Committee (IMRASC)

The IMRASC met on 14 November 2016 and 13 March 2017, with meetings held at the Port Kembla Maritime Centre. There were no significant issues raised at the meetings.

Exercises Conducted

On 17 September 2016, the Far South Coast Water Police conducted a multi-agency exercise that included Marine Rescue, Border Protection and Customs. The exercise was sponsored by the Office of Emergency Management and focused on response procedures and public education.

On 13 November 2016, Marine Rescue NSW conducted an Office of Emergency Management sponsored exercise in the Shoalhaven area. This was a multi-agency exercise that also involved the Royal Australian Navy. Over 50 personnel practiced water based rescues and recoveries using marine, air and land assets. The day also included public education on water safety.

Accreditation Changes

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.
New England Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

Four meetings were held during the reporting period on 14 September 2016, 14 December 2016, 8 March 2017 and 7 June 2017. All meetings were held at Tamworth. The meetings generally dealt with routine business and matters arising from local rescue committee meetings. Local Rescue Committees in the main effectively manage any issues of a local nature without the assistance of the Regional Rescue Committee.

Regional Rescue Committee - Sub Committees

There were no Regional Rescue Sub Committees during the reporting year.

Local Rescue Committees

There are 10 local rescue committees across New England. Most committees met on a quarterly basis with several opting to meet only 3 times bringing their meeting into line with the Local Emergency Management Committees.

The local government merger affecting Guyra and Armidale Dumaresq has now been completed with Guyra Shire Council merging with Dumaresq Council to become the Armidale Regional Council. This has no effect on the merged Local Rescue Committee but now comprises Armidale Regional Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Shire Council.

Exercises Conducted

No multi agency rescue exercises were held during the reporting year.

Accreditation Changes

An application for accreditation from NSW RFS Mungindi unit for Secondary General Land Rescue was approved by the Minister on 22 September 2016. With the withdrawal of the NSW SES as Primary General Land Rescue, the NSW RFS has commenced an application process to be granted the primary status.

North Coast Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The North Coast Regional Rescue Committee met twice during the reporting period. The meetings were held on 21 September 2016 and 29 March 2017 at the NSW RFS / Emergency Operations Centre in Coffs Harbour which is centrally located within the gazetted North Coast Emergency Management Region. Key issues addressed by the North Coast Regional Rescue Committee include:

- An application for FRNSW Bowraville to proceed from pre-accreditation status to Primary General Land rescue accreditation status was endorsed by the Committee. In support of the application and Committee endorsement, a SRB Inspection of the FRNSW Bowraville rescue unit was facilitated and conducted on 20 April 2017.

- The withdrawal of Secondary General Land Rescue Accreditation for NSW SES Camden Haven unit was also endorsed by the committee.
• A single Local Rescue Committee for the Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Lismore Local Government Areas was endorsed with the Committee to be known as Northern Rivers Local Rescue Committee. (Note: Ballina Local Rescue Committee has been reinstated as a local entity for Ballina LGA. These arrangements are consistent with decision making by the Regional Emergency Management Committee regarding Local Emergency Management Committee boundaries for the mentioned areas.)

**Local Rescue Committees**

There are 10 Local Rescue Committees functioning in the North Coast Region. The Local Rescue Committees met three times during the year with some meeting four times. Response coordination and service delivery is monitored and discussed with resolution at the local level in most cases. Units from the rescue agencies also plan and conduct cross agency training to become familiar with equipment and techniques. This promotes teamwork and provides opportunity for liaison between the rescue agencies.

**Exercises Conducted**

There were no significant rescue exercises conducted during the subject reporting period.

**Accreditation Changes**

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.

**North West Metropolitan Region**

**Regional Rescue Committee Meetings**

The North West Regional Rescue Committee held three meetings during the reporting period on 21 October 2016, 24 February 2017 and 2 June 2017. The meetings were held in different locations as determined by the Regional Emergency Management Officer. There were no major issues raised within the region during the reporting period.

**Sub-Committees**

There were no Sub-Committees formed during the reporting period.

**Local Rescue Committees**

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the region; instead all matters are discussed at the Regional Rescue Committee meetings.

**Exercises Conducted**

No rescue exercises were conducted in the region during the reporting period.

**Other items of interest**

A project by the NSWPF MAC and MRNSW with the water communities on the Hawkesbury was undertaken around education for calling emergency services into the area.

**Accreditation Changes**

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.
Riverina Murray Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Riverina Murray Regional Rescue Committee met three times during the reporting period. Meetings were conducted on the fourth Wednesday of July 2016, November 2016 and March 2017. Meetings rotate between Albury, Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Deniliquin being the four largest centres in the Riverina Murray Emergency Management Region. Key issues for the Riverina Murray Regional Committee include:

- The smooth transition of Local Rescue Committee arrangements within the amalgamated local government areas
- SRB Land Rescue Reforms Road Crash Rescue Accreditation
- On line / Off line notifications
- Planning and conducting Riverina Murray RRC Exercise “Fluvius Naviculam 2017”

Regional Rescue Committee – Sub Committee

The Riverina Murray Regional Rescue Committee has no Sub Committees.

Local Rescue Committees

After several local government amalgamations during the reporting period there are currently 18 Local Rescue Committees based in 19 Local Government Areas within the Riverina Murray Region. Local Rescue Committee meetings are held in conjunction with the Local Emergency Management Committee meetings, 3 to 4 times a year depending on scheduled Local Emergency Management meetings. Key issues for the LRC include:

- Lockhart Local Rescue Committee is in the process of developing local arrangements for multi-agency support for rescue operations at The Rock Nature Reserve and Galore Hill. These two sites have the potential for rescue and vertical rescue response that will require coordinated multi agency support. The supporting documentation will be a combination and text based arrangements as per the Local Emergency Management Plan – Consequence Management Guide and map based plans.
- SRB Land Rescue Reforms Road Crash Rescue Accreditation – local impacts and possible outcomes.

Exercises Conducted

Exercise “Fluvius Naviculam 2017 was held on 21 May 2017 at Moama/Echuca. The exercise was based around a commercial paddle steamer hitting a submerged object in the Murray River, resulting in a number of casualties, damage to the vessel and an oil spill, which created an environmental element to the exercise. The cross border (Victoria) (Inland Marine Rescue Exercise) involved approximately 85 participants with control staff from both NSW and Victoria involved. The exercise had a budget of $5900.00 (OEM funded) and the activity was delivered for $3833.00. Feedback on the activity has been very positive. Local print, television and social media covered the activity. The exercise has provided a valuable learning experience in a safe environment for all of the agencies represented and the 80+ individuals who participated/observed.

Accreditation Changes:

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.
South Eastern Region

Region Rescue Committee Meetings
The South Eastern Regional Rescue Committee met two times during the reporting period. Meetings were held at Goulburn.

Region Rescue Committee - Sub Committees
The South Eastern Regional Rescue Committee has no sub committees.

Local Rescue Committees
There are 10 local government areas. Meetings were held 3 to 4 times per year with all issues managed at a local level.

Exercises Conducted
Exercise Challenger was held on 1 March 2017 to examine rescue provision and arrangements for underground entrapment in the regional area of Adelong.

Accreditation Changes
There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.

South West Metropolitan Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings
The South West Regional Rescue Committee met three times meetings during the reporting period. Meetings were held at the Bankstown State Emergency Service Facility. There were no significant issues raised during this reporting period.

Sub-Committees
There were no Sub-Committees established during the reporting period.

Local Rescue Committees
There are no Local Rescue Committees in this region.

Exercises Conducted
A number of field and desktop exercises were conducted within the region during the reporting period:

- Exercise Ford was a multi-agency discussion exercise for the Sydney 500 Motor Race held on 22 November 2016 at Sydney Olympic Park. A number of emergency management and rescue scenarios were covered. No funding was required for this exercise.

- The annual Sydney Royal Easter Show Desktop Emergency Management /Rescue exercise was held on the 14 February 2017. Several multi-agency scenarios were discussed with approximately thirty participants. Facilities and refreshments were provided by the Royal Agricultural Society.

- The South West Metropolitan Regional Emergency Management Officer participated in the SYD EX exercise held on the 28 August 2016 and performed one of the umpire roles (Site Control).

Accreditation Changes
There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.
Sydney Metropolitan Region

Region Rescue Committee Meetings

There were three Region Rescue Committees held during the reporting period. Meetings were held at the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Base, La Perouse.

Region Rescue Committee - Sub Committees

The Botany Bay Marine Rescue Committee met on three occasions in the reporting period. Meetings were held at Marine Rescue NSW Headquarters, Cronulla and the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Base, La Perouse. A key issue discussed at the meetings was Sydney Airport Emergency Response.

State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee (SMRCC)

The SMRCC met twice during the reporting period and addressed key issues relative to state response to marine search and rescue on the wider perspective. Key issues include:

- a surf lifesaving presentation on drone future response
- state wide coastal identification markers
- state wide aviation changes and capabilities
- commercial vessel evacuation procedures
- coastal rock fishing lifejacket project

Local Rescue Committees

There are no Local Rescue Committees in the Sydney Metropolitan Region.

Exercises Conducted

On 17 October 2017, Sydney Airport conducted Exercise ‘Air Drop’. The exercise simulated an activation of Gate 16 Site Control with NSW Ambulance, FRNSW and Police deploying to that location. Two helicopters (NSW Police PolAir and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter) obtained life rafts and deployed them over the water to simulate a rescue of persons in the water that have exited a crashed aircraft. This exercise successfully tested a multi-agency response for a crash on water, activation of the Airport EOC and the deployment of rafts by helicopter.

Accreditation Changes

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister in 2016/17.

Other items of interest

During the reporting period, NSW SES reported an additional eight rafts were assigned to various units within Sydney Southern Region.
Section 8: Appendices

Appendix A: Land Rescue Statistics

The information about land rescue incidents presented in this report is derived from the NSWPF Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. This is electronically recorded from every individual incident reported to the NSWPF and managed by the Rescue Coordinator from the Radio Operations Group. The CAD system has been established as the definitive list of all rescue incidents that occur in NSW.

Under the State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989, and the State Rescue Policy, the NSWPF is the central agency for coordinating rescue. In situations where the NSWPF itself is not the agency that calls out the rescue units, the NSWPF are required to be advised by the activating agency at the first available opportunity. Details of these incidents are recorded within the CAD system.

Data Quality

This report relates only to land rescue services in NSW and does not contain any information about marine rescue services.

The information in this report may differ to the rescue data reported in the Productivity Commission’s annual report on Government Services. The Data in this report may also differ from agency specific information on rescues.

Differences in agency data reporting may occur due to agency variations in collection processes from the NSW Police Force, lack of notification to the NSWPF of activations to rescues or data collection variations may contribute. While the NSWPF calculates singular rescue incidents other agencies may collate statistics per the number of accredited and non-accredited units responding and attending rather than the singular rescue incident.

Key points for the 2016/17 reporting period are:

A total of 10,020 land rescue incidents were recorded by the NSWPF. This includes 910 incidents where the rescue unit(s) were subsequently called off. A total of 9,110 incidents were attended by rescue unit(s).

- There was a 7% increase in Domestic Rescue activations, while motor vehicle accident activations sat at 42% for the reporting period. Motor vehicle Accident activations were down from 2015/16 reporting period.

- Based on the Accessibility and Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) coding 64%, of land rescues occurred in Major Cities, followed by 26% in Inner Regional and the remaining 10% to Outer Regional and Remote areas.

- 62% of all rescues occurred in the Sydney Metropolitan area. Fire & Rescue NSW attended 73% of all rescue incidents in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Rescue Incidents by Type

Statistically there is a 12.6% increase in overall activations from the 2015/16 report.

Of the total number of activations 63% were in the Sydney Metropolitan area. All other rescues (37%) occurred in Regional and Remote NSW.

Motor vehicle accidents account for 42% (3,844) of activations across the state.

An increase of 7% in Domestic Rescue activations are recorded while decreases occurred in Motor Vehicle Accident activations (↓5%).
Rescue incidents by Primary Task

Extrications occur more frequently than General Assistance tasks. In 2016/17 there was 12% increase in Extrication tasks and 13% increase in General Assistance tasks. Extrication includes domestic extrications as well as motor vehicle accident extrications.
Rescue activations per organisation

Within the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area FRNSW have a large number of accredited resources, responding to 73.1% of all rescue incidents. FRNSW responded to 91% of activations in the North West and South West Sydney Emergency Management Regions.

NSWPF Rescue responded to 62% of activations within the Sydney Emergency Management Region and FRNSW 36%.

State wide activation distribution is NSW Ambulance 3%, FRNSW 60%, NSWPF Rescue 18%, NSW SES 9% and NSW VRA 9%.
Rescue call outs by time

The most active part of the 24 hour period is between 7:00am and 10:00pm. Activations for motor vehicle accidents are lesser than other land rescue activations for most time periods except the hour period commencing 4:00am and 6:00am where motor vehicle accidents generally dominate activations.

Rescue agency statistics across Metropolitan or Regional areas generally follow these same trends.
Number of call outs by location

Based on the Aria Coding 64% of land rescues occurred in Major cities, 26% in Inner Regional and the remaining 10% to Outer Regional and Remote areas.

Fire & Rescue NSW performed the majority of activations across both Major City and Inner Regional areas.
Activations by Agency within Emergency Management Region
## Appendix B: Glossary

### Definitions and other notes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definitions</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARIA</strong></td>
<td>Accessibility/remoteness index of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rescue Incident</strong></td>
<td>A specific situation that requires the activation of rescue systems and arrangements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rescue Incident Categories</strong></td>
<td>A rescue incident is an event requiring the dispatch of an accredited rescue unit to effect the safe removal of persons or domestic animals from actual or threatened danger or physical harm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rescue Incident categories</strong></td>
<td>Rescue incidents are recorded in the Computer Aided Dispatch system and are sorted into 17 Major Incident Type Categories and 146 Sub Incident Type Categories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motor Vehicle Accidents</strong></td>
<td>The Motor Vehicle Accident major incident type category may include single vehicle accidents as well as accidents involving multiple vehicles. Separate sub categories are available to note collisions involving cars, heavy vehicles, buses, motor cycles and dangerous goods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Domestic Major Incident Type</strong></td>
<td>This Major Incident Type Category includes incidents where a person or persons have become trapped in a domestic situation such as being trapped on roofs and trees or having limbs stuck in holes, drains machinery or other places.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rescue Call Outs</strong></td>
<td>Rescue call out is the act of dispatching a specific rescue unit to a specific rescue incident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It does not include the dispatch of other emergency service units not accredited for rescue, such as Ambulance, Police or non-accredited FRNSW units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extrication</strong></td>
<td>Extrication is the assisted release and removal of trapped people or domestic animals, by specially equipped and trained emergency service crews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extrication can occur at domestic incidents and Motor Vehicle Accidents. The CAD system is able to record if a unit performed an extraction or provided General assistance in the case of a GLR unit assisting a vertical unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Assistance</strong></td>
<td>General Assistance is the provision of services and the undertaking of acts to support the rescue of a person but does not involve extraction as defined above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Appendix C: Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMSA</td>
<td>Australian Maritime Safety Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOR</td>
<td>Area of Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARIA</td>
<td>Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVL</td>
<td>Automatic Vehicle Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAD</td>
<td>Computer Aided Dispatch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBRNE</td>
<td>Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMWG</td>
<td>Capability Matrix Working Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPS</td>
<td>Computerised Operational Police System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMU</td>
<td>NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRNSW</td>
<td>Fire &amp; Rescue NSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLR</td>
<td>General Land Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazmat</td>
<td>Hazardous material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRDR</td>
<td>Industrial Rescue and Domestic Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LandSAR</td>
<td>Land Search and Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMO</td>
<td>Local Emergency Management Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEOCON</td>
<td>Local Emergency Operations Controller</td>
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<tr>
<td>LRC</td>
<td>Local Rescue Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVA</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATSAR</td>
<td>National Search and Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW RFS</td>
<td>NSW Rural Fire Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW SES</td>
<td>NSW State Emergency Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW VRA</td>
<td>NSW Volunteer Rescue Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSWWA</td>
<td>NSW Ambulance</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSWPF</td>
<td>NSW Police Force</td>
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<tr>
<td>OEM</td>
<td>Office of Emergency Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAC</td>
<td>Policy Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRS</td>
<td>Police Rescue Squad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBDU</td>
<td>NSWPF Rescue &amp; Bomb Disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCO</td>
<td>Rescue Coordination Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCR</td>
<td>Road Crash Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMO</td>
<td>Regional Emergency Management Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REOCON</td>
<td>Regional Emergency Operations Controller</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMS</td>
<td>Roads and Maritime Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROG</td>
<td>Radio Operations Group (Police Communications or VKG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRC</td>
<td>Regional Rescue Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSDM</td>
<td>Rescue Service Delivery Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTO</td>
<td>Registered Training Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAR</td>
<td>Search and Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAREX</td>
<td>Search and Rescue Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAR</td>
<td>Urban Search and Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR</td>
<td>Vertical Rescue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix D: Digital Information Security Annual Attestation Statement for the 2016/17 Financial Year for the State Rescue Board

I, Feargus O'Connor, Executive Director, Office of Emergency Management, am of the opinion that the State Rescue Board had an Information Security Management System (ISMS) in place during the 2016/17 financial year that is consistent with the Core Requirements set out in the *NSW Government Digital Information Security Policy*.

The controls in place to mitigate identified risks to the digital information and digital information systems of the State Rescue Board are adequate.

A. There is no agency under the control of the State Rescue Board which is required to develop an independent ISMS in accordance with the *NSW Government Digital Information Security Policy*.

B. Risks to the digital information and digital information system of the State Rescue Board have been assessed with an independent ISMS developed in accordance with the NSW Government Digital Information Security Policy.

C. The State Rescue Board has maintained certified compliance with *ISO 27001 Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems - Requirements* by an Accredited Third Party during the 2016/17 financial year.

D. The State Rescue Board has maintained compliance with ISO 27001 Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems.
Appendix E: Financial Statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017
State Rescue Board of New South Wales

CONTENTS

Statement by the Chair

Financial Statements

Statement of comprehensive income 1
Statement of financial position 2
Statement of changes in equity 3
Statement of cash flows 4

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies 5
Note 2 Expenses excluding losses 6
Note 3 Revenue 6
Note 4 Commitments for expenditure 6
Note 5 Financial instruments 7
Note 6 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities 7
Note 7 Related party disclosures 7
Note 8 After balance date events 7
State Rescue Board of New South Wales

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Pursuant to section 45F (1B) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the State Rescue Board of NSW declare that in its opinion:

1. The accompanying financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2017 and financial performance of the State Rescue Board of New South Wales for the year then ended.

2. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations), the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015 and the financial reporting Directions mandated by the Treasurer

Further, members are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Stacey Tannos ESM
Chair, State Rescue Board of NSW
20 October 2017
State Rescue Board of New South Wales  
Statement of comprehensive income  
for the year ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses excluding losses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel services</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
## Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Actual 2017</th>
<th>Actual 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$'000</td>
<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Current Assets</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Current Assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Current Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Non-Current Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUITY</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
State Rescue Board of New South Wales
Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accumulated Funds</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>$'000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 July 2016</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total other comprehensive income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as at 1 July 2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total other comprehensive income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2016</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements
State Rescue Board of New South Wales  
Statement of cash flows  
for the year ended 30 June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Actual 2017 $'000</th>
<th>Actual 2016 $'000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
State Rescue Board of New South Wales

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Reporting entity

The State Rescue Board of New South Wales (the Board) is a corporation constituted under Section 42 of the State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989. The principal function of the Board is to ensure the maintenance of efficient and effective rescue services throughout New South Wales.

The Board is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective) and it has no cash generating activities.

The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 have been authorised for issue by the members of the Board on 20 October 2017.

(b) Basis of preparation

The Board’s financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations);
- the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015;
- The Financial Reporting Directions mandated by the Treasurer.

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis unless otherwise stated.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimations management have made are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(c) Statement of compliance

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(d) Income recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Revenue in the form of a grant from the Department of Justice NSW is recognised as income when the Board gains control over the assets comprising the grant contribution.

(e) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except that the:

- amount of GST incurred by the Board as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of an asset’s cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense and
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.
State Rescue Board of New South Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements

(f) Administrative support

In addition to personnel services, the Department of Justice NSW provides miscellaneous goods and services as administrative support to the Board at no charge. The value of this minor administrative support is not considered material and has not been recognised in the financial statements.

(g) Personnel Services

The Department of Justice NSW provides personnel services, such as secretariat support, to the Board free of charge. It also pays the allowance payable to one of the board members. The fair value of this support has been recognised as a notional expense and grants and contributions in the Board’s financial statements, in accordance with AASB 1004 ‘Contributions’.

(h) Changes in accounting policy, including new or revised Australian Accounting Standards

i) Effective for the first time in 2016-17

The accounting policies applied in 2016-17 are consistent with those of the previous financial year except as a result of AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities which has been applied for the first time in 2016-17. The required disclosures are made at Note 7.

ii) Issued but not yet effective

There are no issued but not yet effective accounting pronouncements that will materially impact the Board on initial application.

(i) Comparative Information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 $’000</th>
<th>2016 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel services</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fee</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 $’000</th>
<th>2016 $’000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. REVENUE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and contributions</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

As at 30 June 2017 the Board had no commitments (2016: nil).
State Rescue Board of New South Wales
Notes to the Financial Statements

5. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Board does not hold any financial instruments (2016: nil)

6. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Board is not aware of any contingent assets or liabilities at the reporting date that are material enough to impact its operations and require disclosure (2016: nil).

7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Department of Justice provided personnel services and administrative support services to the Board free of charge. It also paid an allowance to one of the Board members. The fair value of this support was $123,000, which the Board recognised as expenses and grants and contributions. Refer to note 1(g) for further details.

8. AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

In the period between the end of the financial year and the date of these financial statements, the members of the board are not aware of any material or unusual event that, in their opinion, would significantly affect the operations of the Board, the results of its operations, or the state of its affairs for the next 12 months.

End of Financial Statements