



MINUTES

Meeting details			
Meeting title:	Marine Search and Rescue - Reform Implementation Board Meeting		
Meeting date:	Tuesday, 21 February 2017	Time:	1600 hrs
Location:	EMV, 121 Exhibition St, Melbourne L23 Russell 4		

Attendees	Title/Business area
Linda Evans	Manager, Marine Pollution - DEDJTR
Wes Oswin	Head of Marine Search and Rescue Office
John Todor	Superintendent, Victoria Police
Mark Bainbridge	AVCG Representative
Eileen Murray	Southern Peninsular Rescue Squad
Peter Corcoran	Director Maritime Safety, Transport Safety Victoria

Apologies	Title/Business area
Rick Cooper	VMR Mornington – Independent Representative
Craig Lapsley	Emergency Management Commissioner
Tony Murphy	Director Capability and Response, EMV
Russell McMurray	Director of Marine Pollution, DEDJTR

UPDATE ON ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

Item	Action	Allocated to	Status
1	MSAR Office to finalise Interim Arrangements, provide covering page with 'issue date' and 'effective from' date as well as an explanatory communique.	Wes Oswin	Completed
2	MSAR Office to investigate opportunities to geospatially map the risk assessment and MSAR capability	Wes Oswin	Completed
3	MSAR Office to provide out of session update re VMIA insurance options	Wes Oswin	Completed
4	MSAR office to respond to volunteers at Waratah Beach regarding revival of MSAR unit	Wes Oswin	Completed
5	MSAR office to draft acknowledgement letter for Russell Rees for signature by Craig Lapsley	Wes Oswin	Completed
6	MSAR Office to schedule bi-monthly meetings for October, early December & February	Wes Oswin	Completed

AGENDA

Item	Subject	Time	Speaker/Action
1.	Opening/apologies/review of actions	5	Craig Lapsley
2.	Marine Search and Rescue Office – Progress Report	15	Wes Oswin Tony Murphy
3.	Project Working Group – Overviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance & Insurance • Risk & Capability • Training & Assessment 	10	Wes Oswin
4.	New Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Standards & Operational Protocols 	10	Wes Oswin John Todor Peter Corcoran
5.	ESVS Grant Program	5	Wes Oswin
6.	Volunteer representative updates	10 min	Eileen Murray Mark Bainbridge
7.	Other business	5	All
8.	Next scheduled meeting – 11 May 2017		

MINUTES

1. Opening/Apologies – Wes Oswin

- Apologies from Craig Lapsley and Tony Murphy who were unable to attend due to the Essendon aircraft incident, Eileen Murray from SPRS attended the meeting in lieu of Rick Cooper who is on leave, and Linda Evans attended in lieu of Russell McMurray.

2. MSAR Office Progress and Project Updates – Wes Oswin

A February Progress Report was tabled. The update included an overview of the following areas:

Insurance

VMIA insurance scheme is now in place, and they have produced a scheme guideline document. This will be uploaded to the MSAR website shortly.

Finance

The business cases have been submitted and are currently being reviewed and assessed by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF). Formal notification on the outcome will be known when the budget is handed down on 2 May 2017. The MSAR Office and EMV are responding to questions and queries from DTF.

Linda Keyser has taken over from Kara O'Dwyer as the Project Manager for the Safe and Accessible Waterway Strategy. The MSAR Office will be meeting with Kara shortly to discuss next steps on the potential for a MSAR Levy. Peter Corcoran also provided a brief update on the progress of the Safe and Accessible Waterway Strategy and the nature of the business case.

Risk & Capability Project

A report from Russell Rees was tabled. The project team has met on 6 and 16 October 2016, and 8 December 2017. A meeting is also scheduled for 2 March 2017 at LVS Port Melbourne.

Capability plans have been completed for 26 locations and a consolidated 12 year capital investment program has been developed.

The MSAR Office is briefing naval architects with a view to engaging appropriate technical expertise to develop detailed vessel specifications. The aim is to have these ready in anticipation of funding.

The project team will be meeting in March to consider the consolidated plan in more detail.

Training & Assessment

The MSAR Office has been visiting MSAR providers to review existing training arrangements, canvassing training deficiencies, and identifying future needs.

Key observations are:

- There is some excellent training being conducted by AVCG and independent units
- Some units are doing very little training and are reliant on the personal experience and qualifications of members
- There is strong support for online or computer based training to be available
- There needs to be more consistency in training assessment practices
- Some MSAR providers do not have sufficient funds to conduct on-water training
- There is a view that there needs to be independent training assessors
- Common assessment tools need to be employed across the sector
- There needs to be a system of training validation

The MSAR office is exploring an opportunity to evaluate the VMR Queensland training that is being conducted by Life Saving Tasmania (LST). LST has adopted this training and is in the process of rolling this out in Tasmania.

The MSAR Office may be able to get LST to run a trial course in Victoria for Waratah Bay. They currently run Elements of Shipboard Safety over one weekend and Competent Crew over another weekend. The MSAR Office has also been advised that LSV will have the MAR training package on their RTO's scope within a month.

The findings of the review and a draft training strategy will be now developed in conjunction with the Training and Assessment Project Group.

3. New Project –Performance Standards & Operational Protocols

In consultation with VICPOL, the MSAR Office would like to initiate a new joint project that will review, develop and implement performance standards and operational protocols. A draft Terms of Reference is being developed. Once the Terms of Reference are finalised, project teams will be formed to undertake the required work. It is likely that involvement from TSV, VICPOL, EMV, ESTA, and volunteer representatives will be required.

Grants

A number of MSAR units have been successful in obtaining grants under the ESVS Grants Program including:

- Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad
- Port Fairy Marine Rescue
- Several AVCG Flotillas

More details and a full list of successful recipients can be found on the following link to the EMV website: <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/emergency-volunteer-grants-announced>

The MSAR Office is continuing to work with other MSAR providers to identify additional high priority needs for this grant program.

AVCG Mallacoota

The MSAR Office has been working with the Mallacoota Flotilla, DELWP, and East Gippsland Shire to identify a suitable parcel of land for a permanent home. Up until now the Flotilla has been utilising a private facility that has been on loan from a retired fisherman. This arrangement is likely to come to an end shortly. A potential allotment of crown land has been identified and is currently being assessed by the council to identifying any potential planning issues.

Regional Forums

A round of regional of upcoming regional forums has been identified as follows:

- 3 May 2017 – Evening event at Life Saving Victoria (Port Melbourne)
- 7 May 2017 – Lunch event at Colac
- 21 May 2017 – Lunch event at Traralgon

Further details will be published on the MSAR e-News.

Volunteer Updates

Eileen Murray - SPRS

- SPRS are arranging for a joint exercise
- Eileen will provide dates
- EMV has resources available to run and review exercise

Mark Bainbridge - AVCG

- A key issue is communications
- What platform for the future?
- Wes noted that this is a deliverable for the Performance Standards & Operational Protocols Project

4. Other Business

Peter Corcoran advised that the Office of the Chief Investigator as a delegate of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau is investigating the Norwegian Star cruise ship incident.

Lynda Evans asked what would happen to the operational plans that were developed for this incident. Would they be saved for future use?

Wes advised that it was his understanding that all documents and plans would be saved, but this is a good question for the incident debrief.

5. Next Meetings

- The next meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2017.