

Terms of Reference

Marine Search and Rescue Working Group

Project Group: Risk and Capability

Background

1. On 11 February 2016, the Government Response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Marine Rescue Services in Victoria was tabled in Parliament. The Government Response outlines reforms in the areas of:
 - a) governance
 - b) standards, accreditation and audit
 - c) training
 - d) funding
 - e) communications
2. As part of the new governance arrangements, the government has established a Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) Reform Implementation Board as the strategic decision-making body that will drive and oversee the MSAR reform program.
3. The MSAR Working Group was created to develop and implement goals of the Reform Implementation Board. Short term Project Groups were then created to plan the execution of these goals in the following areas:
 - a) Training and Assessment
 - b) Risk and Capability
 - c) Finance and Insurance
4. The Terms of Reference for the Risk and Capability Project are provided here.

Responsibilities of the Risk and Capability Project Group

5. The responsibilities of the Risk and Capability Project Group are to provide advice on the following key elements:
 - a) Assessment of risk profiles and operational capability assessments, including validation of local inputs
 - b) Development of a limited number of vessel capability profiles to meet the risks presented through the risk assessments
 - c) Development of an asset placement plan based on risk and best fit
 - d) Having considered the above, and the condition assessment of current vessels, develop a long term vessel acquisition plan to support ongoing service delivery commensurate with risk and capacity of service providers

Goals of the Risk and Capability Project Group

6. The goals of the Risk and Capability Project Group are to provide a cohesive risk assessment for MSAR in Victoria that includes a plan that:
 - a) Identifies the resources needed to support the risk assessments conducted for MSAR which will be largely defined as vessel type and capability for MSAR units
 - b) Considers MSAR provider capability, and provides alternative MSAR options (based on existing state capacity) when providers do not have capacity to meet identified risks
 - c) Considers ongoing skills and resource maintenance processes
 - d) Develops guidelines or processes to continually review changes to risk assessments, search and rescue environments, resources and capabilities

It is anticipated that these goals will be achieved by January 2017.

Scope

7. The scope of the Project Group is primarily assessing the risk for “blue water”ⁱ marine search and rescue environments that affect search and rescue operations. Where appropriate and relevant, arrangements adopted as part of the reform program may be extended to all MSAR environments, including white water and smaller inland waterways.
8. In accordance with the Inter-Governmental Agreement on National Search and Rescue Response Arrangements, Victoria Police is currently and will remain the MSAR control agency.
9. Proposed reforms will take into account the importance of each volunteer organisation retaining its identity, independence and connection to its community.

Composition

10. The Risk and Capability Project Group comprises of representatives from the following organisations in an advisory capacity:
 - Head of the MSAR Office (Chair)
 - Emergency Management Victoria (EMV)
 - Transport Safety Victoria
 - Victoria Police
 - MSAR providers

11. The current members are:

Member	Provider
Bruce Murray	Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad
David Taylor	Coast Guard
Matt Semmens	Coast Guard
Marcus Grinblat	Coast Guard
Tony Vicary	Coast Watch Radio & Marine Rescue Squad
Damian Bould	Apollo Bay Ocean Rescue
Rick Cooper	Volunteer Marine Rescue
Mike Turner	Volunteer Marine Rescue
Ben Penrose	Victoria Police
Adrian Mnew	Transport Safety Victoria

Meetings

12. The Risk and Capability Project Group will meet at least monthly and more often if required.

Secretariat

13. EMV will provide secretariat support to the Project Group.

Governance

14. The Project Group will provide advice to the MSAR Working Group.

15. The Working Group will report to the Reform Implementation Board, and in turn, the Emergency Management Commissioner.

Term

16. The Project Group will remain in place until the Working Group deems the Risk and Capability goals have been achieved.

ⁱ The Inquiry Report uses the definition of “blue water” as distinct from “white water”. It defines “blue water” as including offshore, inshore and enclosed waters, as well as larger areas of inland water. “Offshore waters” are all open water more than two nautical miles seaward from the coastline. “Inshore waters” are any open stretch of water extending laterally along the coast up to and including two nautical miles offshore. It also includes bar entrances and tidal waters identified in each state as “partially smooth”. “Enclosed waters” are any navigable tidal water such as a harbour, coastal bay, estuary, tidal creek or tidal river, excluding tidal waters identified in each state as partially “smooth”. “White water” is defined as the surf, i.e. the area within which lifesaving vessels typically operate.