

# Terms of Reference

## Marine Search and Rescue Working Group

### Project Group: Training and Assessment

#### 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 Training and Assessment Project are provided here.

#### Responsibilities of the Training and Assessment Project Group

5. The responsibilities of the Training and Assessment Project Group are to provide advice to a contractor on the following key elements in developing the training strategy:
  - a) Consideration of current training programs across service providers
  - b) Desktop review of training systems in other states and sectors
  - c) Development of a training plan and budget
  - d) Independent validation of the proposed training plan
  - e) Training support arrangements from the MSAR office

## Goals of the Training and Assessment Project Group

6. The goals of the Training and Assessment Project Group is to provide a training strategy for MSAR in Victoria that covers:
  - a) Current training arrangements across the sector
  - b) Opportunities for collaboration and cost sharing
  - c) Consideration of qualification requirements based on regulation and AMSA schedules
  - d) Cost of training provided by external providers
  - e) Cost of fuel and other consumables involved in training delivery and skills maintenance
  - f) Qualification and assessment management and recording system
  - g) Skills maintenance and requalification regimes

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

## Scope

7. The scope of the Project Group is primarily training and assessment for MSAR providers for “blue water”<sup>i</sup> marine search and rescue providers. 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 Training and Assessment 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
  - Life Saving Victoria
  - MSAR providers

11. The current members are:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Provider</b>
Lynda Murray / Eileen Murray	Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad
Peter McNally	Coast Guard
Sheena Grinblat	Coast Guard
Charlie Savage	Coast Guard
Frank Egan	Coast Guard
Peter Jessop	Coast Guard
Nick Scerri	Coast Watch Radio & Marine Rescue Squad
Andrew Kay	Torquay Marine Rescue
David Pitson	Volunteer Marine Rescue
Greg Scott	Life Saving Victoria
Ben Penrose	Victoria Police
Adrian Mnew	Transport Safety Victoria

## **Meetings**

12. The Training and Assessment 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 Training and Assessment goals have been achieved.

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<sup>i</sup> 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

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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.