

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa

Strategic Plan 2021-2024





POLICE

LTZ774

SEARCH RESCUE
#SCUE

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Foreword

The New Zealand Search and Rescue (NzsAR) Council provides strategic leadership and direction to the many organisations that make up New Zealand's Search and Rescue sector. The sector aims to provide effective search and rescue services throughout New Zealand's Search and Rescue Region.

Search and Rescue (SAR) is a resource intensive sector with over 12,800 operational people involved as well as many hundreds of vessels, aircraft and vehicles. SAR agencies across New Zealand have equipped themselves with the assets and equipment that allows them to carry out their task as efficiently and safely as possible. But it is the skill and dedication of our people that makes our search and rescue sector world class.

It is imperative that the SAR sector is aligned, coherent and cohesive so we can quickly, effectively and efficiently respond to the needs of New Zealanders in distress.

New Zealanders have high expectations of us and we are determined to meet our full potential. Organisations, agencies and individuals will continue to improve, collaborate, work alongside each other, build stronger relationships and grow their understanding of the various roles and how the sector fits together.

This plan will help us achieve our goals. I urge all people who make up New Zealand's search and rescue community to not only read this plan, but to assist in making this plan happen.

Peter Mersi
Chair
NzsAR Council





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BP

SURF LIFEGUARD

SURF LIFEGUARD

SURF LIFEGUARD

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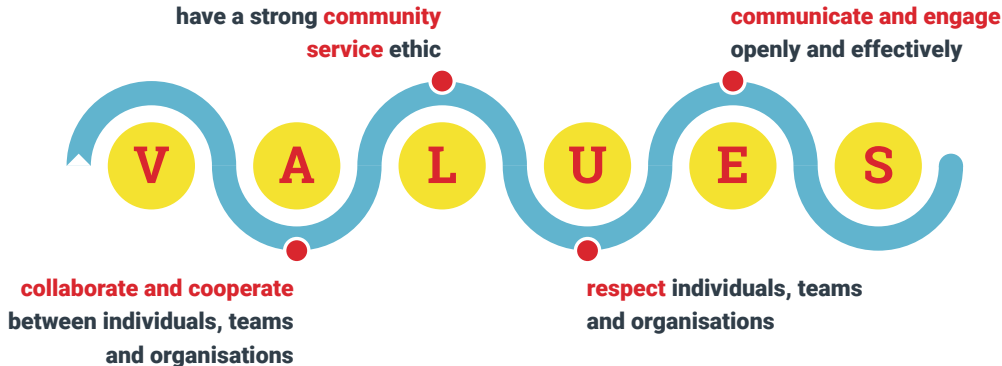
Fonterra
Dairy for life

MARINE RESCUE PRODUCTS
Phosphate, P.I. 8289
P.O. Box 141 0100
www.marine-rescue.com

NZSAR outcome

NZSAR will ensure New Zealand provides effective search and rescue services for people in distress throughout New Zealand's search and rescue region in order to save lives.

NZSAR values



NZSAR vision

A cohesive community of capable people in sustainable organisations, finding and rescuing people in distress, operating collaboratively within a robust SAR system.

The New Zealand Search and Rescue community will seek to reduce the need for our services by promoting recreational safety knowledge. We will be proficient at providing search and rescue services and efficient in the use of scarce resources. We will also learn from our individual and collective experiences and recognise the dedication, courage and commitment of the people who make up our sector.



SAR PEOPLE

Who we are

Over 12,800 operational SAR people are directly involved in the New Zealand SAR sector with a further 400 working in support of them. People from all over New Zealand and all walks of life are involved in search and rescue.





Non-paid volunteer professionals make up around 95 per cent of the sector. New Zealand has one of the highest rates of volunteer involvement in SAR in the world.


In addition, our sector occasionally draws upon the considerable latent SAR capacity that is resident within a variety of government agencies.

SAR partner agencies make 240 4WD vehicles, 52 aircraft and over 350 vessels available to SAR coordinating authorities for operations. In addition, many other assets of opportunity can be called upon as the need arises.

12,831 people are involved in the New Zealand search and rescue sector as at June 2020.




 Water = 8,038  Land = 3,897  Air = 512  Coordination and support = 384

 **WATER**

- Coastguard NZ
- Dunedin Marine SAR
- Surf Life Saving NZ

 **LAND**

- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- Antarctica NZ
- Department of Conservation
- LandSAR
 - Alpine Cliff Rescue
 - Cave SAR
 - SAR Dogs
 - Wander Search

 **AIR**

- Coastguard Air Patrol
- Emergency Medical Service Helicopters
- NZ Defence Force

 **COORDINATION AND SUPPORT**

- Antarctic Unified Incident Command
- Maritime Operations Centre
- NZ Police
- Rescue Coordination Centre NZ
- Organisation Support
- Training



CRV TAUPO RESCUE

CRV

DANGER

Who benefits from our services?

Approximately 2,000 people are assisted by the SAR sector every year. Many of these people owe their lives to the dedication and skill of the people who make up the sector.

Searches and rescues take place for a wide variety of people in all kinds of places throughout the region and occasionally beyond. People in distress may be from international air or sea-going traffic in remote ocean areas or from domestic commercial air and coastal traffic.

They can also be part of New Zealand's general aviation community or people undertaking recreational pursuits in our skies, across the rugged terrain, inland waterways, lakes and caves or in the coastal waters of the Pacific Island nations within the Search and Rescue Region.

While New Zealanders make up the great majority of those assisted, visitors to our country and our region can also expect an effective SAR response should the need arise.



July 2019 – June 2020

Life saved: where, if SAR agencies had not intervened, life would definitely have been lost.

Person rescued: where SAR agencies locate and rescue a person or people at risk and return them to a safe location.

Person assisted: Where SAR agencies aid a person or people at low risk, but who, if left, would be at risk.





SAR REGION

Our region

New Zealand's Search and Rescue Region (NZSRR) covers over 37 million square kilometres of ocean and relatively small, isolated land masses extending from latitude 5° south to the South Pole and bounded by the 163E and the 131W meridians of longitude.

While New Zealand has a relatively small landmass by world standards, we have a low population and large tracts of very difficult terrain and highly changeable weather.

Years of experience has shown us that it is very easy to get lost or injured in the New Zealand wilderness and very difficult to find people when that happens.





NZSAR

Concept of operations

The New Zealand search and rescue sector supplies effective search and rescue services throughout the NZSRR by providing:

- two SAR coordinating authorities able to coordinate land, sea and air SAR operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- appropriately located and trained, land, sea and air search and rescue teams and assets available to conduct SAR operations on request by the coordinating authorities
- long range SAR assets able to conduct operations throughout the NZSRR and in support of neighbouring SAR regions.

The sector functions using trained personnel that are a mix of volunteers, partly paid and fully paid people and using equipment appropriate for the task.

Search and rescue is an integrated component of New Zealand's wider emergency management framework. We use resilient, self-reliant communities and adopt the Government's "4Rs" approach to emergency response risk management: reduction, readiness, response and recovery.



The sector prepares for nationally significant search and rescue events in the region by developing and practising integrated multi-agency responses supported by shared policies and plans.

In situations of complex, significant (in respect of resources and people involved), long term or high-profile incidents, the National Security System may activate and co-ordinate part or all of the response.

NZSAR Council risks

New Zealand's SAR sector operates in a complex and evolving environment characterised by scarce resources, technological change, increased public expectations and a heavy reliance on the voluntary sector.

While no response system can be rendered fail-safe, a number of current risks facing the SAR sector can be addressed effectively. New Zealand's SAR sector aims to provide an affordable, effective and sustainable SAR system available for all New Zealanders, visitors to New Zealand and Pacific nations within the NZSRR.

The NZSAR Council maintains an active risk register. Risks that are currently subject to mitigation activities are:

Volunteerism	Risks exist around the long-term sustainability of the SAR volunteer model.
SAR Funding	The sector experiences funding sufficiency and volatility risks.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Risks exist around the injury or fatality of SAR people in the conduct of their duties and inadequate support being made available to support mental health.
Cohesive and effective SAR Training	The competence and capability of SAR individuals is dependent on effective training and assessment. SAR training is largely decentralised and varies significantly.
SAR Information	The sector needs reliable information based upon sound data in order to identify strategic changes, risks and opportunities, and improved decision making.
Nationally Significant Search and Rescue Event	Certain search and/or rescue events may overwhelm normal SAR capabilities and may trigger the involvement of the National Security System.
Personal Safety	The public frequently do not take adequate responsibility for their own safety through poor planning, insufficient preparation, unsound decision making or inadequate equipment.

SAR Technology	The SAR community may not know of, or be unable to acquire or support, technologies that have the capacity to significantly increase SAR effectiveness.
SAR Expectations	Risks exist around unsound or unrealistic expectations of the SAR sector by the public as well as senior policy and decision makers.
SAR Demand	Changes to the nature of SAR demand may render the sector ineffective or inappropriate.
COVID-19	The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated response presents a variety and evolving set of operational and systemic risks to New Zealand’s SAR system.



NZSAR Council goals

The NZSAR Council seeks to shape and lead the combined efforts of our search and rescue sector by attaining these goals:



A robust and integrated SAR system. We seek a collective, cross sector culture of being 'one SAR body' within an integrated SAR system. Our policies, processes, procedures and documentation will be coherent, aligned and support effective, efficient and safe SAR practice. We will undertake SAR activity cooperatively and learn from our experiences within a just culture. We will continue to improve our understanding of the SAR sector, our performance, our people, our operations and external influences so that we can improve our services, strengthen our resilience and mitigate our risks. We will also promote and support SAR innovations and showcase good practice.



Efficient and sustainable SAR organisations. We seek high performing, efficient and sustainable SAR organisations with adequate, secure funding. We will sustain an inclusive and collaborative environment that enables volunteerism. Our capabilities will be fit-for-purpose, appropriately located and adequate to address known SAR needs. We will make affordable, evidence-based investment decisions supported by good quality information. We will adapt our organisations and arrangements in response to changes in our operating environment and ensure we continue to deliver effective SAR services throughout the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region.



Capable SAR people. We seek to maximise the potential of our SAR people. We will work to ensure our people have access to appropriate training and ensure we conduct SAR activities competently and safely. We will collectively coordinate our standards, training, exercises and documentation. Knowledge will be shared without restriction and we will learn from each other and our experiences. We will also recognise and celebrate the dedication, courage and commitment of our people.



SAR Prevention We seek an informed, responsible, adequately equipped and appropriately skilled public who are able to either avoid distress situations or survive them should they occur. Many organisations have a role to play with SAR prevention. Collectively, we will enhance personal responsibility through information, education, regulation, investigation and enforcement. We will collaborate with, inform, and contribute to partner organisations. When required we will enable, coordinate, or lead public focused SAR preventative strategies and actions in order to reduce the number and/or the severity of SAR incidents within the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region.

NZSAR National SAR Support Programme 2021–2024

In addition to the extensive array of new initiatives and usual business activity conducted by the agencies that comprise the New Zealand's SAR sector, the NZSAR Council has modest resources at its disposal to support the development of New Zealand's SAR sector.

The Council's National SAR Support Programme (NSSP) is approved annually by the Council and implemented by the NZSAR Secretariat. The NSSP comprises projects and programmes of non-operational SAR activities intended to advance NZSAR goals and to treat identified NZSAR risks. The NSSP varies annually and includes: workshops and seminars, information and technology, documentation, exercises, research, reviews, SAR prevention, training development, other initiatives and the operation of NZSAR Secretariat.

Multi-year workplans or frameworks for significant streams of work tie together relevant projects and sponsored work detailed in the annual NSSP. NZSAR multi-year workplans or frameworks are maintained as living documents on the NZSAR Council website¹ and include:

- SAR Sector Training
- SAR Volunteerism
- Technology and Innovation
- SAR Sector Information Analysis and Research
- SAR Prevention and Communications.

Sector Review

A broad based and future focused search and rescue and recreational safety review will occur during the 2021–2024 period. The Ministry of Transport will lead the review and set the terms of reference.

¹ www.nzsar.govt.nz

NzsAR sector investment

The NzsAR Council manages a significant portion of the Government's investment into the SAR sector. The Council's Funding Principles guide this investment.

The Funding Principles are:

- stewardship of public funds
- a collaborative approach
- shared services
- transparency
- justifiable business purpose and value of investment
- managing risk
- values
- wellbeing and resilience.

Agency	2019/20 Total (\$m)	2020/21 Total (\$m)	2021/22 Total (\$m)	2022/23 Total (\$m)	2023/24 Total (\$m)
New Zealand Search And Rescue	2.040	3.685	5.030	5.480	3.580
New Zealand Police	0	1.100	1.864	1.760	1.100
Department of Conservation	0	0.465	0.359	0.463	0.066
Mountain Safety Council	0.150	0.295	0.291	0.389	0.326
Surf Life Saving New Zealand	0.200	10.261	11.877	10.812	9.975
Coastguard New Zealand	2.440	9.995	11.197	10.552	7.534
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications	0.065	0.654	0.492	0.486	0.425
Land Search And Rescue	1.075	3.051	2.661	2.661	2.078
Total	5.970	29.506	33.771	32.603	25.084

If you would like to know more about the NzsAR Council and Secretariat's work visit nzsar.govt.nz

Key definitions

Category I SAROP: A SAROP coordinated at the local level; including land operations, subterranean operations, river, lake and inland waterway operations, and close-to-shore marine operations.

Category II SAROP: A SAROP coordinated at the national level; including operations associated with missing aircraft or aircraft in distress and off-shore marine operations within the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region. Category II SAROPs typically require the use of national or international resources, and may involve coordination with other states.

CIMS: The Coordinated Incident Management System is a New Zealand framework to systematically manage emergency/SAR incidents.

Coordinating Authority: The Coordinating Authority is the agency or body responsible for the overall conduct of the Search and Rescue Operation. The Coordinating Authority will lead and manage the operation. The New Zealand Police and the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand are the recognised Coordinating Authorities in New Zealand. Only SAROPs conducted by the coordinating authorities are recorded as SAR events.

IAMSAR: International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue is an international model, prepared jointly by the

International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation, for setting standards and for coordinating responses to marine and aviation SAR events.

SAR: Search and Rescue is the activity of locating and recovering persons either in distress, potential distress or missing, and delivering them to a place of safety.

SAROP: A Search and Rescue Operation is an operation undertaken by a Coordinating Authority to locate and retrieve persons missing or in distress. The intention of the operation is to save lives, prevent or minimise injuries, and remove persons from situations of peril by locating the persons, providing for initial medical care or other needs, and then delivering them to a place of safety.

Search and Rescue Region (SRR). An area of defined dimensions, associated with a rescue coordination centre, within which search and rescue services are provided.

Search and Rescue Service. The performance of distress monitoring, communication, coordination, and search and rescue functions, including provision of medical advice, initial medical assistance, or medical evacuation, through the use of public and private resources, including cooperating aircraft, vessels, and other craft and installations.

OUR SECTOR

Partners



Coordinating Agencies



Operational

