

BLUE WATER REVIEW WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 24 March 2019, Southport



Key decisions

- The Working Group discussed priority items and agreed on several recommendations regarding the future of volunteer marine rescue services. Two submissions were prepared by the Blue Water Review (BWR) Working Group Secretariat and presented by the Working Group Chair to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Strategic Committee on 1 April 2019.
- Submission 1:
 - **The Working Group recommends there be a single service for blue water marine search and rescue in Queensland.**
 - This recommendation has been supported in principle by the QFES Strategic Committee but has yet to be subject to QFES Board of Management or Government consideration.
 - **The Working Group recommends the single service be a new entity with a new name, brand and approach.**
 - This recommendation has been supported in principle by the QFES Strategic Committee but has yet to be subject to QFES Board of Management or Government consideration.
 - **The Working Group recommends that a risk assessment and capability gap analysis for blue water marine search and rescue services be conducted as soon as possible to help inform future recommendations.**
 - The QFES Strategic Committee has asked the BWR Chair to present a business case for a capability and risk assessment.
- Submission 2:
 - **The Working Group recommends the QFES Strategic Committee endorse the BWR Working Group Terms of Reference.**
 - This recommendation has been supported in principle by the QFES Strategic Committee but has yet to be subject to QFES Board of Management or Government consideration.
 - **The Working Group recommends the QFES Strategic Committee endorse the BWR Project Charter.**
 - This recommendation has been supported in principle by the QFES Strategic Committee but has yet to be subject to QFES Board of Management or Government consideration.

Key matters

- The Working Group agreed that volunteer marine search and rescue services need to have closer working relationships with QFES and related organisations under whatever structure is formally adopted.



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- The Working Group agreed to invite a QFES Deputy Commissioner to a future meeting to discuss the role of marine search and rescue services in emergency management.
- The Working Group agreed that as a guiding principle volunteers, under a new structure, should not be out of pocket for uniforms or core skills training.
- The Working Group discussed arranging a meeting with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) National Board on the weekend of its next meeting of 27-28 April to discuss the BWR and the future of marine search and rescue services. The AVCGA National Board is meeting in Brisbane on the same weekend and the decision was made to hold the Working Group meeting in Brisbane to assist in organising a meeting with AVCGA. *This has been confirmed and will occur on Sunday 28th April.*
- The Working Group expressed their keen interest to hold the May BWR Working Group meeting in Townsville and will seek support from AVCGA Townsville to do so. It was discussed that the Working Group should host a BBQ with all volunteers from the surrounding units invited to attend to assist in further engagement with volunteers. Further details will be provided in due course.

Action required by QFES or other Stakeholders

Action required	Responsible party
Chair to provide business case to the Strategic Committee on a risk assessment and capability gap analysis for the blue water sector.	Chair
Chair to invite a QFES Deputy Commissioner to meet with the Working Group and discuss the role of marine rescue services in emergency management.	Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Troy Davies', is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Troy Davies - GradCertAppMgt
Acting Executive Director
Emergency Management and Community Capability
10 April 2019

Chair, Blue Water Review Working Group