

BLUE WATER REVIEW WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 27-28 April 2019



Key matters

- At the most recent Blue Water Review (BWR) Working Group (WG) meeting several key matters were discussed at length:
 - **Structure**
 - The Working Group (the 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.
 - The Group considered a number of options regarding the organisational structure of the recommended single entity (yet to be endorsed by the QFES Board of Management or Government). Several options remain under consideration and **no** recommendation has been finalised.
 - The Group members were asked to consider out of session the key capabilities they believe the volunteer marine rescue sector will require in the future. This will help inform how a future structure will deliver the identified key capabilities. The Group were asked to consider capability requirements under four headings, Strategic Capabilities, Service Delivery Capabilities, Operational Support Capabilities and Business Support Capabilities.
 - **Key Observations**
 - The Group considered in greater detail the key observations identified in the 'Review into Volunteer Marine Rescue Organisations in Queensland' report (the Report) and considered how they could be turned into key actions, solutions with resulting benefits.
- In addition to the meetings over Saturday and Sunday, an engagement session was held with approximately 100 volunteers at QF3 Redcliffe on Saturday evening. Volunteers in attendance came from units between Noosa to Jacobs Well. Key points from the session include:
 - The Group found the session extremely productive with the evening helping to inform Working Group members on key matters.
 - It was reiterated to the volunteers present that only information provided in Working Group Communiques or directly from Working Group members should be considered accurate information. Information that does not come from these sources should be considered misinformation until otherwise confirmed.
 - A guiding principle of the Working Group is that unit assets provided either through Government funding or through local fundraising should remain with local units regardless of the outcome of the review.
- The Group met with most members of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) National Board on Sunday, 28 April 2019. The Working Group welcomed the AVCGA National Board offer to work closely with the Working Group during the review process.
- On Monday, 29 April 2019, the Chair of the Working Group and Mr Campbell Darby DSC AM, author of the Report, provided an update to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, the Honourable



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Craig Crawford MP, and the QFES Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner's on the progress of the Working Group.

Key outcomes

- The next BWR WG meeting will be held in Townsville over 25 – 26 May 2019. An engagement session will be held on the evening of Saturday, 25 May at QF8 Townsville with volunteers welcome to attend from units between Tully to Mackay.
- The June BWR WG meeting will be held in Gladstone over the 8 – 9 June 2019.
- Further information regarding both the May and June sessions will be provided in due course.

Recommendations

Below is an overview of the recommendations agreed to by the Working Group to date, what stage in the QFES Governance process the recommendation is up to, and what the next steps are.

| Recommendation | Status | Next Steps |
|--|--|---|
| Transition to a single entity | Endorsed in principle 1 April 2019 by the QFES Strategic Committee | QFES Board of Management for consideration |
| New entity with a new name, brand and approach | Endorsed in principle 1 April 2019 by the QFES Strategic Committee | QFES Board of Management for consideration |
| State-wide risk assessment and capability gap analysis to commence immediately | Endorsed in principle 1 April 2019 by the QFES Strategic Committee subject to a Business Case to be provided at the next Strategic Committee meeting | Business Case presented to the Strategic Committee out of session in May. |

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Chair, Blue Water Review Working Group

Troy Davies - GradCertAppMgt
Acting Executive Director
Emergency Management and Community Capability
3 May 2019

Handwritten signature of Doug Smith in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

~~ENDORSED/NOT ENDORSED~~
Doug Smith
Deputy Commissioner
Strategy and Corporate Services

7/5/19