

# BLUE WATER REVIEW WORKING GROUP

## COMMUNIQUE

Meeting 8-9 June 2019

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### Key matters

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At the Blue Water Review (BWR) Working Group (WG) meeting held in Gladstone, the following key matters were considered:

- **Concept of Operations (CONOPS)**
  - Mr Campbell Darby DSC AM presented a draft detailed CONOPS to the Working Group which outlined the strategic and operational capabilities as well as the constraints of the operational environment in which a single service would function.
  - The Working Group supported Mr Darby's draft, workshopped amendments and agreed that the CONOPS should be finalised and submitted for QFES endorsement.
- **Capability Requirements of a Future Marine Rescue Service**
  - A "Vision" for the future was workshopped with a key focus on acknowledging where the sector has come from, what it has achieved and how it will deliver capabilities into the future.
- **Potential Structures of a Future Service**
  - The Working Group further considered how the capabilities required for a future service may inform the future structure. Several options were considered as to how structure might deliver capability and the WG acknowledged that the sector needed to maintain its own identity and that be reflected in the proposed structure.
- **Funding Expectations**
  - The Working Group reflected on the session with QFES Deputy Commissioner Doug Smith discussing funding expectations for a future service and acknowledge that quantifying costs to deliver capabilities would be an ongoing priority.
- **Recommendations**
  - In discussing the above, the Working Group has unanimously endorsed recommendations 3-11 (refer below for table of recommendations) for endorsement by QFES which will then provide advice to Government.
  - On 25 June 2019, the QFES Strategic Committee noted the recommendations and provided in-principle support for the Working Group to continue to explore those recommendations that will inform a detailed business case for consideration by the Strategic Committee, QFES and the Government.

In addition, an informal BBQ was held on Saturday, 8 June, at VMR Gladstone. The evening provided an opportunity for the Working Group to engage with approximately 60 volunteers from as far north as Yeppoon and as far south as Hervey Bay.

The next BWR WG meeting will be held in Noosa over 20 – 21 July 2019. An engagement session will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, 20 July at QF17 Tin Can Bay with invitations extended to volunteers between Bundaberg and Bribie Island.

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## 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. Note that Maritime Rescue Service is used a descriptor and is NOT the proposed name of the new entity.

#	Recommendation	Status
1	Transition to a single entity	Endorsed in principle 1 April 2019 by the QFES Strategic Committee
2	New entity with a new name, brand and approach	
	State-wide risk assessment and capability gap analysis to commence immediately	CONOPS noted by Strategic Committee 25 June 2019. Strategic Committee gave in-principle support for BWRWG to continue to explore recommendations to inform a detailed business case for further consideration by the QFES Strategic Committee. QFES to then provide advice to Government.
3	That the new entity sit as a part of the Department of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services organisational structure.	Recommendations noted by QFES Strategic Committee 25 June 2019. Strategic Committee gave in-principle support for BWRWG to continue to explore recommendations to inform a detailed business case for further consideration by the QFES Strategic Committee. QFES to then provide advice to Government.
4	That the strategic direction of the new entity be guided by a Maritime Rescue Service Board (or similar), membership of which should include: a) Chair and independent members (numbers to be determined) appointed by the Commissioner, QFES; b) a Queensland Police Service (QPS) Search and Rescue (SAR) representative; c) two (2) elected volunteer representatives; and d) two (2) volunteers selected through an expression of interest process.	
5	That the Board be supported by technical sub-committees, including but not limited to finance, capability and training.	
6	That the Maritime Rescue Service units report to a new Assistant Commissioner (AC), Maritime Rescue Service.	
7	That the Maritime Rescue Service be supported by appropriate legislation.	
8	That the AC, Maritime Rescue Service, be supported by appropriate staffing at the State and Regional levels.	
9	That the community based Maritime Rescue Service units are incorporated at either an individual and/or consolidated level depending on local circumstances. These service units should have common articles of association which align with the mission and goals of the new entity.	
10	The new Maritime Rescue Service funding model must sustainably deliver essential capability against risk and ensure local place-based solutions. The funding model is recommended to include a sustainable capital management plan as well as operating budgets.	
11	That QFES includes the new Maritime Rescue Service in its insurance coverage.	



Chair, Blue Water Review Working Group

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