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Welcome to the December edition of the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) Communique.

In this edition you will find updates about the MRIWG, sub-working groups, Resource to Risk project update and the overall Marine Rescue Implementation.

As we are well into summer and with the Queensland border restrictions further relaxed, people are heading to our waterways and activity is continuing to grow.

This is one of the busiest season for volunteers, and on track to be busier than the 2020 boating season.

Queensland is now into the wet season and we have already seen significant weather events across the state. This is set to continue, and we encourage everyone to stay safe on the water heading into the festive season.

Our next newsletter will be out in January so until then keep sending your stories and feedback through to marinerescue@gfes.qld.gov.au.

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Minister's Message



On behalf of the Queensland Government, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single member of Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association for the contribution you make every day to community safety and for your community service.

The Queensland Government remains committed to supporting the marine rescue sector and delivering a single integrated Marine Rescue Service for Queensland.

I have taken the opportunity this year to meet with marine rescue volunteers and see firsthand the significant service that volunteers give to their communities.

There has been a huge amount of work undertaken towards the future single integrated marine rescue service and I thank you for your support.

The Honourable Mark Ryan, Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

Photo: Minister Ryan (middle) on a visit to VMR Whitsunday in September 2021

Marine Rescue implementation Working Group meeting – Brisbane, 23 November 2021

The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) held its fifth meeting on 23 November 2021 in Brisbane.

The Commissioner addressed Working Group members about the importance of Marine Rescue Implementation and the work being undertaken by the Working Group, Sub-working groups, and the valued and expert contribution from volunteer representatives.

The Commissioner recognised the invaluable work that both Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) members undertake in the community.

A major outcome of the MRIWG was endorsement of the Marine Rescue Implementation RoadMap and Transition approach. The transition phases are below in the Program Implementation update.

The Working Group discussed the draft costing model for the future marine rescue service, service delivery model and future organisational structures. This will continue to be refined by the Marine Rescue Implementation team and volunteers will be provided a progress update in due course. Members also received an update about the Communications and Engagement plan including the [Queensland Marine Rescue Facebook Group](#) and the [Future Marine Rescue Name Survey](#).

Currently the deliberations are within the working group and will be shared with the wider sector, when appropriate.



Photos: The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting on 23 November 2021.

Program Implementation update

The Marine Rescue Implementation Program (MRIP) team has been undertaking a significant amount of work in the last six months of this year. The Resource to Risk Project has continued to progress with more Volunteer Marine Rescue Squadrons visited throughout November and December. There will be more MRIP team members coming onboard to assist as the program progresses.

There has been a significant focus on building the implementation approach and transitioning to the future marine rescue service. This will be a phased approach that will be delivered methodically and sustainably.

Phase 1

Current state and future service planning underway

Current state analysis of existing organisations
Continue future state and transition planning
Finalise policy requirements for the future service
Finalising work across implementation areas including (but not limited to) Legislation, Policy, Governance, Service Delivery, Systems, and Assets to support future service

Phase 2

Pre- transition planning and implementation initiated

Transition preparation work continues
Negotiations with existing organisations
Onboard a transition team to assist with transition phase

Phase 3

Transition and Implementation

Service established in legislation and all requirements for the new service completed.
Transition pathway negotiated and arrangements for transition in place.
Phased transition begins with sustainable transition of volunteers to new service

Phase 4

Service establishment

Business as usual (BAU) status reached
Most existing units invited to join are integrated into new service

Future marine rescue name survey- closing date extended!



The [future marine rescue name survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9YPJYK8) is still open and there is still time to have your say!

There has been a great response with over 600 submissions. However, we want to ensure all volunteers have the opportunity to contribute to the future service identity.

Volunteer involvement and feedback is important to help shape the future integrated service in Queensland.

There are six questions and will take less than five minutes to complete. You can take part here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9YPJYK8> or scan the QR code with your mobile device's camera.

The Marine Rescue Implementation team is also happy to email a pdf version or mail a paper copy of the survey.

If you have any questions or require a survey to be sent to you, please email: marinerescue@gfes.qld.gov.au.

The survey closing date has been extended to Friday 14 January 2022.

Image: QR Code which can be scanned by a mobile device camera which will open the survey.

**Complete the Future Marine
Rescue Name Survey here**

Vessel Replacement Program Update

A key element of the Government Election Commitment and current program is the Vessel Replacement Program (VRP), in which Flotillas and Squadrons identified for priority replacement will be eligible for a vessel replacement.

The first vessel is currently out for tender via Q Tenders with the build to commence in 2022 with several more to come in 2022.

Input for vessel replacement prioritisation is based on information sessions held with volunteers through the Resource to Risk (R2R) project, which has provided key information into operational risk and capability needs. The Fleet sub-working group, which includes sector volunteers, has taken the lead on informing and delivering the program through R2R has also provided a great opportunity to talk to frontline volunteers about the future single integrated service.

Note: for AVCGA Flotillas, R2R revisits are currently on hold at the request of the AVCGA National Board.

Sub-working Groups Update

Fleet sub working group

The Fleet sub-working group has met in September and November 2021.

A key focus for this group is supporting the VRP, including priorities for replacement vessels within VMRAQ and the design of vessel specifications.

The group utilises the knowledge of the sector including volunteers.

Vessel replacement priorities for VMR Squadrons have been identified and reviewed by the sub-working group and VMRAQ.

Flotilla and squadrons who have been identified for prioritisation will be consulted about the specifications and needs.

Refinement has continued on the design for vessel specifications for a range of hull types at the meeting in November. A Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat specification has now been finalised with the procurement process now underway to the first build.

The MRIP team will continue to update volunteers throughout the life of the builds.

The next meeting is proposed for early 2022.

*For AVCGA Flotillas, priorities are unable to be verified and R2R visits are currently on hold at the request of the AVCGA National Board. QFES continues to prioritise the reengagement of AVCGA Flotillas in this process and we look forward to providing an update in due course.

Capability sub working group

The Capability sub-working Group (CSWG) met over two days in October and continued to refine several areas of work. The group furthered the development of the Service Delivery Model (including operational, governance and staffing organisational structures), which was presented to the MRIWG on 23 November 2021 for discussion.

The group reviewed R2R draft outcomes prior to unit revisits commencing.

An Operational Management System Business Requirements workshop was delivered and feedback and validation from sub-working members received ahead of visits to VMR Squadrons commencing. The rollout of consultative sessions is underway in conjunction with the R2R revisits.

The final meeting for 2021 was in mid-December 2021 and aims to finalise the refinement of the organisational structures, seek further endorsement on current and future business processes for the ICT System, and continue to refine the R2R methodology based on feedback following unit

consultations.

Finance and Administration sub working group

The Finance and Administration sub-working group continues to progress several items of significance for the implementation. The group met in October, November and December.

This includes the future service funding model and examining the current AVCGA and VMRAQ Marine/Waterside Assist Programs to determine possible future options under a single service model.

Importantly, the group are examining means and ways to ensure that local community fundraising and partnerships can continue in support of the place-based approach, which underpins the strengths of the current services.

Legislation, Policy and Governance sub working group

The Legislation, Policy and Governance sub-working has met regularly and continues to progress input and design to underpin the future legalisation to establish a future single integrated marine rescue service. This includes the future service functions and objectives, as well as, forming a governance arrangement that ensures the service foundation will remain volunteer-led and contributing to decision making at all levels.

The group also initiated doctrine planning requirements to support the new service with sector volunteers providing significant input into the process. Strength is being drawn from existing sector doctrine and learnings from QFES' comprehensive policy and doctrine framework.

Resource to Risk Project Update



The Marine Rescue Implementation team has continued to deliver more Resource to Risk (R2R) revisits to Volunteer Marine Rescue Squadrons throughout December. As part of these revisits, Squadrons were also briefed and consulted on the Systems Review (*read more in next article*).

These sessions are to validate the R2R Unit Profiles that have been developed following initial visits earlier this year.

The MRI team visited:

VMR Currumbin
 VMR Hervey Bay
 VMR Port Douglas
 VMR Gladstone
 VMR Midge Point
 VMR Bowen
 VMR Mackay
 VMR St Pauls
 VMR Weipa
 VMR Bribie Island
 VMR Victoria Point

VMR Bundaberg
 VMR Jacobs Well
 VMR Raby Bay
 VMR Round Hill
 VMR Whitsundays
 VMR Burdekin
 VMR Thursday Island
 VMR Masig-Yorke
 VMR Stradbroke Island
 VMR Southport.
 VMR Brisbane.

Question and Answer sessions have been included in revisits and sector volunteers were encouraged to attend these sessions.

* R2R revisits for AVCGA flotillas are currently on hold at the request of the AVCGA National Board.

Photo: VMR Bowen after participating in Resource to Risk revisit and Systems Review consultation.

Operational Management Systems Review

A Systems Review of existing operational management systems has also been presented as a part of Resource to Risk revisits with VMR Squadrons as part of the consultation phase for the future Marine Rescue Information Communications Technology (ICT) systems.

With a focus on several key business processes common across the state, the sessions also identified any unique processes to individual Squadrons. Further discussions with Squadrons additional business requirements for the future Marine Rescue ICT System and proposed access levels to the system with functions allocated to a role. The sessions wrapped up with a workshop to consider some statewide functions and benefits for the system.

Expressions of Interest Update

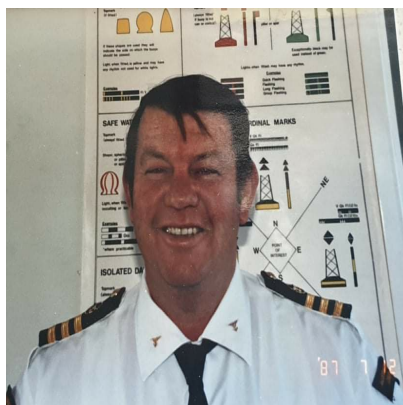
Thank you to the volunteers who applied as part of the Expression of Interest process for work commencing in the new year in the areas of training, radio communications, Workplace, Health, Safety and Environment (WHSE), and facilities.

This is based on a foreseeable need to create some additional work groups or create a pool of subject matters experts (SMEs) to draw on as our review and planning work continues.



The MRIP team is looking to have the process finalised at the end of the year with applicants advised of the outcome of their applications.

Vale – Les Holt, Bruce Fleming, and Keith Nickerson



QFES and the Marine Rescue Implementation team would like to express our condolences on the passing of Les Holt, former Commander of QF 6 Mooloolaba, Bruce Fleming, founding member and former Commander of QF 2 Brisbane and Keith Nickerson, founder of Air Sea Rescue Brisbane (precursor to VMR Brisbane) and was a great supporter of VMR Brisbane.

Our thoughts are with the Holt, Fleming and Nickerson families and their Coast Guard and Volunteer Marine Rescue colleagues.

Left to right: Les Holt, former Commander QF 6, Bruce Fleming, founding member and former Commander QF 2, and Keith Nickerson, founder of Air Sea Rescue Brisbane and VMR Brisbane Member.

Stay Updated On Facebook

Keep updated on the latest from Flotillas and Squadrons over the Christmas and New Year period and volunteers around the state in the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group.

For volunteers wishing to join there are four questions required to be answered when you request to join the group including abiding by the group rules.

We encourage all volunteers to join the group, share updates and get involved in discussions.

[Join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook group](#)



**Join the Queensland Marine
Rescue Volunteers Facebook
Group**

Queensland's Border Restrictions and COVID-19 Update

Queensland's border restrictions eased on 13 December 2021 after 80 per cent of the eligible population was fully vaccinated. All volunteers are encouraged to keep up-to-date with the border restrictions guidelines found on the Queensland Health's website [here](#). Public health and social measures will come into effect from 17 December 2021 and can be found [here](#). With Queensland's borders now re-opened there is an increase of COVID-19 cases therefore, it is important for volunteers to keep checking Queensland Health's contact tracing site [here](#), keep up to date with COVID-19 public health and social measures [here](#) and continue to use the [Check In QLD app](#).

QFES is encouraging marine rescue service volunteers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and if eligible to get booster shot.

Queensland Health has vaccination locations across the state, you can find your nearest location and book [here](#). Appointments can also be booked through [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

QFES encourages volunteers to follow Queensland Health's advice and advice from AVCGA and VMRAQ in relation to vaccinations.

If you have any questions about the vaccines, please contact your General Practitioner.

Protect yourself and others around you by staying home if unwell, practice social distancing and maintaining your personal hygiene. Out on the water, regularly assess exposure risks during self-activations and Search and Rescue (SAR) activities.

Have A Merry Festive Season!

The Marine Rescue Implementation team wishes all volunteers a Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe out on the water, we know it is a busy time for volunteers during this period. We hope that all volunteers get time to relax over this period.



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To provide feedback or suggest story ideas for the future communications, please email:
marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au

[Join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group](#)

A PDF version of this newsletter will be sent in a separate email.

QFES acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.

Hyperlinks

Queensland Health Border restrictions guidelines

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/queensland-restrictions-update/changes-to-queenslands-border-restrictions>

Public health and social measures

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/queensland-restrictions-update/public-health-and-social-measures-linked-to-vaccination-status>

Contact tracing and exposure sites

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/contact-tracing>

COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine>

Check In Qld

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qld>

Vaccine Clinic Finder

<https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/?lang=en>

Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/qldmarinerescuevolunteers>

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