



Having trouble viewing this email? [View Online](#)

Welcome to the March 2022 edition of the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) Communique.

This edition includes an update on the sixth MRIWG meeting, Vessel Replacement Program, Resource to Risk Project, Sub-Working Group activities, flood support and the Future Marine Rescue Name Survey.

The Marine Rescue Implementation team acknowledges and recognises the significant effort marine rescue volunteers across both the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) have provided during the peak season and throughout recent natural disaster events.



With the recent significant events from Maryborough through to the Gold Coast, marine rescue volunteers have continued to show their dedication and resilience within their local communities and provided critical support to Queensland Police Service (QPS), State Emergency Services (SES) and Local Governments.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) thanks all marine rescue volunteers for their continuing efforts in giving their time and providing support to their local communities.

Volunteers can subscribe to our communications and are encouraged to share their Squadron's or Flotilla's activities and stories at marinerescue@gfes.qld.gov.au and join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group.

Please forward this newsletter to your volunteers and relevant stakeholders, this newsletter can be also be printed.

Photo: QF 2 assisting during recent Brisbane Floods photo sourced from VMR 402- Manly Facebook page.

**Subscribe to Marine Rescue
Implementation updates**

Minister's Message

The recent record floods that devastated parts of south east Queensland were a grim reminder of nature's fury and an important reminder of the outstanding dedication of marine rescue volunteers.

Your role as a marine rescue volunteer is greatly valued and deeply appreciated. Your volunteering spirit is not nine to five, it can often be dangerous, and for that, we owe you a great debt of gratitude.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your patience as we work towards a better funded, better resourced integrated marine rescue service with better protections for volunteers

I also commend you for sharing your views with the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group and for providing good, honest feedback. Your views are important and by working with us, you are helping to shape your future.

Your hard work will continue to reap rewards – a better resourced integrated marine rescue service where those local assets you worked so hard for will stay in your local community.

A lot of hard work is being done behind the scenes to deliver this new integrated service and I look forward to continuing to work closely with you as we enter an exciting new era together.

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

Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting- Brisbane 22-23 February 2022

The sixth meeting of the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) was held in Brisbane on 22 and 23 February 2022.

The Commissioner addressed the group on the first day and recognised the contribution of the marine rescue sector and the work they continue to do. He acknowledged the Working Group's significant progress made to date, the valuable contribution volunteer representatives have made and the work yet to come.

Recipients of Australia Day Honours who have made an outstanding contribution to the sector were also recognised including Keith Williams on becoming an Emergency Services Medal recipient and Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead for receiving the Australian Police Medal.



The Working Group was updated about the Vessel Replacement Program progress, the Resource to Risk project and operational management systems development progress, all of which are outlined in articles within this newsletter.

Members discussed the Service Delivery Model, which is a volunteer-led and volunteer-centric model informed by the [Concept of Operations](#). It includes service delivery principles, organisational principles and structure and also, the capability requirements for the future integrated marine rescue service.

The meeting included an update on the results of the Future Marine Rescue Name Survey which were endorsed by the Working Group as development of a future service identity ramps up. The results will be released in due course as identity elements are developed and approved.

QFES is continuing to acknowledge and address the concerns from marine rescue volunteers and remains committed to providing as much information as possible available at the earliest opportunity.

The group also raised the need to provide more information to the sector on achieving the single service, as soon as possible. This remains a priority for all MRIWG members. The Working Group and all sub-working groups consist of broad representation with members from members from QFES, Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), Volunteer Marine Rescue Service Queensland (VMRAQ), and marine rescue service sector volunteers. A list of members of the MRIWG and sub-working groups (SWGs) is included below.

There are some independent volunteers engaging and consulting on the work of MRIWG and sub-working groups, however, the AVCGA national board is currently not formally representing AVCGA at the MRIWG at its own discretion.

QFES is continuing to engage and consult with the national board with the intention to ensure that

AVCGA can contribute to the process and formally represent its members.

In the meantime, the Marine Rescue Implementation team will continue to look at multiple ways to continue to enhance communications and engagement with all volunteers.

The MRIWG is committed to moving ahead with the implementation program with all representatives providing feedback and continue to provide invaluable and constructive feedback into the process.

The next meeting will be held in May 2022 in a regional location.



Photos: Above top right and bottom left. Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting on 23 February 2022.

Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group Members

Chair- Matthew Thompson, Director, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Secretariat- Jade Keogh, Senior Project Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Members

Deputy Commissioner, Mike Wassing, QFES

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald, Emergency Management and Community Capability, QFES

Ian Watts, independent volunteer member

Peter Tatham, Volunteer Marine Rescue Southport

Charles Linsley, Volunteer Marine Rescue member

Lynn Neven, independent volunteer member

Graham Kingston, President, VMRAQ

Vince Papale, Vice-President, VMRAQ

Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead, Queensland Police Service

Paul Campbell, Maritime Safety Queensland

Queensland Recreational Boating Council (QRBC) representative

Assistant Commissioner Steve Barber, Northern Region, QFES

David Hartley, Queensland Ambulance Service

Department of Premier and Cabinet observers

Queensland Treasury observers

Joanne Greenfield, Commissioner, Quarantine Accommodation Taskforce,

Vessel Replacement Program (VRP)

Tenders closed on 14 February 2022 for the first vessel to be delivered under the VRP, which will be a large Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB). Tenders are being assessed and when the procurement

process is complete further information will be announced.

The VRP is a key component of the Government's commitment to the marine rescue sector and through this program, Flotillas and Squadrons that have been identified for priority replacement will be eligible for a replacement of their primary vessel.

The Fleet Sub-working group, which includes sector volunteers, is providing key inputs and informing the delivery of the program some great discussions underway with Flotillas and Squadrons following Resource to Risk Assessments throughout last year.

QFES looks forward to working with the AVCGA and VMRAQ to deliver more builds to Flotillas and Squadrons on behalf of Government.

Operational Management System Development to support future service

Following an operational systems review and workshops undertaken alongside the Resource to Risk revisits with VMR Squadrons, operational process flows and requirements were presented to the MRIWG at its February meeting.

Working Groups members were briefed on the engagement process, which included input from units about current operational processes and systems, as well as mapping the future processes and needs of an operational management system.

This work has assisted with the development of Business Requirements, which will enable the progression of a key Information and Communications Technology (ICT) project under the program. This project will continue to evolve and marine rescue volunteers will continue to have opportunity to provide input into the system as it continues its development.

Brisbane floods



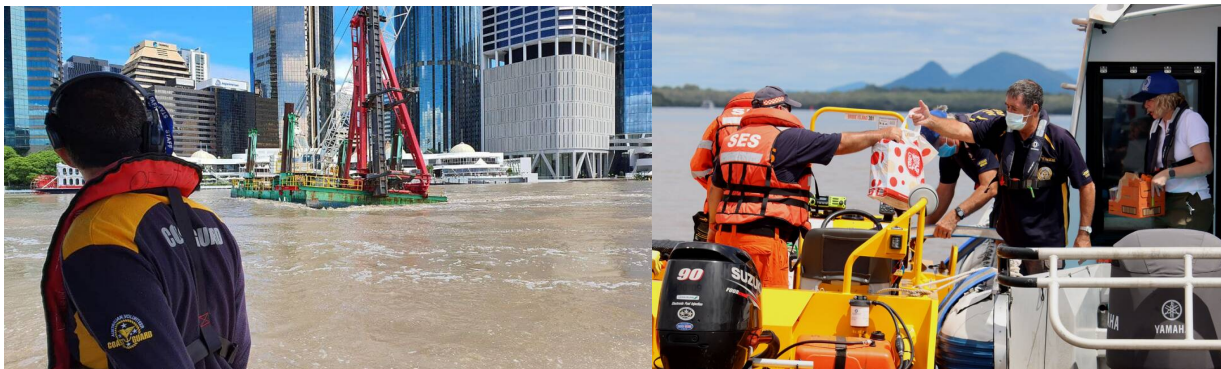
Several AVCGA and VMRAQ units were involved in operations during the recent floods in South East Queensland. Operations included (but was not limited to) search and rescue, welfare checks, distributing supplies and debris clearing.

There were hazardous conditions particularly on the Brisbane River and other key waterways, with volunteers facing extreme rainfall and windy conditions along with major flooding and high tides.

Thank you to all Squadrons and Flotillas for your service and contribution to what was a significant response and relief effort.

Photos: Top Left VMR Brisbane assisting with securing pontoons floating down the Brisbane River. Source: VMR Brisbane Inc Facebook page.

Below: Top: QF 7 providing assistance as pontoon carrying crane breaks free. Source: VMR 447-Redland Bay Facebook page. Bottom: VMR Bribie Island working with SES to provide essential supplies to those affected by floods. Source: Provided by VMR Bribie Island.



Sub-Working Groups Update

The sub-working groups continue to assist the MRIWG within their areas of responsibility and continue to integrate with each other in the design of the Marine Rescue Implementation Program. Below are updates from each of these groups.

Legislation Policy and Governance

The Legislation, Policy and Governance Sub Working Group (LPGSWG) continues to develop policy contexts to inform future legislation, as well as develop doctrine to inform the operations and administration of the future marine rescue service. A Doctrine Writing Group, which includes experienced marine rescue volunteers, has been established to assist the LPGSWG in this work, already developing a number of policy and procedures for the new service and will guide doctrine requirements for future operations, management, and administration.

Legislation, Policy and Governance Sub-Working Group members

Chair- Nigel Hogan, Executive Manager- Policy, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
 Secretariat- Chloe Chapman, Business Support Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Gary Voss, Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island
 Lynn Neven, independent volunteer member
 Graham Kingston, President, VMRAQ
 Marcus Thomas, independent volunteer member
 Kate Nuttall, Legislative Projects, QFES
 Anna Hurley, Strategic Policy and Legislation Unit, QFES
 Joe Meagher, Legislative Projects, QFES
 Wendy Collins, Corporate Governance Unit, QFES
 Nicole Emmerson, Knowledge Hub (Doctrine), QFES
 Annette Curry, Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
 Gary Worrell, Queensland Police Service representative
 Paul Campbell, Maritime Safety Queensland representative

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Sub-Working Group continues to work on future financial arrangements for the new service. Volunteer members of the sub-working group are providing valuable input into the current arrangements at units and how future funding arrangements can enhance local operations. The sub-working group is continuing to examine support mechanisms to assist local fundraising, opportunities for partnerships and sponsorships including the transfer of existing arrangements that local units may currently have in place.

Finance and Administration Sub-Working Group members

Chair- Nigel Hogan, Executive Manager- Policy, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
 Secretariat- Karen Mahoney, Senior Program Officer (Finance and Procurement), Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Joe Allen, independent volunteer member

Julie Streatfield, Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay
Peter McKendry, Volunteer Marine Rescue Raby Bay
Ann Ivory, VMRAQ Treasurer
Katrina Macdonald, Strategic Policy and Legislation, QFES
Andrew Alcock, Finance Unit, QFES
Kate Eggar, Partnerships and Sponsorships, QFES
Desley Bastin-Byrne, Maritime Safety Queensland representative
Annette Curry, Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Fleet

The Fleet Sub-Working Group met in February and continues to progress the Vessel Replacement Program (VRP). The tender for the first vessel build has closed and is now in an assessment stage. The group is currently preparing for future invitations to tender, including specification development, and will meet in April 2022 to progress the VRP requirements.

Fleet Sub-Working Group members

Chair- John Schwarzrock, Senior Program Officer (Fleet), Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
Secretariat- Chloe Chapman, Business Support Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Rod Ashlin, independent volunteer member
Mal Priday, Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsundays
Rick Ives, independent volunteer member
David Hooper, Maritime Safety Queensland representative
Gordon Thiry, Queensland Police Service representative
Brett Wilson, Queensland Ambulance Service representative
Keith Williams, State Manager, VMRAQ
Cameron Cash, Acting Director, Fleet and Logistics, QFES
Annette Curry, Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, QFES

Training

The Training Sub- Working Group held its inaugural meeting in February 2022. The group undertook a SWOT analysis of the current state, looking at the strengths within the marine rescue sector, capacity and capability requirements, opportunities for the utilisation of QFES resources, and the alignment of qualifications and training to benefit volunteers in a future service model. Moving forward, the key priorities for the group will be confirmation of the current state features, development of a future state vision and mapping requirements to progress to a future consolidated training model.

Training Sub-Working Group members

Chair- Matthew Thompson, Director, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
Secretariat- Chloe Chapman, Business Support Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Mark Whitby, independent volunteer member
Tom Hudson Volunteer, VMR Hervey Bay
Julia Mayo-Ramsay Volunteer, VMR Port Douglas
Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead, QPS
Jane Zombok Executive Manager, Emergency Management Training Command (EMTC), QFES
Andy Ross, Unit Training Coordinator, VMRAQ
Chief Superintendent Aerron Patterson, School of Fire and Emergency Services Training, QFES
Brenton White, Workforce Development, QFES Workforce Development, QFES
Steve Knowles, Maritime Safety Queensland
Karen Caughey, Human Resources Systems, QFES
Warren Francis, Unit Training Coordinator, VMRAQ

Capability

The Capability sub working group met in March and will continue to refine the Service Delivery Model (SDM) and review the Resource to Risk progress. This will include the finalisation of an interim Resource to Risk report before unit profiles are provided to VMR Squadrons for further review. The SDM is continuing to develop interoperability enhancements with all emergency services as well as

future marine communications and service support options.

Capability Sub-Working Group members

Chair- Samantha Morrison, Senior Program Officer (Risk and Capability), Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
Secretariat- Chloe Chapman, Business Support Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Peter Graham, Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland, Gulf Zone
John Burge, independent volunteer member
Peter Tatham, Volunteer Marine Rescue Southport
Ian Watts, independent volunteer member
Superintendent Clint Tunnie, Zone Commander, Central Region, QFES
Philip Hambly, Maritime Safety Queensland
Kev Thom, Lessons and Enterprise Portfolio Management Office (EPMO) QFES
Callum MacSween, Director, QFES People, QFES
Teegan Modderman, Health and Wellbeing, QFES
Kyle Bates, Water Police, Queensland Police Service
Karen Caughey, Business Platforms, QFES representative
Annette Curry, Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
Elizabeth Robinson, Senior Business Analyst, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES

Marketing and Communications Reference Group

The Marketing and Communications Reference Group held its first meeting in February and second meeting in March. The group is focussed on the identity development of the future service which includes logo and brand development.

Marine rescue volunteers will be consulted in the near future on the future design options before a final design is determined. It is an exciting piece of work that will provide the visual identity and name for the future marine rescue service.

Marketing and Communications Reference Group members

Chair- Annette Curry, Senior Communications and Engagement Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
Chloe Chapman, Business Support Officer, Marine Rescue Implementation Program, QFES
Harvey Shore, independent volunteer member
Julie Streatfield, Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay
Dr Aidan Burke, independent volunteer member
Charles Linsely, Volunteer Marine Rescue member
Arthur Hunt, independent volunteer member
Tim Whittaker, Director, Media, Communications and Online, QFES

Resource to Risk Project Update

Secondary visits with Volunteer Marine Rescue squadrons (VMR) were completed in January 2022.

A draft interim report was presented to the MRIWG in February 2022 and was presented to the Capability Sub-Working Group in March 2022 for further review.

Revised Unit Profiles will be returned to units over the coming weeks, providing an opportunity for further input from volunteers to ensure we have accurately captured the nuances of each Squadron.

The Marine Rescue Implementation team thanks VMR Squadrons for providing their input into the process and supporting the evolution of the project approach, which was co-designed with sector representatives, including volunteers.

*R2R revisits for AVCGA Flotillas remain on hold at the request of the AVCGA National Board.

Future marine rescue name survey

Thank you to the 904 volunteers who participated in the Future Marine Rescue Name Survey.

Further work, including the name registration and branding need to be undertaken by the Marketing Communications Reference Group and MRIWG before final survey results can be released. It will inform the critical work in establishing a new service identity.

This process will recognise and acknowledge the tradition and history of the existing services and provide a unified service brand for the future.



Direct Unit relief grants

Squadrons and flotillas who were successful have received the first installment of Direct Relief Grants, which was announced by the [Minister in April 2021.](#)

The grants have been put towards enhancing marine rescue services across the state and directly supporting unit needs.

The Direct Unit Relief Unit grants have funded local initiatives including facility maintenance, such as improving disability access within buildings, improving base facilities, security and radio communications, first aid equipment, ICT equipment and community education materials.

The grants support marine rescue volunteers and the work they do as they continue to provide vital marine rescue services to Queenslanders.

Second payments will be paid before the end of the financial year following the submission of acquittal documentation.

Have you joined the Facebook Group yet?

The [Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group](#) continues to grow and has become a community where marine rescue volunteers share their stories, discuss topics relevant to marine rescue and receive updates.

Volunteers are encouraged to post in the group as long as the post adheres to the group rules.

To become a member of the group you need to be a current AVCGA or VMRAQ volunteer member and answer all membership questions.

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



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



[Subscribe for future updates](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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](#)

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 Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group

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

This email was sent by Marine Rescue Implementation, Marine Rescue Implementation, Level 3, 85 Hudson Road, Albion, Queensland 4010, Australia to EMCCDirectorate@qfes.qld.gov.au

