



Welcome to Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) Communique which follows the 7th MRIWG meeting on 31 May 2021. It was another busy period for the program with several key announcements coming to fruition in Yeppoon, Central Queensland.

The MRIWG and members of the Marine Rescue Implementation Team are grateful to volunteers QF 11 Yeppoon, Q19 Rockhampton, Q20 Keppel Sands VMR Round Hill and VMR Gladstone who came together on the evening of the 30 May 2022 to discuss current progress and future works.

Volunteers were provided the opportunity to ask questions to a panel of representatives from the MRIWG members, including volunteer members and representatives from Queensland Recreational Boating Council (QRBC), Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) representatives.

The following day, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services visited QF11 Yeppoon and met with volunteers prior to attending the MRIWG meeting at the Livingstone Shire Council Disaster Management Hub.

Stay up-to-date with the Marine Rescue Implementation Program [here](#) or contact the team via email at marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au

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Minister's message

I had the privilege of attending the seventh Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting in Yeppoon on 31 May 2022.

I was very pleased to announce to Working Group members the new service name of **Marine Rescue Queensland**.

The new name acknowledges the important role that marine rescue volunteers have in keeping the community safe out on the water.

The name was the overwhelming choice of 87 per cent of the almost 1,000 volunteers who participated in the survey between December 2021 and January 2022.

It also was an opportunity to announce further investment to marine rescue services with the Direct Relief Grants continued for 2022 following their success in 2021.



The program will provide additional funding directly to the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard

Association (AVCGA) Flotillas and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) Squadrons.

While in Yeppoon I visited QF 11 and spoke with recently elected Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Australia (AVCGA) Deputy National Commodore, Allan Tennant and Central Queensland Squadron Commodore Jim Warren, QF 11 Flotilla Commander about the future single integrated marine rescue service.

It is an exciting time in the program and the Queensland Government remains committed to delivering a single integrated and legislated marine rescue service for Queensland and continuing support to marine rescue volunteers.

I would like to again thank all volunteers and recognise the outstanding dedication and significant contribution that marine rescue volunteers make in keeping Queenslanders and visitors to our state safe on the water.

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

Photo top right: Left to right: QFES Acting Executive Director, Emergency Management and Community Capability, Troy Davies; AVCGA Deputy National Commodore, Allan Tennant; Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan MP; QF 11 Yeppoon Commander, Jim Warren; Squadron Commodore, James Fleming; Brittany Lauga MP, Member for Keppel.

[Read Minister Ryan's announcement](#)

Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting – Yeppoon, 31 May 2022

The MRIWG was addressed in the morning by the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan MP.

The Minister announced to the group the new service name and announced that the first vessel build contract under the Vessel Replacement Program has been awarded.



The Working Group agreed to several key areas to progress the future single integrated marine service including further development of the service identity and operating model for Marine Rescue Queensland.

The operating model for the new service and all aspects of the program are centred around six design principles that will serve as a compass for the MRI team, MRIWG and its Sub Working Groups.

These principles ensure that Marine Rescue Queensland delivers on its strategic intent of “Saving Lives on the Water” and is able to effectively connect to established roles within communities across the State.

	DESCRIPTION
1 SAFETY	A strong and consistent safety approach must be an embedded culture. Risk assessments prior to any activity are a given and highly developed risk awareness during activities is a must.
2 CAPABILITY DRIVEN	A single organisation with capable vessels, appropriately located, operated by skilled, motivated and well supported volunteers.
3 VOLUNTEER CENTRIC	Strong links to the purpose driven nature of the volunteer workforce, providing flexibility and support to the workforce.
4 COMMUNITY FOCUSED	Connection to local community, locally tailored and adaptable to communities.
5 INTEGRATED AND INTEROPERABLE	State-wide, Units are effectively integrated and interoperable for systems, people and processes, and closely linked to relevant government agencies.
6 VALUE FOR MONEY	A state wide profile that permits economies of scale (in purchasing) to deliver value for money, effectiveness and efficiency in its operations and capability enhancement/development.

Following the name announcement by the Minister, Working Group members discussed the proposed logo elements for *Marine Rescue Queensland* and the planned approach to commence volunteer consultation on the future service identity.

A key outcome from the meeting was support for the Marine Rescue Implementation Team to commence a Roadshow; which will provide program updates and facilitate volunteer feedback into the identity and logo development. The Roadshow will commence over the coming months.

The next Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting will be held in August 2022 in Brisbane.

Direct Relief Grants

The Queensland Government has announced further investment for marine rescue services with an additional round of Direct Support Grants for 2022-23 financial year following the success of the 2021 grants.

The \$470,000 grant program will directly support frontline marine rescue services and assist with emergency response capability.

The grants will help reduce the fundraising burden on Flotillas and Squadrons and assist with the replacement of necessary equipment or fund facility maintenance based on local needs.

The criteria for this year's grant will be reviewed in consultation with AVCGA and VMRAQ prior to release.

Flotillas and Squadrons will be eligible for a grant for up to \$10,000 per unit to support their local needs and priorities. Further information will be provided about the grants to Flotillas Commanders and Squadron Leaders shortly.

First vessel build contract awarded

In another step forward for the future service, the first marine rescue vessel contract has been awarded under the Vessel Replacement Program (VRP).

This vessel contract is the first for the marine rescue vessels funded from the \$17.38 million the Queensland Government is investing to replace ageing search and rescue vessels in Queensland.

The contract to build and deliver a 12-metre Rigid Hulled Hard Collar marine rescue vessel, following a rigorous procurement process was awarded to Yamba Welding and Engineering Pty Ltd.

The build will be the first step in moving towards increased standardisation and investment across the marine rescue fleet.

This investment endeavours to relieve the fundraising burden and provides increased levels of support once the vessels are in operation.

Volunteers can expect to be consulted regularly throughout the replacement process with key inputs being drawn from the resource to risk project and consultation with the Fleet Sub Working Group, local volunteers and State representatives.

The investment is being made over four years to ensure marine rescue volunteers have the right equipment to continue their vital work of saving lives on the water.

Concept of Operations

The updated [Concept of Operations \(CONOPS\)](#) for *Marine Rescue Queensland* is accessible for all volunteers online.

The CONOPS provides clarity of the role and functions of the future service and is the cumulative effort of the current MRIWG and former Blue Water Review. It includes a structured approach to the overarching mission, goal, objectives and outcomes for the single legislated and integrated marine rescue service.



The current version published will continue to be updated and evolve throughout the implementation process as processes are developed and the service operating model matures.

The CONOPS has received input from marine rescue volunteers' representatives on the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group, the Capability Sub-Working Group and the Legislation, Policy and Governance Sub-Working Group and partner agencies, QPS, QAS and MSQ.

The Concept of Operations is available online [here](#).

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