



Welcome

Welcome to the September 2022 edition of the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group Communique.

This issue of the Communique includes updates on:

- Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting
- Vessel Replacement Program
- Service Agreements
- Direct Relief Grants
- [Marine Rescue Queensland logo](#)
- Marine Radio and Operational Communications Reference Group
- Roadshow
- [Sentiment survey](#)
- Commissioner Regional visits

Stay up-to-date with the Marine Rescue Implementation Program [here](#); contact the team via email at marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au and join [the 'Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers' Facebook Group](#).

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Implementation updates**

Minister's Message



The Marine Rescue Implementation Program together with the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group continue to progress significant pre-transition work toward the stand up of Marine Rescue Queensland by the end of this term of government.

The establishment of a single marine rescue service has accelerated, following the announcement of the new service name Marine Rescue Queensland, and an additional \$8 million of funding for the Marine Rescue Implementation in the State Budget, of which \$5 million is allocated to uplift the Vessel Replacement Program and \$3 million to support capability development.

I am pleased that this will enable continuity of the Direct Relief Grant for another year which will provide Flotillas and Squadrons up to \$10,000 to address their immediate needs in areas of training, facility maintenance and volunteer and community safety.

This is all part of the Queensland Government's commitment to deliver a fully integrated and legislated marine rescue service for Queensland and most importantly supporting marine rescue volunteers.

On behalf of Queenslanders and the Queensland Government, I thank you for your dedication and your contribution to keeping the community and visitors to Queensland safe on the water.

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

Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting 23 August 2022



The eighth Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting was held on 23 August at Brisbane Water Police base.

Members were updated on progress since the previous meeting in Yeppoon, including the recent Queensland Government 2022-23 Budget announcement that includes additional program funding for Vessel Replacement Program, Direct Relief Grants and Service Agreements.

Over the course of the day, Working Group members were updated about the program and the work being undertaken within the three project streams including (i) facilities, equipment and vessels, (ii) organisation and (iii) operations.

Working Group members contributed to discussions led by the program on transition considerations and planning. This includes work to ensure end-state requirements and benefits to be delivered by MRQ have been captured across the volunteer, community and service perspectives.

They were also updated about the engagement and consultation program of work, including the initiation of the Volunteerism Sub-Working Group, roadshow rollout, stakeholder sentiment survey, and Marine Rescue Queensland logo survey.

Above photo: Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group members and Marine Rescue Implementation Program team at Brisbane Water Police, August 2022.

Vessel Replacement Program

The 2022-23 State Budget allocated an additional \$5 million to the Vessel Replacement Program, in addition to the existing commitment of \$17.383 million. The 2022-23 State Budget allocated an additional \$5 million to the Vessel Replacement Program, in addition to the existing commitment of \$17.383 million.

The program's first vessel, now under construction with expected completion in the first half of 2023, is an 11.99-metre rigid-hull hard collared boat for VMR Thursday Island.

There will be more vessel builds commencing this year with receiving units consulted throughout the design and build process. The second vessel procurement is being finalised and the build will be expected to commence soon after the contract is awarded.

This major investment in the marine rescue sector ensures marine rescue volunteers have the right equipment to continue their vital work in local communities.

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Above picture: 3D model of VMR Thursday Island

Service Agreements

Renewing the service agreements for both Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMRAQ) is a high priority for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES).

The service agreements provide additional support to both AVCGA and VMRAQ assisting with insurance, service delivery costs including fuel and capability developments costs for training and administration.

VMRAQ finalised its service agreement for 2022-23 on 30 June 2022, and QFES is continuing to work with AVCGA to achieve 2022-23 service agreement.

Have Your Say on Logos



The [Marine Rescue Queensland Logo Survey](#) is now open!

Marine rescue volunteers are encouraged to take part in the survey and have a say in Marine Rescue Queensland's logo.

The three logo concepts were developed by the Marketing Communications Reference Group (MCRG), which is predominately made up of marine rescue volunteers.

MCRG members looked at the current AVCGA and VMRAQ logo elements to see if they could be incorporated into a logo for the new service.

MCRG members also considered other design elements relevant to Queensland's marine rescue services, volunteers and the community.

The three logo concepts were endorsed by the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group on 31 May 2022.

These are concepts only and are not final designs.

Have your say [here](#).

The survey closes 12 October 2022.

Above picture: Three logo concepts for consultation

**Take the Marine Rescue
Queensland logo survey**

Marine Rescue Implementation Sentiment Survey

The Marine Rescue Implementation Sentiment Survey is open for volunteers to take part [here](#).

The quarterly survey helps us to understand your views in relation to communications, consultation, and program governance.

The survey has four questions and takes only a few minutes to complete.

All responses are anonymous.



**Take the Marine Rescue
Implementation Sentiment
Survey here**

Direct Relief Grants

Under the 2022-23 Direct Relief Grants, VMRAQ and AVCGA units are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000 to support training, health and safety, community engagement and facility upgrades.

The Minister announced the \$470,000 program would continue this financial year after the success of the 2021-22 program.

AVCGA and VMRAQ have circulated grant guidelines and applications close on **30 September 2022**.

Marine Radio and Operational Communications Reference Group



The Marine Radio and Operational Communications Reference Group (MROCRG) held its first meeting on 3 August 2022.

The group's focus is on the current state of radio and communications infrastructure across the marine rescue sector and informing planning for MRQ.

The group, chaired by Samantha Morrison (Senior Program Officer, Risk and Capability MRI), includes marine rescue volunteers and a Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) representative sits underneath the existing Capability Sub-Working Group.

MROCRG works in partnership with the Capability Sub-Working Group to provide advice on the operational needs of the new marine rescue service. The members of the group are:

- Peter McAndrew, independent volunteer member
- Simon Middap, VMR Bribie Island volunteer
- Michael Crowe, independent volunteer member
- Daniel Conwell, Manager (Marine Technical Services), MSQ

Above photo: Capability Sub-Working Group and MROCRG members visiting the Maritime Safety Queensland Vessel Traffic Services Centre in Brisbane.

On the road



Over the past few weeks, the Marine Rescue Implementation Program (MRIP) team has been on the road, updating Squadrons and Flotillas on the MRIP.

The Roadshows are an opportunity to network with other volunteers, hear directly from members of the team, ask questions, and participate in discussion.

The team has visited 15 Volunteer Marine Rescue and Volunteer Coast Guard units in Brisbane, Moreton Bay, the Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Gladstone and the Whitsundays.

The next stop are units in the far north and further visits to units in the south-east.

Thanks to all units who have hosted neighbouring squadrons and flotillas at these roadshows and to marine rescue volunteers for attending. It's also been great for us to meet more volunteers and see bases up and down the beautiful Queensland coast.

Missed the roadshows in your region? The program update will be circulated to all flotillas and squadrons for distribution to members at the conclusion of the roadshows.

The roadshow is the first of more engagement sessions with volunteers over the program duration.

Photo: Matthew Thompson, Director, Marine Rescue Implementation Program providing an update to marine rescue volunteers at VMR Southport.

Commissioner visits marine rescue units



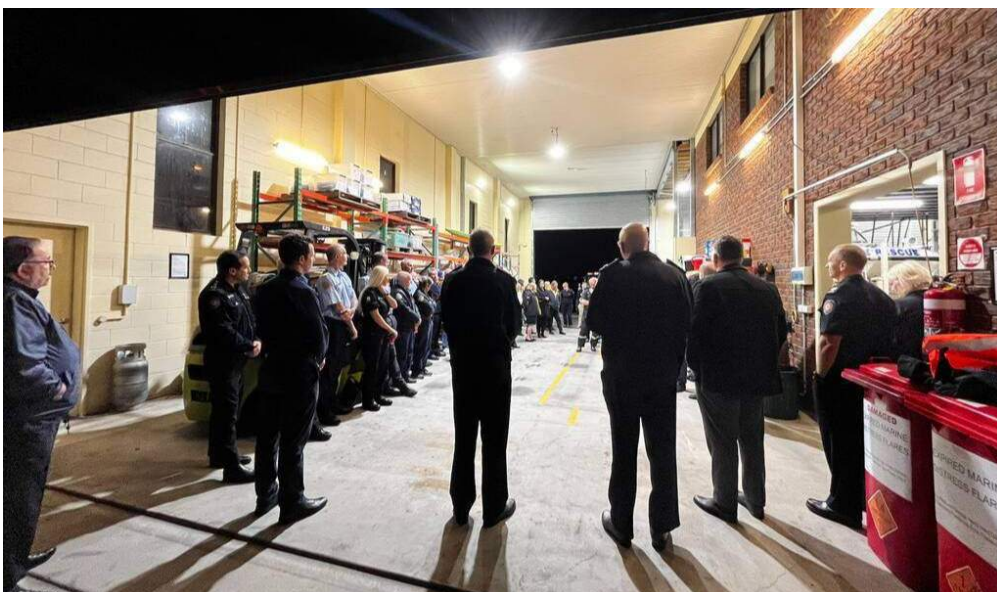
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Greg Leach has been touring the State, taking the opportunity to visit marine rescue units as part of a regional tour.

On the 30 August, VMR Raby Bay hosted QFES Executive and a meet and greet for marine rescue volunteers along with Brisbane Region State Emergency Service and Fire and Rescue Service staff and volunteers.

Marine rescue volunteers from the following units attended:

- VMR Raby Bay
- VMR Stradbroke Island
- VMR Victoria Point
- VMR Brisbane
- VMR Southport
- VMR Bribie Island
- VMR Jacobs Well
- QF 1 Southport
- QF 2 Brisbane
- QF 7 Redland Bay

Following a QFES update by Commissioner Leach, the Commissioner and Executive answered questions and provided information to volunteers attending about the Marine Rescue Implementation Program.



Photos; Above Left: Commissioner Leach meeting with AVCGA and VMRAQ volunteers. Bottom: Commissioner Leach addressing attendees at VMR Raby Bay.

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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](#)

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

Marine Rescue Implementation Program

www.qfes.qld.gov.au/MRQ

Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers (QFES) Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/qldmarinerescuevolunteers

Marine Rescue Queensland Logo Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S88GWB7>

Marine Rescue Implementation Sentiment Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XVVQQ5S>

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