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

In a major milestone for the program, the Queensland Government has announced changes to emergency services in Queensland following the release of [The Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](#) and the [Queensland Government's response](#).

[Click here to watch the Commissioner's message.](#)

Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) will be aligned with Queensland Police Service (QPS) within its own service stream, and own dedicated budget.

The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) and Marine Rescue Implementation Program (MRIP) will continue to work towards establishing the Marine Rescue Queensland service during this transition period.

The Program will continue to work directly with existing volunteer marine services to ensure volunteers are engaged, informed, and involved with all aspects of the Program.

The Queensland Government will stand up a Reform Implementation Taskforce, which will be led by State Disaster Coordinator Steve Gollschewski.

The Taskforce will ensure the required changes are undertaken in a considered measured way and will not impact on the preparation or response to the upcoming severe weather season.

The MRIP's communications continue to be the accurate source of information for the progress towards a single integrated marine rescue service.

Stay up-to date with the MRIP here, contact the team via marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au and join the 'Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteer's Facebook Group.

Subscribe to Marine Rescue Communications

Minister's message

[The Queensland Government announced](#) an enhanced investment in fire and emergency services capabilities to ensure Queensland's committed frontline officers, staff and volunteers are best positioned to respond to emergency situations and keep Queenslanders safe in the face of disaster.

This follows the release of the [Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services](#) and the [Government's response](#).

It will see the marine rescue services through Marine Rescue Queensland hosted by the Queensland Police Service as its own entity, with its own identity and dedicated budget.

This realignment will reaffirm the already close relationship marine rescue volunteers have with Water Police.

The Government's investment in marine rescue services will eventually increase six-fold and result in ongoing annual funding for Marine Rescue Queensland of \$27 million.

The progress towards a single integrated marine rescue service still continues and the hard work already undertaken still continues to inform the implementation.

By combining our volunteer rescue efforts into MRQ and working even more closely with Water

Police will mean better coordination and service delivery for Queenslanders.

Importantly, the very significant boost in funding will mean a significant uplift to support better equipment, better boats and more support services for our wonderful volunteers.

[Read Minister's media statement](#)

The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group meeting 18 October 2022



The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) held its ninth meeting on 18 October 2022 at the Emergency Services Complex, Kedron.

Key discussion points covered during the meeting are below:

Uniforms

Key items: The Project representative provided an update on the review and consultation process with Units which was undertaken to better understand dress and crew uniforms. A sample MRQ uniform set was shared with the Working Group for discussion as part of this consultation process.

Next steps: Consultation continues with the Project team to engage with QPS and peer agencies to understand an approach to the use of indigenous artwork on uniforms.

Training for transition

Key items: The Working Group members were interested to understand more about the holistic approach to the development of training being taken by the project team. The future service will have the opportunity to access courses on a variety of skills including leadership and conflict management as well as the AMSA Exemption 24 operational training.

Next steps: The Project team will continue to review current training material, engagement with School of Fire and Emergency Services Training and the development of training package content.

Rank and Role Structure

Key Items: The Project representative provided a Rank and Role structure overview for the future service. The structure was developed to align with industry standards and intergovernmental agencies. The rank and role structure for MRQ was endorsed in-principle by the Training and Capability Sub-Working groups.

Next Steps: The Program to continue further engagement through Working Group members.

Vessel Replacement

Key Items: The Project representative provided an overview of the specifications for the different types of vessels currently being considered and the criteria used to select the appropriate vessel type for each unit. Details about the vessel that have been ordered to date for VMR Thursday Island, and the progress of the build, was shared.

Next Steps: The Project team will continue to work with units to gather the information required to finalise the Vessel Prioritisation List.

Logo Consultation

Key Item: Logo consultation continued through the online survey, with the consultation period increased by two additional weeks to 31 October 2022.

Next Steps: The Project team will collate the feedback following the extended consultation period and share with the Marketing Communications Reference Group and the Working Group thereafter. The results will inform the activities of the Marketing and Branding Project.

Asset transition approach

Key Item/s: Development of an in-principal approach to asset transition to MRQ underway in consultation with Working Group (MRQIWG) members.

Next Steps: In-principal approach continues to be developed in consultation with Working Group members and engagement will soon be broadened.

Working Group Name Change

Key Item: The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group name will now be the Marine Rescue Queensland Implementation Working Group to reflect the future service name.

Next Steps: Name changed and no further action necessary.

Marine Rescue Implementation Roadshow

Key Items: The Program has continued with roadshows meeting many volunteers across the state to share information about the program and its progress. A view of the remaining Roadshow timetable was shared so Working Group members could join those sessions if available.

Next Steps: Insights, questions and feedback shared by volunteers through the roadshow will be documented with a summary shared back to the respective Working Groups.

The next Marine Rescue Queensland Working Group meeting will be held in February 2023.



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Hyperlinks

Marine Rescue Implementation Program

www.qfes.qld.gov.au/MRQ

Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers (QFES) Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/qldmarinerescuevolunteers

The Independent Review of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

<https://bit.ly/3sDK4Y2>

Queensland Government Response

<https://bit.ly/3DGTVml>

Ministerial Media Statements

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96416>

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/96417>

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