



State Rescue Board of NSW

Annual Report 2018/19

Chair's Foreword

The State Rescue Board of NSW (SRB) is a statutory body constituted under section 42 of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (SERM Act). The principal function of the SRB is to ensure the efficient and effective maintenance of rescue services throughout NSW.

This report has been compiled in accordance with section 49A of the SERM Act to describe the work and activities of the SRB during the financial year 2018/19.

This year's report highlights the significant body of work undertaken to implement the two tiered system of land rescue accreditation in NSW as recommended by the Capability Matrix Working Group's Review of Land Rescue arrangements in NSW.

A review of the State Rescue Policy and associated operational and administrative arrangements to support the new land rescue accreditation system was completed and came into effect from 1 December 2018. From this date, General Land Rescue and Road Crash Rescue accreditation replaced Primary and Secondary General Land Rescue accreditation. Units were renamed based on their competencies at that time. General Land Rescue Units have the capability and capacity to undertake a wide range of rescue activities, including Road Crash Rescue, Industrial and Domestic Rescue and Urban Search and Rescue Category 1. General Land Rescue Units are considered the most appropriate unit to respond to a rescue incident. The exception being motor vehicle accidents in 11 remote and very remote areas of NSW where Road Crash Rescue Units can be responded once established. Road Crash Rescue Units do not have capabilities in Industrial and Domestic Rescue or Urban Search and Rescue Category 1.

The NSW Rural Fire Service has received pre-accreditation for Road Crash Rescue for its Brigades located at Ellerston, Moulamein and Howes Valley. This is a significant achievement for all parties involved.

The NSW Police Force Radio Operations Group advise that a total of 11,137 land rescue incidents were recorded during the reporting period. This is a decrease from the 11,532 land rescue incidents from the previous reporting period. A breakdown of the rescue information shows that activations for motor vehicle accidents decreased by 7.7 per cent, while Industrial and Domestic Rescue activations increased by 2.1 per cent.

The State Disaster Rescue Challenge, a rescue competition involving the eight best rescue teams in NSW, was held in Wollongong in May 2019, with the NSW SES Port Macquarie Unit claiming top honours.

NSW Ambulance and Fire and Rescue NSW Urban Search and Rescue personnel attended Exercise Shaken Fury 2019 in the United States. The exercise was conducted jointly by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. The exercise utilised a 7.7 magnitude earthquake scenario along the southwest segment of the New Madrid Seismic Zone near Memphis, Tennessee and involved a series of tabletop, functional and full-scale exercises to test response and recovery missions.

On behalf of the Board I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved in providing outstanding rescue services to communities across NSW.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM
Chair, State Rescue Board of NSW

14 November 2019

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Section 1: Introduction

This report has been compiled in accordance with section 49A of the *State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989* (SERM Act) to describe the work and activities of the State Rescue Board of NSW (SRB) during the financial year 2018/19.

The report has been produced by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Department of Communities and Justice.

Role and Functions

The SRB is a statutory body constituted under section 42 of the SERM Act. The principal function of the SRB is to ensure the efficient and effective maintenance of rescue services throughout NSW. The SRB carries out its responsibilities through the heads of the agencies that provide the accredited rescue units and through the NSW Police Force (NSWPF), which is responsible for the coordination of rescue within the State.

In accordance with section 48 of the SERM Act, the SRB is required to:

- develop policies to promote the provision of comprehensive, balanced and coordinated rescue services throughout the State
- make recommendations to the Minister on policy matters relating to the provision of rescue services within the State
- review planning for single incident rescues within the State
- review and disseminate to relevant agencies technical information relating to rescue operations
- ensure proper liaison and coordination with federal and other state organisations in connection with rescue services
- provide advice and recommendations on the compatibility of rescue equipment, including communications equipment
- make recommendations to the Minister on the accreditation of rescue units (both permanent and volunteer) for participation in rescue operations
- make recommendations to the Minister on levels of Government support (including financial assistance under section 60 of the SERM Act) to volunteer organisations providing rescue services
- assist in the conduct of training exercises in rescue operations involving the various agencies concerned
- monitor the training standards of the permanent and volunteer services in rescue
- review proposals for amendment of legislation relating to rescue and make recommendations to the Minister
- make reports or recommendations to the Minister on any matter referred to the Board by the Minister.

Local Rescue Committees and Regional Rescue Committees are established under the SERM Act to assist the SRB in the exercise of its functions and, in particular, assist in determining whether the accreditation of a rescue unit to operate in the relevant local or regional area should be recommended to the Minister.

Membership

Membership of the SRB is in accordance with section 43 of the SERM Act.

Members

NSW Ambulance (NSWA)

Commissioner Dominic Morgan ASM

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW)

Commissioner Paul Baxter

Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW)

Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM – Chair

NSW Police Force (NSWPF)

Assistant Commissioner Karen Webb APM (from October 2018)

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS)

Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM

State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN)

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Loy APM

NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES)

Commissioner Mark Smethurst DSC, AM

A/Commissioner Kyle Stewart APM (from March 2019)

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (NSW VRA)

Commissioner Mark Gibson ESM

Executive Support

Executive and Secretariat support to the SRB is provided by the Emergency Management Policy and Coordination team within the Office of Emergency Management, Department of Communities and Justice. During the reporting period, the Executive Officer of the SRB was Mr Sam Toohey.

State Rescue Board of NSW
Office of Emergency Management
Department of Communities and Justice
GPO Box 5434
Sydney NSW 2001
website: www.emergency.nsw.gov.au

Meetings

The SRB plays an integral role in the delivery of rescue services to the communities of NSW. SRB meetings generally take place each quarter, with representatives from the NSW, FRNSW, MRNSW, NSWPF, NSW RFS, NSW SES and the NSW VRA in attendance.

The SRB held four meetings during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 30 August 2018, 14 November 2018, 28 February 2019 and 30 May 2019. All meetings were held at the Office of Emergency Management in Sydney.

Significant achievements or activities

- Implementation of a two tiered land rescue accreditation system – General Land Rescue (GLR) and Road Crash Rescue (RCR), replacing Primary and Secondary Units. GLR units have the capability and capacity to undertake all rescue activities and are considered the most appropriate unit to respond to an incident. The exception being motor vehicle accidents in any of the 11* identified areas, once RCR units have been established and accredited.
- On commencement of the two tiered system, existing units were recognised as holding GLR or RCR accreditation, as appropriate, based on their capabilities at the time.
- Comprehensive review and update of the State Rescue Policy and associated operational and administrative arrangements to support the new land rescue accreditation system.
- Endorsed the development of a multi-agency rescue training package to cover GLR, RCR, Flood Rescue (FR) and Vertical Rescue (VR) competencies.
- Welcomed new members to the SRB:
 - Assistant Commissioner Karen Webb APM, Commander Police Transport and Public Safety, NSWPF
 - Acting Commissioner Kyle Stewart, NSW SES.

Rescue accreditation changes

The SRB considered and endorsed the following changes to rescue accreditation and progressed documentation to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for approval. All applications were approved by the Minister.

- FRNSW Urunga Unit – withdrawal from Secondary GLR
- NSW RFS Ellerston Brigade – application for pre-accreditation for RCR
- FRNSW Scone Unit – application for Primary GLR
- NSW SES Cootamundra Unit – withdrawal from Secondary GLR
- NSW SES Lismore Unit – application for pre-accreditation for VR
- NSW SES Baradine Unit – withdrawal from Primary GLR
- NSW RFS Moulamein Brigade – application for pre-accreditation for RCR
- NSW SES Glengarry Unit – withdrawal from GLR and VR
- NSW SES Deepwater Unit – withdrawal from VR
- NSW RFS Howes Valley – application for pre-accreditation for RCR
- NSW VRA Murrurundi – application for pre-accreditation for VR

Capability Matrix Working Group – 11 identified areas *					
1.	Putty / St Albans	5.	Cobar / Nyngan / Hillston / Condobolin	9.	Tibooburra / Wanaaring / Bourke
2.	Ellerston / Nowendoc	6.	Broken Hill / Menindee / Balranald / Wentworth	10.	Wilcannia / Cobar
3.	Boggabilla / Boomi / Yetman	7.	Balranald / Hay / Deniliquin	11.	Tibooburra / Broken Hill
4.	Bourke / Cobar / Nyngan	8.	Ivanhoe / Hay		

Section 2: Advisory Committees and Working Groups

The SRB has a number of advisory committees and working groups to assist with the exercise of its functions and provide advice on specific issues. During the reporting period three groups provided advice to the SRB; the Policy Advisory Committee, the Rescue Training Package Working Group and the State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee.

Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC provides advice to the SRB on rescue policy matters, accreditation applications and matters submitted to the SRB from rescue agencies and Regional Rescue Committees. The PAC generally meets quarterly, two weeks prior to the SRB meeting. The PAC is chaired by the Executive Officer of the SRB. Membership of the PAC comprises senior representatives from accredited rescue agencies nominated by the agencies' SRB member. Executive and Secretariat support is provided by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

The PAC met four times during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 16 August 2018, 1 November 2018, 14 February 2019 and 16 May 2019. All meetings were held at the OEM in Sydney.

Rescue Training Package Working Group (RTPWG)

The RTPWG was established to develop a standard rescue training package encompassing GLR, RCR, VR and FR, to provide a baseline of skills and performance standards that operators must meet and maintain to be accredited to conduct rescue operations in NSW. The RTPWG is chaired by the Commander of the NSWPF Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit (RBDU). Membership of the RTPWG comprises senior rescue training officers from accredited rescue agencies. Executive and Secretariat support is provided by the OEM.

The RTPWG held its first meeting on 9 May 2019 at the NSWPF RBDU Unit in Alexandria. RCR is the first competency being developed by the Working Group.

State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee (SMRCC)

The SMRCC reports to the SRB through the PAC on all matters pertaining to maritime search and rescue. The Committee is chaired by the NSWPF Marine Area Command (MAC). Membership of the SMRCC comprises representatives from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, NSWPF Emergency Management Unit, NSWPF Radio Operations Group, NSWPF Aviation Support Branch, MRNSW, FRNSW, NSW SES, NSWA, NSWA Medical Retrieval Unit, OEM, Roads and Maritime Services, Surf Life Saving NSW, Westpac Life Saver Helicopter, with observers from the Boating Industry Association, Boating Owners Association, Yachting NSW and Sydney Ports Authority. Executive and Secretariat support is provided by the NSWPF MAC.

The SMRCC met once during the reporting period with the key issues being:

- the role of the Australia New Zealand Boating Education Group
- communications strategy
- release of a new version of the National Search and Rescue Council Manual
- possibility of expansion of the Lifesaver helicopter to include a base at Coffs Harbour
- Search and Rescue exercises in Tweed Heads, Illawarra, Sydney, South West Rocks and Ulladulla.

Section 3: Rescue Accreditation

Under section 48(1) (h) of the SERM Act, the SRB is required to make recommendations to the Minister on the accreditation of rescue units (both permanent and volunteer) for participation in rescue operations. Before the SRB will consider recommending accreditation, the need for a unit must first be established through the Local Rescue Committee and the Regional Rescue Committee. This aligns with the core emergency management principle that responsibility for preparation and risk management rests at the local level in the first instance.

The SRB made a number of recommendations regarding changes to rescue accreditation to the Minister during the 2018/19 reporting period. The recommendations are detailed on page 6 of this Report.

The [Emergency NSW website](#) contains information on accredited rescue units. The website is progressively updated as applications for accreditation and applications for deregistration are approved by the Minister. Information on the Emergency NSW website includes:

- Summary of Accredited Land Rescue Units
- Summary of Accredited Marine Rescue Units
- Summary of Accredited Flood Rescue Units.

Section 4: Rescue Training

The SRB is generally responsible for the development and promulgation of rescue policy, the setting, promulgation and monitoring of standards of training, and for providing advice on equipment levels for all rescue units in the State. The SRB also provides support for multi-agency rescue exercises and training activities.

The training competencies for GLR, RCR, VR and FR are set by the SRB on advice from the PAC. The training standards are based on Public Safety Training Packages.

Marine Rescue (MR) training competencies are based on the Maritime Industry Training Package, supplemented by additional units from the Public Safety Training Package.

The minimum competencies and equipment lists required for GLR, RCR, VR, FR and MR are contained in the State Rescue Policy.

The SRB does not accredit individual rescue operators. The training of individual rescue operators to the SRB's rescue training standards and the recording and storage of information relating to qualified operators is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies.

The individual rescue agencies also determine currency, the process that recognises member's skills, training and capabilities, captured via operational activity or skills maintenance.

Section 5: Government Funding

The NSW Government provides funding to MRNSW and the NSW VRA. Government agencies fund the provision of rescue services through their own budgets.

Financial information is reported in the individual agencies' annual reports.

The OEM is responsible for providing and administering funding and its acquittal.

Section 6: Rescue Agency Reports

NSW Ambulance (NSWA)

NSWA provides emergency medical assistance with a team of highly skilled paramedics and intensive care paramedics providing pre-hospital care, medical retrieval and health related transport.

Supporting front line paramedics to deliver emergency medical care are a number of special operational units including aeromedical and medical retrieval services, counter disaster, rapid response, rescue, snow and special casualty access teams.

NSWA operates six primary rescue units in rural areas across the state. NSW paramedics maintain medical control at all rescue scenes to guide rescue personnel on the manner and timing of extrication of the patient as well as providing expert clinical care and transport.

NSWA provides the medical component to the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Taskforce.

Fifteen NSW paramedics are USAR Category 2 trained with a further twelve paramedics trained as USAR specialists.

NSWA also provides the largest helicopter medical rescue service in the Southern Hemisphere utilising 12 helicopters (Augusta 139s) at 7 locations.

Significant achievements or activities

- In June 2019, NSW sent two medical operatives to attend Exercise Shaken Fury, a USAR training exercise held in the United States.
- NSW sent a medical operative to attend the New Year USAR course, exercise and conference.
- Planning is being undertaken for NSW attendance at the upcoming China USAR recertification in October 2019. NSW participation will include the Medical Classifier for the event.
- NSW participated in the SRB Operational Capability Inspection Program for 2018.
- NSW participated in all SRB working groups and committees.

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	6	0	3	0	6	N/A	6
Rescue operators *	98	0	98**	0	6	N/A	98

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies.*

***All NSW Rescue staff are trained in Vertical Rescue and used for Paramedic clinical access*

Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW)

FRNSW is the largest provider of rescue services in NSW, carrying out almost 70 per cent of all rescues and operating 78 GLR (including 15 vertical units) and 107 RRC units in 188 locations. All firefighters are trained in basic rescue, including the 3,250 who are qualified rescue operators. In addition to specialist rescue vehicles, every fire engine carries rescue equipment.

Significant achievements or activities

- In early 2019, a project was initiated to design a state of the art RCR training area at FRNSW's Emergency Services Academy at Orchard Hills. The RCR design team included representatives from partner agencies to ensure the area met multi-agency training requirements.
- Training of personnel in the use of Technical Rescue Vehicles at Liverpool, Blacktown, Lambton and Wollongong.
- Development of a comprehensive FRNSW skill set for both the RCR and GLR capabilities. These skill sets meet the qualification requirements of the State Rescue Policy.
- FRNSW is working with partner agencies (through the State Rescue Board's Rescue Training Package Working Group) to establish standardised training doctrine across all rescue agencies in NSW.
- FRNSW continues to participate in SRB Operational Capability Inspections across the state.
- FRNSW currently has 30 Flood Rescue "Land-based" units, which includes five proposed In Water units.
- In May 2019, as part of NSW's multi-agency USAR, team participated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Exercise Shaken Fury in the United States.

FRNSW attended a number of rescue incidents over the past 12 months, including, but not limited to:

- Opal Tower evacuation and structural assessment (Christmas Eve 2018)
- 252 motor vehicle accidents "persons trapped"
- 56 building collapses
- 1812 other rescue incidents

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	78	107	15	0	0	N/A	185
Rescue operators *	1768	1482	232	0	120	N/A	3250

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies*

NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS)

The NSW RFS is the world's largest volunteer fire service with over 72,000 members who provide fire and emergency services to approximately 95 per cent of NSW. The NSW RFS is the lead combat agency for bush fires in NSW.

Members of the NSW RFS attend a range of incidents and activities including bush and grass fires, house and structure fires, storm damage and bush fire mitigation.

The NSW RFS also provides a GLR capability in NSW.

Significant achievements or activities

- The NSW RFS designed and developed a RCR vehicle based on the requirements of the SRB, in consultation with other rescue agencies and our volunteer members.
- The NSW RFS currently has three brigades with RCR pre-accreditation, the Ellerston, Moulamein and Howes Valley Brigades.
- The NSW RFS has recently submitted accreditation applications for RCR for Ellerston and Moulamein Rural Fire Brigades.

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	1	3 *	0	0	0	N/A	4
Rescue operators *	15	43	0	0	0	N/A	58

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies*

***Figure includes pre-accredited units*

Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW)

MRNSW is the State's volunteer marine rescue service. The organisation has more than 3,000 professionally trained and equipped volunteers. MRNSW has 44 accredited units along the NSW coastline between Point Danger and Eden and inland on the Alpine Lakes and the Murray River at Moama. MRNSW fulfils its mission of saving lives on the water through its core services:

- emergency search and rescue response
- operating the State's log on and vessel tracking service for recreational boaters
- monitoring marine radio communications along the NSW coastline around the clock to respond to distress calls from boaters in danger
- public boating safety education and advocacy.

Significant achievements or activities

- MRNSW crews launched 2,732 rescue missions in the 2018/19 reporting period, including 824 in response to life-endangering emergencies, returning more than 6,000 boaters safely to shore.
- MRNSW radio operators handled 261,148 marine radio transmissions. A total of 74,930 vessels logged on for safety, including 16,487 via the *MarineRescue* App, the highest number since the launch of this valuable new boating safety tool in 2015.
- MRNSW units supported the NSWPF MAC in a number of large scale multi-agency search and rescue operations, including responding to a number of missing swimmers in the surf in northern NSW and a jet ski rider on the Hawkesbury River.
- MRNSW continued to invest in its priority Fleet Modernisation Program. Ten new rescue vessels, worth \$2.45 million were delivered to units at Forster-Tuncurry, Port Jackson, Tuross, Iluka Yamba, Lake Macquarie, Crowdy Harrington, Moama, Central Coast (two vessels) and Port Macquarie (Rescue Water Craft). In the organisation's first decade of operations, 91 new and refurbished vessels, worth more than \$21 million, have entered the MRNSW fleet.
- MRNSW continued to build organisational capability. Volunteer members gained a total of 926 new qualifications during the year, reflecting increasing skill levels and capacity across the organisation. These included 720 qualifications in first aid and advanced resuscitation, 111 in rescue vessel and rescue water craft operation and 95 for marine radio communications roles. Intensive professional development sessions were staged for experienced radio operators, coxswains and trainers and assessors. Regional leadership training courses were introduced for senior unit managers.

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44	44
Rescue operators *	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1658	1658

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies*

New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF)

The NSWPF is the lead agency for law enforcement, coordination of search and rescue and has primary operational responsibilities for Bomb, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRNE) response.

Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit (RBDU)

The RBDU and regional rescue squads deliver rescue services, coordinate Land Search & Rescue (LANDSAR) and provide a CBRE capability to the community of NSW. The RBDU and regional rescue squad's mission is clear and simple, "provide specialist operational rescue support to NSWPF law enforcement, emergency management and counter terrorism operations across hazardous and hostile environments". NSWPF rescue units are located at Alexandria, Blue Mountains (Springwood and Katoomba), Lismore, Lake Illawarra (Oak Flats), Newcastle, Goulburn and Bathurst.

Significant achievements or activities

- development, conduct and participation in multi-agency search and rescue exercises
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority National Search and Rescue Manager's Course
- International joint CBRE exercise involving participants from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australian multi-jurisdictional agencies.

Marine Area Command (MAC)

The MAC has state wide responsibility for coordination and control of all marine search and rescue incidents. MAC comprises eight sectors located at Coffs Harbour, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Broken Bay, Sydney, Botany Bay, Port Kembla and Eden.

The MAC area of responsibility is 200 nautical miles out to sea as well as the whole coastline of NSW. A total of 72 vessels are in operation, supported in search and rescue by 82 accredited MRNSW vessels. The MAC operates the State Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (SMRCC) at Sydney Water Police, Balmain and oversees 50 regional MRNSW bases and 3200 volunteers. A total of 4056 coordinated maritime rescues were conducted in the reporting period.

Significant achievements or activities

- development conduct and participation in 5 multi-agency search and rescue exercises
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority National Search and Rescue Manager's Course
- Continuation of full time Surf Lifesaving representation at the SMRCC alongside MRNSW as part of the summer weekend full time operations. This allows the ability to manage numerous multi-agency tasking and response to incidents state wide. This has been extended to include every public holiday and weekends from October to end of February.

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	8	0	8	8	8	8	8
Rescue operators *	107	0	107	18	72	130	237

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies*

NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES)

The NSW SES is the combat agency for flood, storm and tsunami and has capabilities in GLR, which includes Large Animal Rescue Operations (LARO), and VR.

The NSW SES is the largest provider of flood rescue services. All members are trained in flood rescue awareness and every NSW SES operational vehicle carries flood rescue equipment.

The NSW SES responded to 1796 rescue activations in the 2018/19 reporting period.

Significant achievements and activities

The NSW SES assisted in the all-agency review of the State Rescue Policy, providing a number of proposals and initiatives which incorporated flood rescue into the current iteration of the Policy.

The NSW SES Fleet Replacement Program has recently delivered two new medium rescue vehicles to GLR accredited units, with a further 3 medium rescue vehicles to be delivered in the second half of 2019. The Program is also focussing on the capability requirements and design of the heavy rescue vehicles. Scoping is currently underway for the design and prototypes for a concept light rescue vehicle.

As part of the upgrade of its radio fleet, NSW SES invested in new technologies to deliver enhanced safety for volunteers. A duress function has been provisioned in all portable and mobile radios and NSW SES is testing the location intelligence.

The NSW SES has developed and piloted new flood rescue training packages for land based flood rescue and in water operations to enhance training and assessments in both natural and man-made flood rescue environments. The NSW SES continues to develop new capabilities in flood rescue management to better support the coordination of resources and the control of incidents within different areas of operation.

The NSW SES continues to develop and implement LARO capabilities around the state. The three NSW SES LARO training horse floats are being utilised in multi-agency training activities and also being borrowed to enable agencies to undertake practice activities.

The NSW SES hosted a multi-agency workshop called 'X –Traction' in Port Macquarie which enabled rescue agencies in the mid-coast area to undertake an interagency response to a simulated major road crash. The interactive day provided participants an opportunity to share their operational capabilities and to demonstrate new and interesting techniques in the fields of GLR (including LARO) and VR.

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	73	0	28	159	130	N/A	195
Rescue operators	557**	0	206**	585**	175**	N/A	1523

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies*

***Figures include accredited operators who may be pending recertification of First Aid.*

NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (NSW VRA)

The NSW VRA Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission and the Australian Taxation Office. The NSW VRA's primary function is GLR response in regional areas of NSW and assisting other emergency service agencies in their combat roles.

The NSW VRA comprises 39 accredited GLR units. Of these units 20 are also accredited for VR. The NSW VRA has approximately 1700 members with 35 per cent being female. The NSW VRA has two Specialists Squads, Cave Rescue and Ski Patrol, based at Thredbo, Perisher & Mt Selwyn, and thirteen Support Squads, which have support proficiencies in communication, first aid, search and rescue, loss and grief counselling and aerial patrol.

The NSW VRA does not have a GLR presence in Sydney, Newcastle or Wollongong.

Significant achievements and activities

- February 2019, new funding announcement by Troy Grant, the Minister for Emergency Services, a life changing event for members of the organisation.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with Battery World and Fire Rescue Safety Australia.
- November 2018, new constitution adopted providing greater governance and legal protection for squads, volunteers and the executive.
- Swift Water training commenced after receiving a grant from the OEM.
- Established an intranet and internal email system with support systems allowing the introduction of iPads for live data reporting in each squad.
- Completion of risk assessment on personal protective equipment and personal protective clothing with assistance from the NSW RFS.
- Implementation of additional policies & procedures.

Accredited Rescue Units

Units and Operators	General Land Rescue	Road Crash Rescue	Vertical Rescue	Flood Rescue - On Water	Flood Rescue - In Water	Marine Rescue	Total
SRB accredited rescue units	39	0	20*	0	0	N/A	39
Rescue operators	322	0	107	0	34	N/A	463

**Individual rescue operators are not accredited with the SRB. The training of rescue operators to the SRB's training standards is the responsibility of individual rescue agencies*

***Figure includes pre-accredited units*

Section 7: Rescue Committee Reports

Local and Regional Rescue Committees (LRCs and RRCs) are established under section 48A of the SERM Act, to assist the SRB in the exercise of its functions. Each Committee assists in determining the need to recommend accreditation to the Minister for rescue units in their area. This aligns with the core emergency management principle that responsibility for preparation and risk management rests at the local level in the first instance.

RRCs are ordinarily chaired by the Regional Emergency Operations Controller and LRCs are chaired by the Local Emergency Operations Controller. Membership for LRCs and RRCs typically consist of senior representatives of emergency services organisations operating in the local area or region. Support for these committees is provided by the relevant Regional Emergency Management Officers and Local Emergency Management Officers.

Central West Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Central West RRC is convened as a combined meeting with the Far West RRC. These Committees have combined for meeting purposes to alleviate additional workload and significant travel imposts on the members who are the same organisational representatives for both regions. The Committee met on 6 September 2018 at Orange and on 12 December 2018, 7 March 2019 and 13 June 2019 in Dubbo.

There are 19 LRCs within the Central West Region. Committee meetings at the local level continue to use the opportunity to debrief rescues and discuss response issues. Where applicable these issues are drawn to the attention of the RRC for action. They are also a forum for Local Emergency Operations Controllers to monitor local capability and assets.

No Regional Sub-Committees were required or convened during the reporting period.

Key Issues

The RRC continues to monitor and adjust response arrangements and rescue unit areas of responsibility. These changes are required to ensure the availability of rescue resources to the community amid declining rescue operator numbers amongst the volunteer sector, particularly in those communities with declining populations and competing interests. All agencies actively continue to attempt recruitment in smaller communities.

Exercises conducted

On 18 August 2018, Exercise Wildebeast was conducted at Lithgow, to exercise response to a rail incident in the rail corridor involving extraction and evacuation.

Accreditation changes

At the release of the State Rescue Policy Version 4.0, rescue units that held Primary GLR status were assessed as suitable for holding GLR accreditation. FRNSW Units that held Secondary GLR status in the Region were assessed as suitable for holding RCR accreditation.

An application from the NSW SES to withdraw Primary GLR accreditation for its Baradine Unit was approved by the Minister on 4 December 2018.

An application from the NSW SES to withdraw Primary GLR and VR accreditation for its Glengarry Unit was approved by the Minister on 29 April 2019.

Far West Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Far West RRC combined with the Central West RRC met four times during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 6 September 2018, 12 December 2018, 7 March 2019 and 13 June 2019.

Key issues

- changes to standardise the Far West LRC meeting minutes template
- response arrangements for a fire at a local mine
- opportunities to improve rescue service delivery including equipment and training for pre-accreditation for the NSW RFS Brigade at Louth
- confirmation of a boundary change to incorporate Balranald into the Far West Emergency Management Region
- declining volunteerism in rescue agencies.

Exercises conducted

On 28 August 2018, Exercise Stock Crate was held at Broken Hill. The discussion exercise focused on a mass animal carcass stock truck and fatal car crash accident. The objectives of the exercise included identification of stakeholders and relationships involved in mass animal carcass stock truck accidents and the identification and evaluation of response and recovery issues.

On 13 September 2018, Exercise Hot Cross Border was held at Packsaddle. The discussion exercise focused on a bush fire impacting all agencies in the remote far west of NSW and extending into the states of Queensland and South Australia. The objectives of the exercise were to identify agency and emergency management remote cross border inter-operability gaps.

On 5 February 2019, Exercise Anatropis was held at Bourke. The discussion exercise focused on a mass animal carcass stock truck and fatal car crash accident. The objectives of the exercise included identification of stakeholders and relationships involved in mass animal carcass stock truck accidents and the identification and evaluation of response and recovery issues.

On 16 May 2019, a multi-agency cross border rescue discussion exercise, Exercise Borderline, was held at Buronga. The multi-agency cross border rescue discussion exercise was funded by the OEM. The objectives of the exercise included:

- evaluating the response to a mass casualty road crash on the Chaffey Bridge spanning the border of NSW and Victoria
- evaluating the impact to transport, industry, infrastructure and community for a prolonged closure of the Sturt Highway at the Chaffey Bridge
- evaluating the response and recovery to a hazmat incident on the highway bridge which impacts the Murray River and the local community.
- evaluating agency cross border interoperability for command, control and communication in response to a border incident requiring significant Victorian and NSW agency and organisation resources.

Accreditation changes

An application from the NSW SES to withdraw Primary GLR accreditation for its Baradine Unit was approved by the Minister on 4 December 2018.

An application from the NSW SES to withdraw accreditation for GLR and VR for its Glengarry Unit was approved by the Minister on 29 April 2019.

Hunter-Central Coast Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Hunter-Central Coast RRC met twice during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 4 July 2018 and 13 March 2019.

Key issues

- proposal from the NSW VRA for GLR and VR accreditation for its Murrurundi Squad
- proposal from the NSW RFS for RCR accreditation for its Howes Valley Brigade
- proposal from the NSW RFS for RCR accreditation for its Ellerston Brigade.

Exercises conducted

There were no multi-agency exercises conducted during the 2018/19 reporting period.

Accreditation changes

An application from FRNSW for GLR accreditation for its Scone Unit for was approved by the Minister on 19 July 2018.

An application from the NSW RFS for pre-accreditation for RCR for its Ellerston Brigade was approved by the Minister on 10 October 2018.

An application from the NSW VRA for pre-accreditation for VR for its Murrurundi Squad for was approved by the Minister on 26 June 2019.

Illawarra-South Coast Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Illawarra-South Coast RRC met twice during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 6 September 2018 and 28 March 2019. Local Rescue Committees met 3 to 4 times during the year.

Key issues

- speed zone legislation surrounding 40 km/hr restrictions around emergency service vehicles
- mental health support for rescue operators and debriefing of rescue officers
- development of a Concept of Operations for specific rescue locations across the Illawarra including the Figure 8 Pools in the Royal National Park
- development of multi-agency rescue induction training for coal mine incidents.

As part of the SRB Operational Capability Inspection Program for 2018, rescue unit capability inspections were conducted at the NSW VRA Bega Valley Squad, NSW Bomaderry Unit and the FRNSW Wollongong Unit.

Exercises conducted

On 25 August 2018, Exercise Mogo Rescue was conducted. The multi-agency exercise provided rescue training for the Eurobodalla LRC and was conducted with local funding.

On 18 April 2018, Exercise Illawarra Airport was conducted. The multi-agency exercise tested the response to an airport emergency and was conducted with local funding.

On 29 May 2019 Exercise Metro Mine was conducted. The exercise tested the multi-agency response to a coal mine incident. The exercise was funded by the mine.

Accreditation changes

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister during the reporting period.

New England Region

Region Rescue Committee Meetings

The New England RRC met four times during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 12 September 2018, 12 December 2018, 13 March 2019 and 12 June 2019. The meetings generally dealt with routine business and matters arising from LRC meetings. LRCs in the main effectively managed any issues of a local nature without the assistance of the RRC.

Key Issues

Declining volunteerism within emergency service organisations was identified as a key issue that has the potential to impact on the capacity of rescue agencies. A working group has been established to examine this issue, with the objective of compiling a report on the issues impacting on volunteerism and making recommendations that may address the issue in the New England Region.

Exercises conducted

No significant rescue exercises were held.

Accreditation changes

An application from the NSW SES to withdraw VR accreditation for its Deepwater Unit was approved by the Minister on 29 April 2019.

North Coast Region

Regional Rescue Committee

The North Coast RRC met three times during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 25 July 2018, 27 November 2018 and 25 March 2019.

Key Issues

- The RRC endorsed locally implemented arrangements for a dual response from the NSW SES Armidale Unit and the NSW SES Dorrigo Unit to rescue incidents in the Cathedral Rock area, bordering the New England and North Coast Regions. The committee also facilitated provision of formal advice of that arrangement to the New England RRC, the NSWPF Radio Operations Group Rescue Coordinator and the SRB.
- On 28 August 2018, an Operational Capability Inspection was coordinated and conducted at the NSW VRA Nambucca Heads Squad as part of the SRB Operational Capability Inspection Program for 2018.

Exercises conducted

On 23 and 24 November 2018, a multi-agency rescue symposium planned and coordinated by the NSW SES was conducted at Port Macquarie.

Activities included a briefing on the proposed State Rescue Policy by the Commander of the NSWPF RBDU, a rescue field exercise and related GLR displays. Financial support was provided from the OEM. The objectives of the exercise included:

- test and increase the capability of participating agencies in an exercise environment
- provide exposure to new knowledge and techniques for GLR and RCR in a controlled environment
- test interagency protocols
- share lessons learned (real incidents, exercises and rescue competitions such as ARRO).

On 10 and 11 November 2018, marine search and rescue training was conducted at Point Danger on the NSW and Queensland border. The activity involved marine search and rescue training theory on the first day with a marine field exercise on the second day. Agencies involved included the NSWPF MAC, MRNSW, Surf Life Saving NSW, Surf Life Saving Queensland, Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Queensland, and Queensland Police Service Water Police.

The NSWPF MAC in conjunction with MRNSW planned and coordinated the exercise. The objectives of the exercise included retrieving three targets from the marine environment and SAR datum planning

Accreditation changes

An application from FRNSW to withdraw Secondary GLR accreditation for its Urunga Unit was approved by the Minister on 11 October 2018.

An application from the NSW SES for pre-accreditation for VR for its Lismore Unit for VR was approved by the Minister on 11 October 2018

North West Metropolitan Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The North West RRC held three meetings during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 16 November 2018, 15 February 2019 and 14 June 2019.

Key Issues

There were no significant issues reported or discussed during this reporting period.

Exercises conducted

There were no significant rescue exercises conducted.

Accreditation changes

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister during the reporting period.

Riverina Murray Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The Riverina Murray RRC met three times during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 25 July 2018, 28 November 2018 and 27 March 2019.

Key issues

- change of Balranald LRC from the Riverina Murray Emergency Management Region to the Far West Emergency Management Region.
- RCR accreditation for the NSW RFS Moulamein Brigade
- development of Consequence Management Guide for heavy vehicle livestock accidents
- planning for regional rescue exercises – Buckingham State Forest and Buckingham 2.

Exercises conducted

There were no significant exercises conducted during this reporting period.

Accreditation changes

An application from the NSW RFS for pre-accreditation for RCR for its Moulamein Brigade was approved by the Minister on 05 February 2019.

South Eastern Region

Region Rescue Committee Meetings

The South Eastern RRC met two times during the reporting period. Meetings were held in July 2018 and March 2019.

Key issues

As part of the SRB Operational Capability Inspection Program for 2018, a rescue unit capability inspection was conducted at the NSWPF Goulburn Squad on 15 October 2018.

Exercises conducted

On 21 November 2018, a livestock transport accident emergency exercise was conducted at Cooma, in the Snowy Monaro local government area. The aim of the workshop was to review and strengthen the arrangements around a multi-agency rescue response to a livestock transport accident including:

- understanding of agency responsibilities as per the State Rescue Policy
- emergency services responsibilities with this type of accident
- restrictions in place for management of animals
- introduction to handling of large animals, including training available via the NSW SES
- reviewed media footage of past incidents and looked at some of the obvious issues present at the sites
- review of electrical hazards – how to manage a site if there is damage to power involved
- site control importance - speed of establishment to manage the site and public around incident
- improved Consequence Management Guide.

Accreditation changes

An application to withdraw accreditation from the NSW SES Cootamundra Unit for Secondary GLR was approved by the Minister on 30 August 2018.

South West Metropolitan Region

Regional Rescue Committee Meetings

The South West RRC Committee met three times meetings during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 18 July 2018, 18 November 2018 and 19 March 2019.

Key Issues

There were no significant issues reported or discussed during this reporting period.

Exercises conducted

Exercise Vulcan Artemis, an ongoing discussion exercise, was rolled out to the Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) over the last 12 months. The exercise was centred on the multi-agency response to a unit block fire. Bankstown, Liverpool and Burwood LEMCs completed the exercise during the reporting period.

Accreditation changes

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister during the reporting period.

Sydney Metropolitan Region

Region Rescue Committee Meetings

There were two RRCs held during the reporting period. Meetings were held on 16 November 2018 and 16 March 2018.

Key Issues

There were no significant issues reported or discussed during this reporting period.

Exercises conducted

On 20 October 2018, Exercise Train Lift was conducted by FRNSW at the Auburn Stabling Yard. The objectives of the exercise included:

- provide awareness and skills in recovering casualties/victims from around and beneath train/rail rolling stock
- enhance working relationships and collaboration with Sydney Trains personnel.

Accreditation changes

There were no accreditation changes approved by the Minister during the reporting period.

Section 8: Appendices

Appendix A: Land Rescue Statistics

Under the *State Emergency & Rescue Management Act 1989* and the State Rescue Policy, the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) is the central agency for coordinating rescue. In situations where the NSWPF itself is not the agency that calls out the rescue unit/s, the NSWPF is required to be advised by the activating agency at the first available opportunity. Details of these incidents are recorded within the NSWPF Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

The information about land rescue incidents is derived from the NSWPF CAD system. This is electronically recorded from every individual incident reported to the NSWPF and managed by the Rescue Coordinator (RCO) from the Radio Operations Group (ROG). The NSWPF CAD system has been established as the definitive list of all rescue incidents that occur in NSW.

Data Quality

This report relates only to land rescue services in NSW and does not contain any information about marine rescue services. The data in this report may also differ from agency specific information on rescues. Differences in agency data reporting may occur due to agency variations in collection processes from the NSWPF, lack of notification to the NSWPF of activations to rescues, or data collection variations. While the NSWPF calculates singular rescue incidents other agencies may collate statistics per the number of accredited and non-accredited units responding and attending rather than the singular rescue incident.

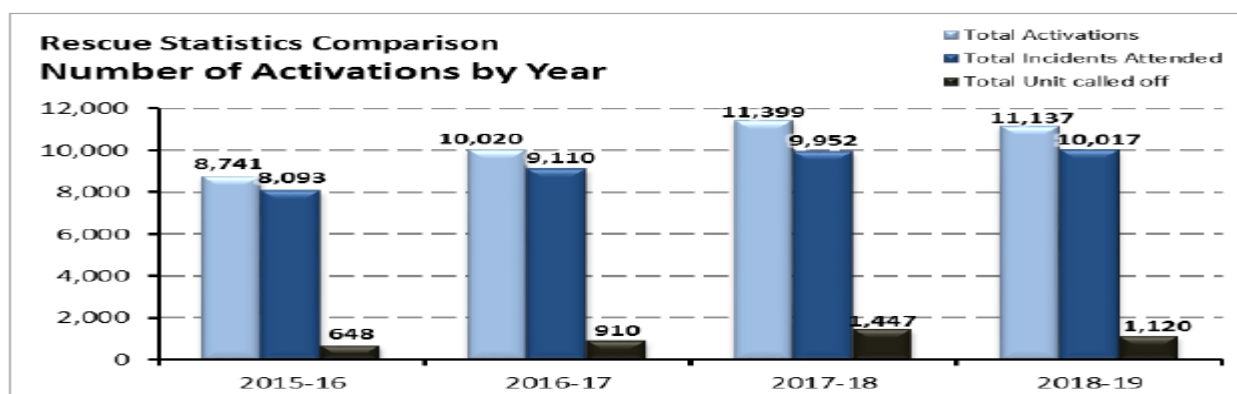
Key points for the 2018/19 reporting period

A total of 11,137 land rescue incidents were recorded by NSW Police. This includes 1,120 incidents where the rescue unit/s was subsequently called off. Rescue units are being called off earlier when not required. Statistically there is a 2.3 per cent decrease in overall activations from the 2017/18 report.

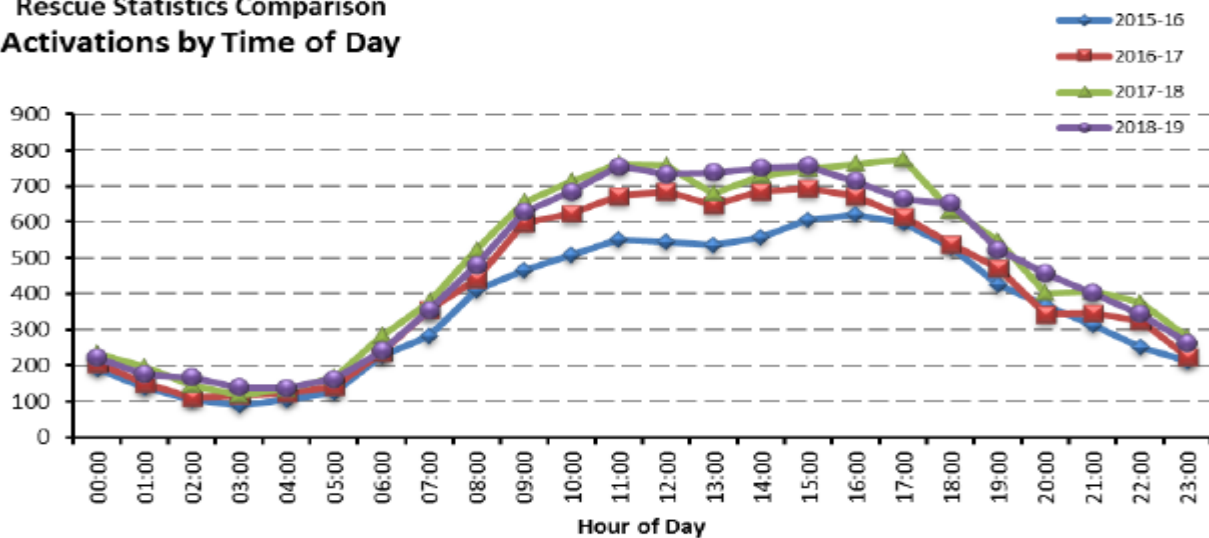
Motor vehicle accidents account for 37 per cent (4,123) of activations. Motor vehicle accidents decreased by 7.7 per cent across the state.

A breakdown of the rescue information has shown that industrial and domestic rescue activations have increased by 2.1 per cent.

Based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, 66 per cent of land rescues occurred in Major Cities, 25 per cent in Inner Regional and the remaining 9 per cent in Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas.



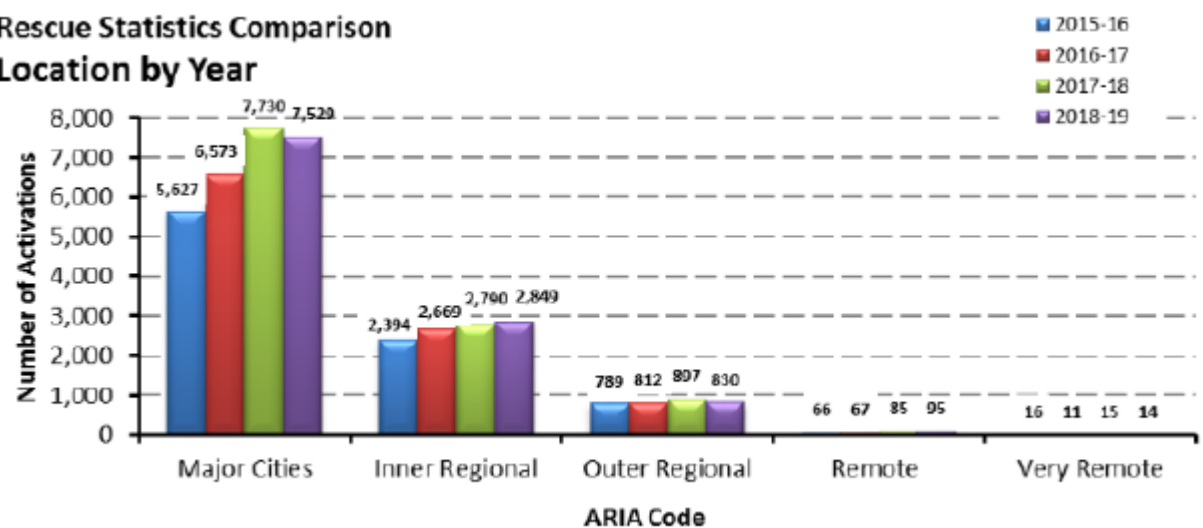
**Rescue Statistics Comparison
Activations by Time of Day**



**Rescue Statistics Comparison
Agency vs Incident vs F/Year**

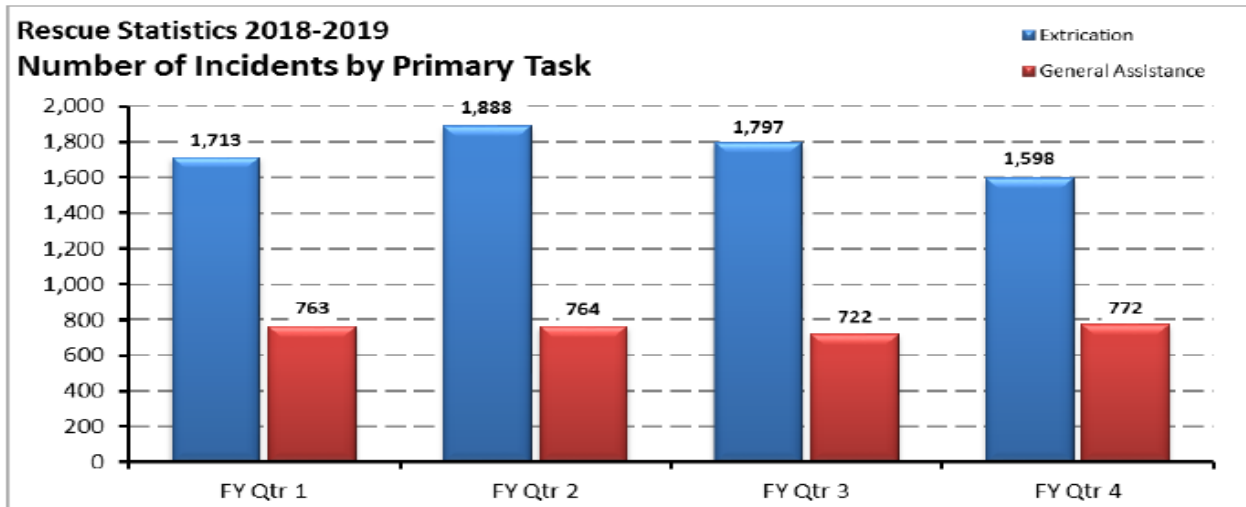


**Rescue Statistics Comparison
Location by Year**



Rescue incidents where extrication is required

Extrications are recorded to occur more frequently than general assistance tasks. There has been a 20 per cent increase in extrication tasks and an 8 per cent decrease in general assistance tasks. Extrication includes domestic extrications as well as motor vehicle accident extrications.



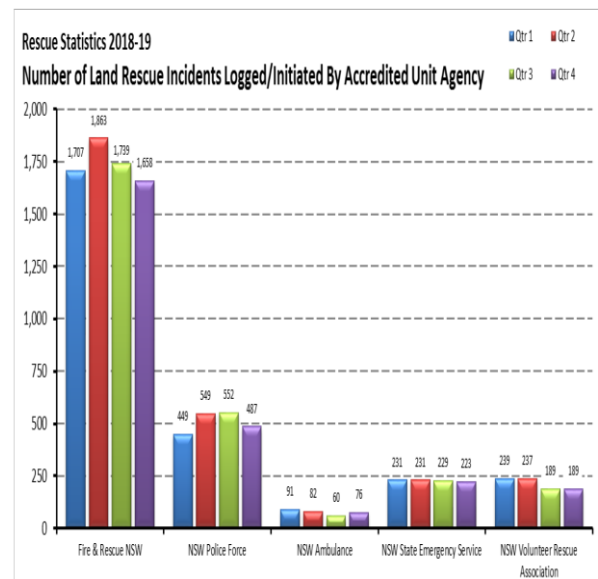
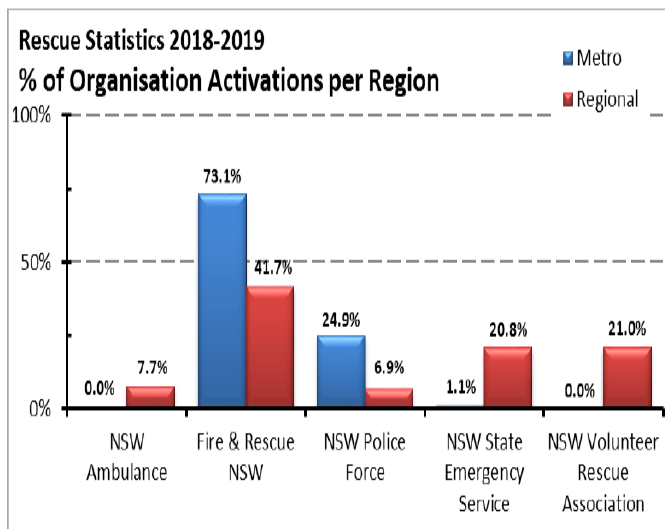
Note: This classification is allocated in CAD by a Rescue Coordinator and unless specifically advised from the field and combat agency, the classification may not always reflect what actually occurred at the incident site.

Rescue Activations

Within the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area FRNSW have many accredited resources. FRNSW responded to 73.1 per cent of all rescue incidents within the Greater Sydney area.

State-wide activation distribution is:

- NSW Ambulance - 3 per cent
- FRNSW - 62 per cent
- NSWPF - 19 percent
- NSW RFS and other - 1 per cent
- NSW SES - 7 per cent
- NSW VRA - 8 per cent.

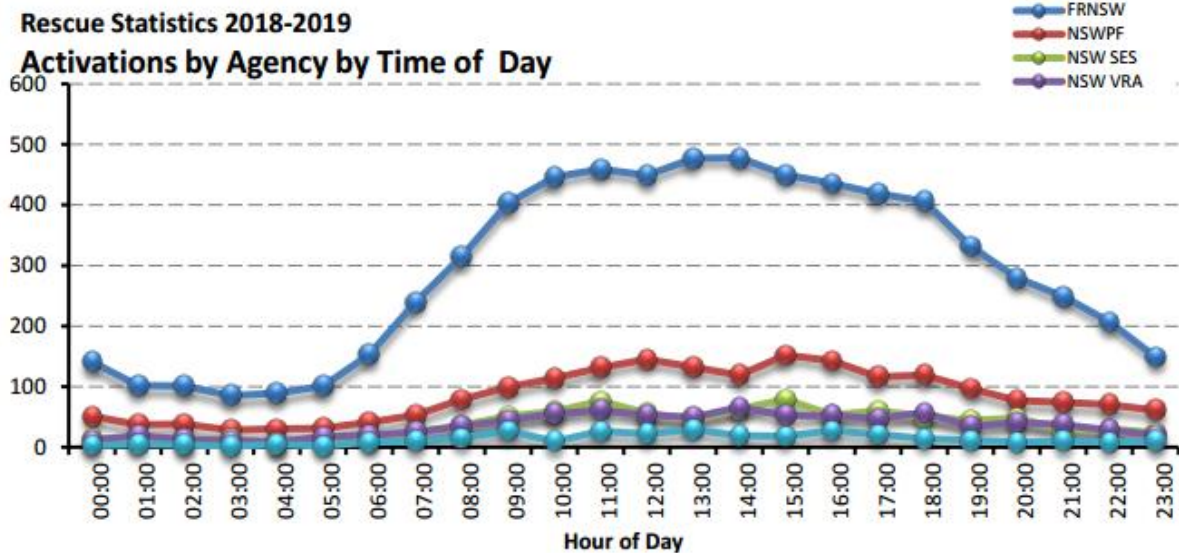
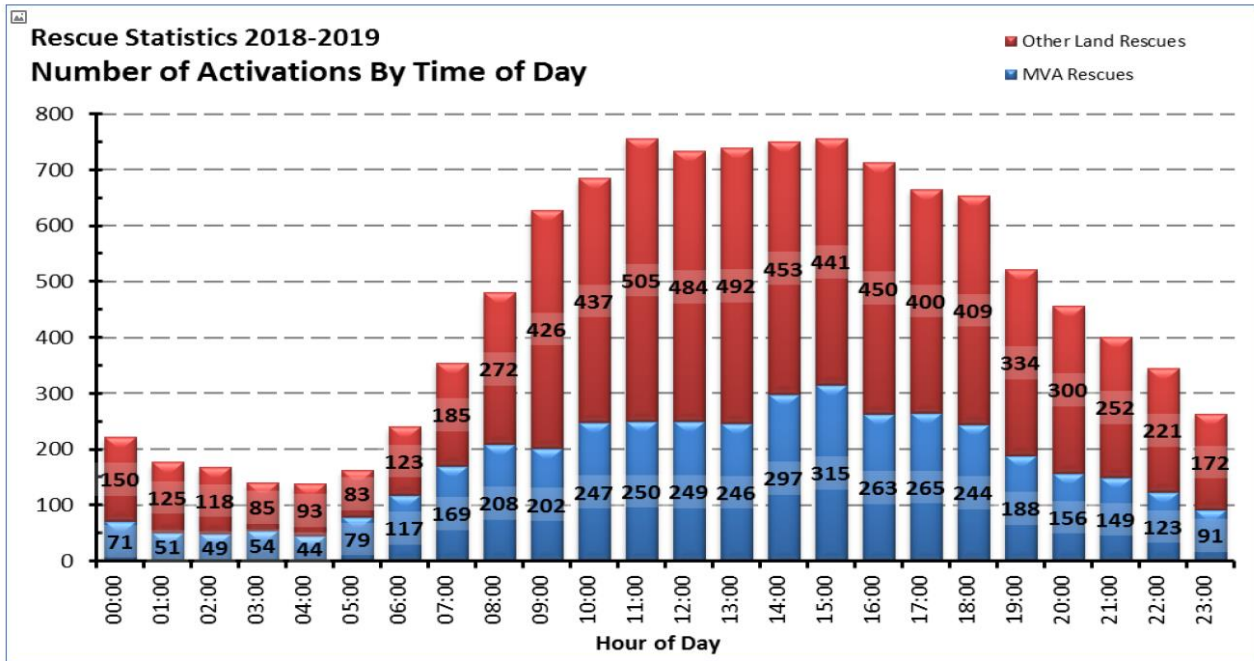


Rescue call outs by time

The most active part of the 24 hour period is between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm.

Activations for motor vehicle accidents account for roughly one third of all other land rescue activations for most time periods except the period 5:00 am to 8:00 am where motor vehicle accidents make up almost one half of all activations at these times.

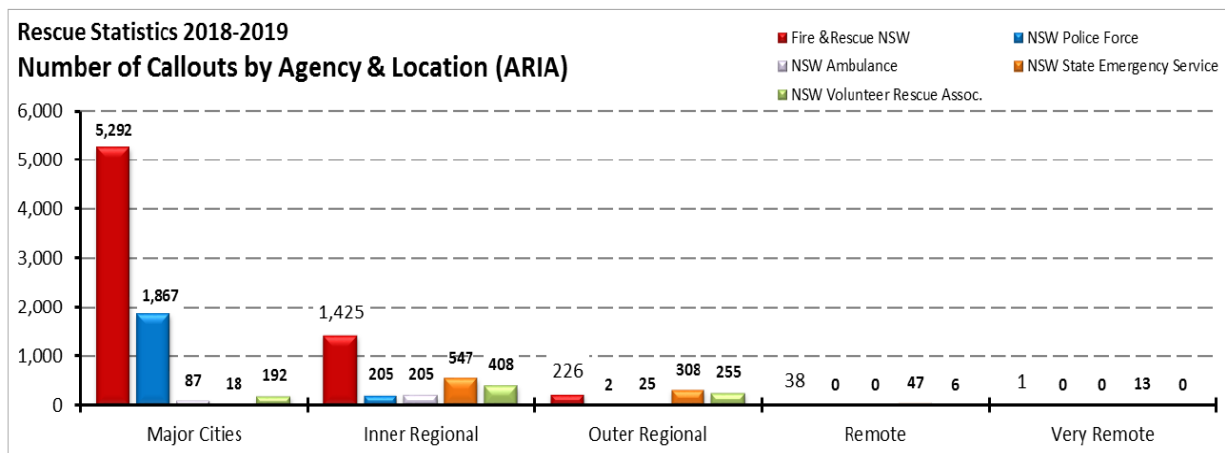
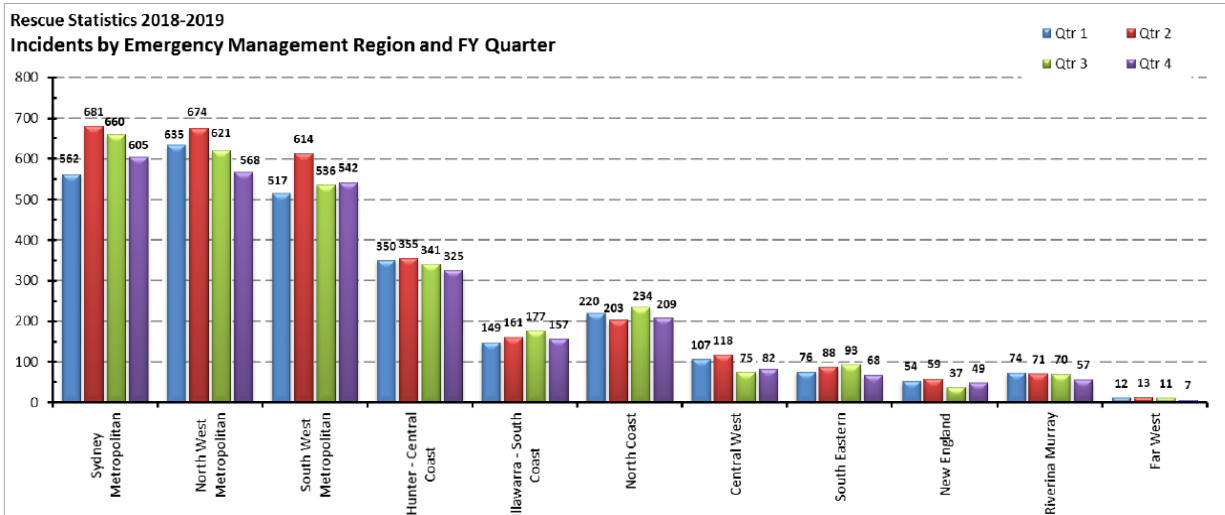
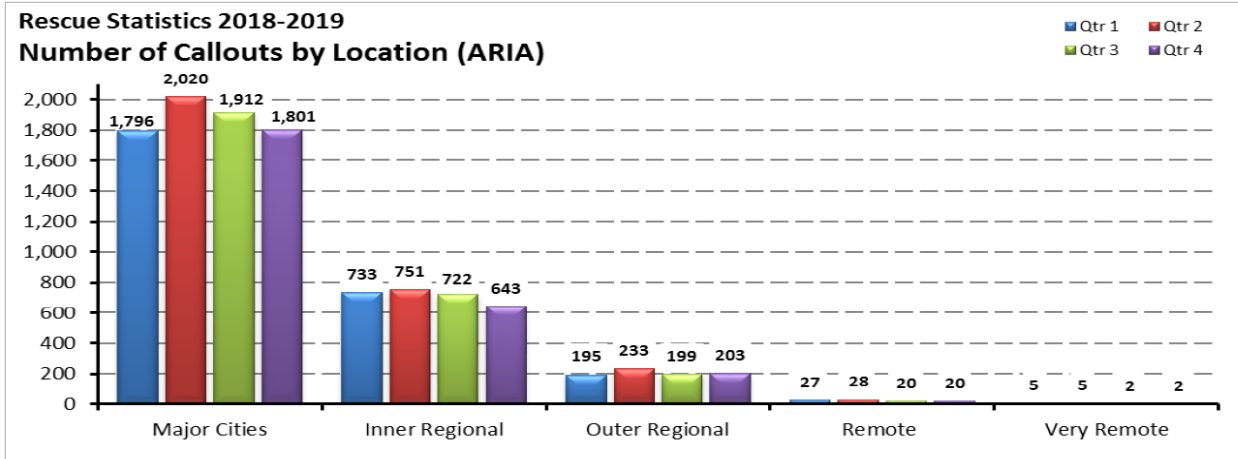
Rescue agency statistics across Metropolitan or Regional areas generally follow these same trends.



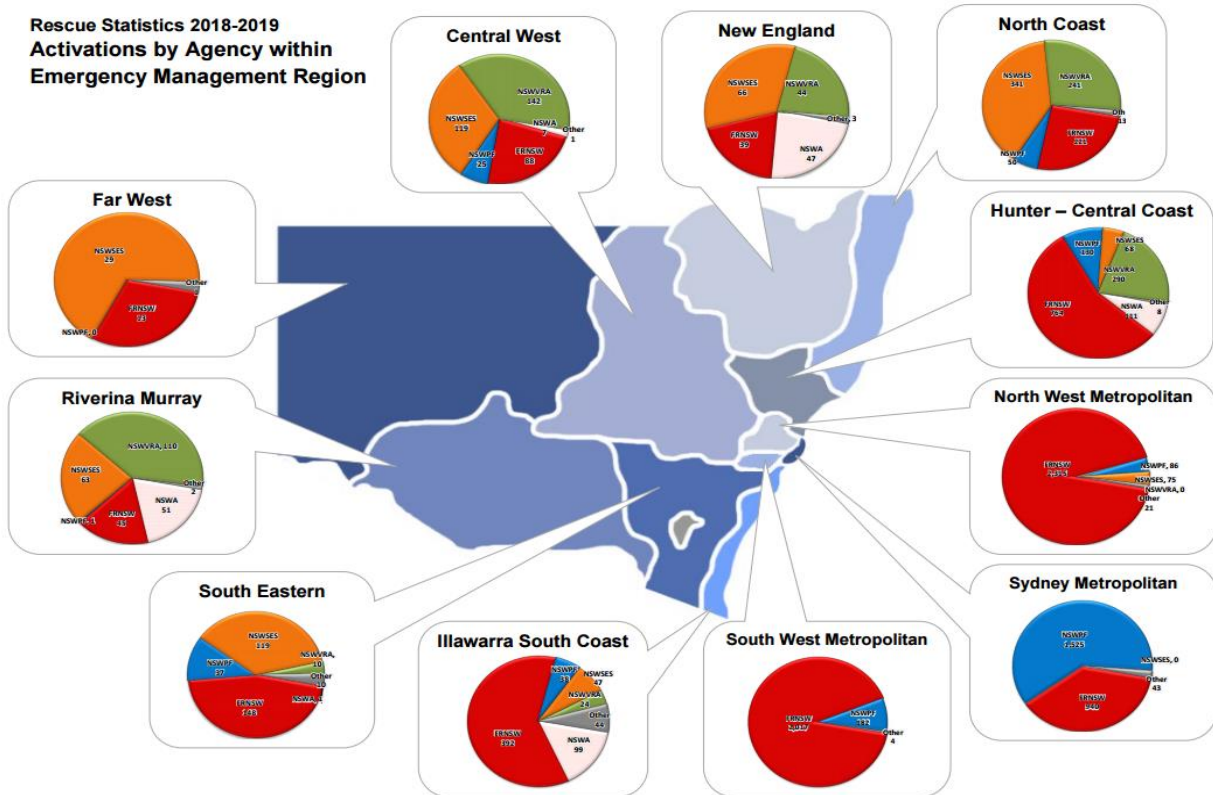
Rescue call outs by location

Based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia, 67 per cent of land rescues occurred in Major cities, 24 per cent in Inner Regional and the remaining 9 per cent in Outer Regional and Remote areas.

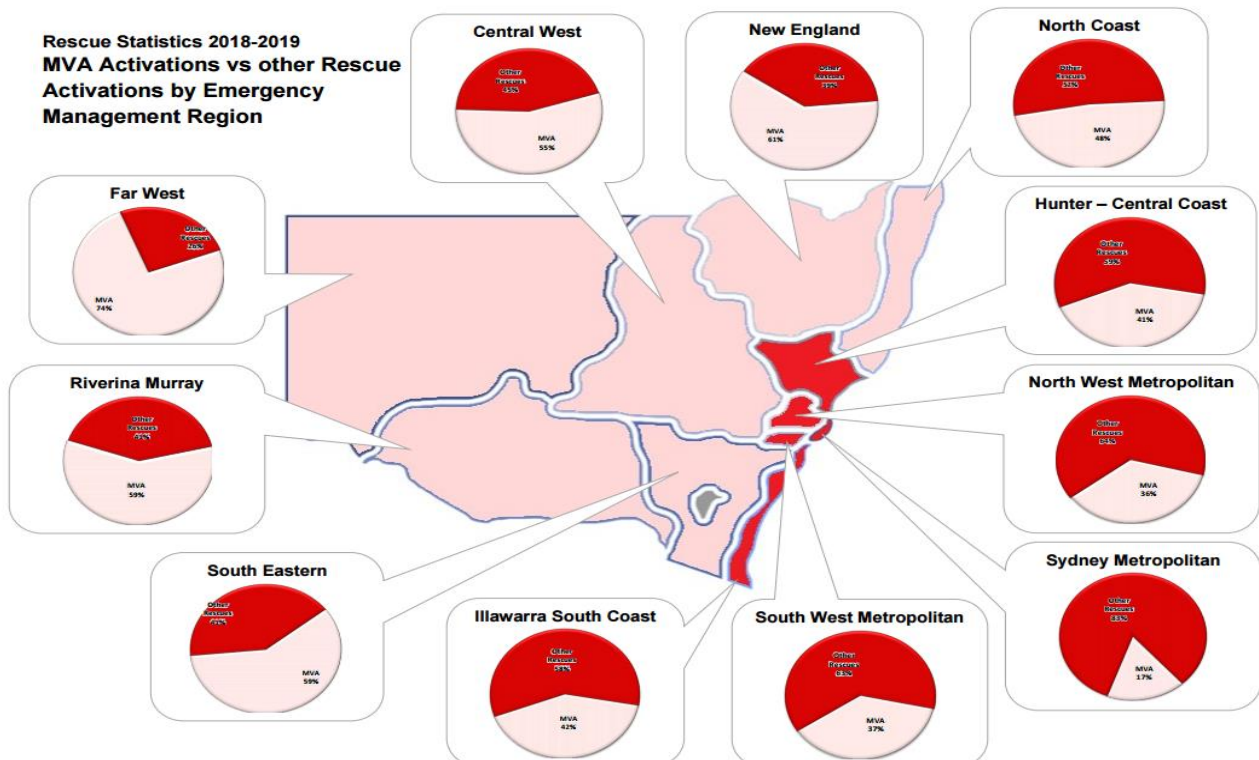
FRNSW performed the majority of activations across both Major City and Inner Regional areas.



Rescue Statistics 2018-2019
Activations by Agency within
Emergency Management Region



Rescue Statistics 2018-2019
MVA Activations vs other Rescue
Activations by Emergency
Management Region



Definitions and other notes

Term	Definition
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
Rescue Incident	A specific situation that requires the activation of the rescue systems and arrangements.
Rescue Incident Categories	A rescue incident is an event requiring the dispatch of an accredited rescue unit to the effect the safe removal of persons or domestic animals from actual or threatened danger or physical harm.
Rescue Incident categories	Rescue incidents are recorded in the Computer Aided Dispatch system and are sorted into 17 Major Incident Type Categories and 146 Sub Incident Type Categories
Motor Vehicle Accidents	The Motor Vehicle Accident major incident type category may include single vehicle accident as well as accidents involving multiple vehicles. Separate sub categories are available to note collisions involving cars, Heavy Vehicles, buses, motor cycles and Dangerous goods.
Domestic Major Incident Type	This Major Incident Type Category includes incidents where a person or persons have become trapped in a domestic situation such as being trapped on roofs and trees or having limbs stuck in holes, drains machinery or other places.
Rescue Call Outs	A Rescue call out is the act of dispatching a specific rescue unit to a specific rescue incident. It does not include the dispatch of other emergency service units not accredited for rescue, such as Ambulance, Police or non-accredited FRNSW units.
Extrication	Extrication is the assisted release and removal of trapped people or domestic animal by specially equipped and trained emergency service crews, arising from incident reported. Extrication can occur at domestic incidents and Motor Vehicle Accidents. The CAD system is able to record if a unit performed an extraction or provided General assistance in the case of a GLR unit assisting a vertical unit
General Assistance	General Assistance is the provision of services and undertaking of acts to support the rescue of a person but does not involve extraction as defined above.

Appendix B: Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ARIA	Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia
AVL	Automatic Vehicle Location
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CBRNE	Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives
CMWG	Capability Matrix Working Group
CWG	Capability Working Group
EMU	NSW Police Force Emergency Management Unit
FRNSW	Fire & Rescue NSW
GLR	General Land Rescue
Hazmat	Hazardous material
IRDR	Industrial Rescue and Domestic Rescue
LandSAR	Land Search and Rescue
LRC	Local Rescue Committee
MAC	Marine Area Command
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident
NATSAR	National Search and Rescue
NSW RFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
NSW SES	NSW State Emergency Service
NSW VRA	NSW Volunteer Rescue Association
NSWA	NSW Ambulance
NSWPF	NSW Police Force
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
PAC	Policy Advisory Committee
RBDU	NSWPF Rescue & Bomb Disposal
RCO	Rescue Coordination Officer
RCR	Road Crash Rescue
REMO	Regional Emergency Management Officer
REOCON	Regional Emergency Operations Controller
ROG	Radio Operations Group (Police Communications or VKG)
RRC	Regional Rescue Committee
RTPWG	Rescue Training Package Working Group
SAR	Search and Rescue
SAREX	Search and Rescue Exercise
SMRCC	State Marine Rescue Consultative Committee
SRB	State Rescue Board of NSW
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VR	Vertical Rescue

