

Minutes – Lifesaving Operations Council Meeting

VENUE: Life Saving Victoria State Centre

DATE: Thursday 5 November 2020

1) Welcome, Attendance and Apologies Remotely Accessing

Darren McLeod, Nick Vouk, Alexander Walton, Toby Dobell, Adam Lipszyc, Michael Barbarino, Rachel Mills, Christopher Sharam, Davida O'Donohoe Joyce, Bill Johnson, Samuel Richardson, Steven Thirwall, Bec Gibbs, Mikaela Prest, Alexander Schwarcz, Dominic Santullo, Darrel Gill, Jack Kennedy, Jason Farrow, Simon Wilson, Hamish McKendrick, Sandra Madeley, Max Leonard, Mark Cornish, Brendan Smart, Cohen Doyle, Paul Lunny, Lara Falk, Bear Archibald, Kev Randall, Jas Lawrence, Frederica Graham, Harvey Marriner, Lucas Welsh, Calton Baillon, Geoff Thomptone, Orlando Buttie, Stephen Brooks, Phil Hughes, Angela Montebello, Sue Rourke, Nick Wooton, Katrina Antony, Tea Passon, Flynn Thompson, Liam Smith, Nick Giblin, Colin Williams, Terry Aslanidis, Fiona Topolcsanyi, Justin Taylor, Cara Edwards, Stephen Griffiths, Tom Morrison, Phoebe Browne, Andy Nott, Chenayde Reid, Mark Scott, Brendan Smart, Kane Treloar, Hugh Day, Grace Lightfoot, David Rylance, Davina Jackson, Catherine Paulsen, Ken Bateman, Alison Porter, Sean Conquit, Tom Morrison, Peter McDonell.

Note: there were also numerous people who dialled into the phone call or who only identified as their first name.

Staff

Andy Dennis (General Manager - Public Training and Pool Safety), Liam Krige (Manager Lifesaving Operations), Paul Shannon (General Manager - Government and Industry Relations).

2) Welcome – Simon Wilson (Chair)

Provided a welcome to the Life Saving Operations Council Meeting to the volunteers and staff.

3) COVID Patrolling & Patrol Protocols

Kane Treloar: Thank you for your time tonight. Appreciate that everyone joins us. Overview of the patrolling and patrol protocols with all the Lifesaving Operations Managers across the state the other day. Their input is important as the first point of contact with the clubs, in conjunction with LOOS and Club Captains, who know their communities better than anyone, in terms of making these decisions. Legacy item that has sat in protocols from previous years. Thank you to my predecessor, Darren, his input on this matter as a LOO. A lack of understanding across the membership, with inclement weather. Looking towards a new strategy from next season, in particular, the ability to reduce from a full patrol due to inclement weather.



Members are expected to put flags out and able to come off the beach if no-one is in the water but once someone goes into the water, 2 members are required to be on the beach as per usual. It is not a scenario to move to a surveillance or observational patrol. Any further changes to the protocols will be about numbers rather than weather. This pertains to all areas.

Liam Krige: Where we apply the inclement weather, we work off SOP's and apply that on each patrol day. Preplanning is difficult with establishing thresholds – heat or sea state, so we will aim to work off beach numbers but we will continue to work with you and excited to get back on the beaches.

David Rylance: Is this separate to the EPA recommendation to not swim due to contamination?

Liam Krige: This is separate to address patrol protocols for the season rather than issues that may be for certain days or locations.

Question: Has anything changed on the SOP?

Kane Treloar: Aiming to clarify this issue with the membership heading into the season.

4) Staff Updates

i. Operations – K. Treloar

Kane Treloar: I've submitted a report and everyone has the opportunity to access. I would like to highlight the challenges we face and thank you to the club captains getting people onto the beach and the trainers that ensure everyone is suitably qualified. Support services, key message is to get involved.

There has been critique of LSV in the past of nepotism, we would like to invite anyone who is keen to get involved. We are preparing for a very busy season and will work closely with services across the state. Moving onto Emergency Management and Land Managers, concerns raised by LSOC and club captains, of what will the end of the season look like.

Liam has been in discussions and what will land managers have the ability to make decisions during COVID times.

COVID safe plan has only come to LSV at COB today and will not be able give much insight right now. Key takeaway would be that LSV is business as usual but expected changes of increased escalation of rule enforcement, for example, mask wearing and other CHO directions. Focus for us as an organisation is doing what we do. Emergency Management Planning expected opportunities, especially with regional aspect and what club capability is available and can involve you where they feel comfortable.

ii. Member Welfare

This is a priority for us. Emma (GM) and Ange (Director), have done a mountain of work on this. M&LD welcomes Rebecca Schot-Guppy, who has a long background in both operations and volunteer training.

iii. Government Support

Thank you to clubs that allowed us to survey their membership. The synopsis is that members are ready and willing to get back to the beaches and support the community.

State government budget is expected to be release late November. It is all looking positive and ensuring that clubs will be properly funded especially from an operations perspective. We will allow access to the report to all members. Same expectation of LSV members as CFA or SES, government views us at the same level as other emergency service providers. This is testament to the service you deliver and the grassroot community support.

Members will be asked to submit expressions of interest in working group in planning for next seasons patrol protocols and aiming to the ongoing development and consistency. We



encourage clubs to consider the state wide response, meet community expectation regarding social distancing and COVID response. In relation to applying for state level grants and a consideration that we continue to advocate for you and you are considering these items in delivering the service.

5) Skills Maintenance

Thank you to Chief Instructors, TAOs, Trainers, assessors and facilitators in getting us up to date and pivoting with the COVID specific concerns this year. Thank you to the Club captains and Lifesaving managers with rostering and getting members on the beach.

i. Training and Assessment – D. Rylance

Thank you to all trainers for qualifying and keeping skills maintenance. There is a lot of work put in to making it easier to comply with DHHS and allow us to gain more freedom. Changes to Bronze Medallion and SRC and how they are put on. We did have information sessions of the changes, with good feedback. If you not aware of the changes, contact TAO or local trainer for details.

A lot of work gone into upgrading the computer systems. We would love honest and constructive feedback from members and any ideas to improve. There is a feedback tab in the apps we have developed.

Please follow the guidelines and processes in place for skills maintenance and new training and it will expedite the process in quicker timeline. We are trying to minimise the documentation processing.

ii. GM Public Training & Pool Safety – Andy Dennis

Some issues with IT portal, launched a portal that pools data every time a member signs in but has overloaded the system. It is moved to pooling data once an hour which should alleviate issues members have been having. A range of the next steps, short/medium/long term and we welcome the feedback and wish the core functionality to work well for our members, TAFEs and TAOs.

Good new story with immediate effect. Clubs are allowed to run events of groups up to 12 simultaneously. This will alleviate the pressure in training. Lots of bookings and need to ensure award booking.

Questions regarding Board Cleaning SOPs

David Rylance: COVID safe plan available that details all cleaning requirements available on the LSV website.

Liam Krige: COVID safe plan and scenario B change do not have to restrict to 4 persons but need to still ensure social distancing. Obvious expected changes as guidelines ease and there will be ongoing updates to SOPs and guidelines. Videos available shortly from Todd that will explain protocols.

6) General Business

iii. ATV Registration changes – Hamish McKendrick

ATV are registered via Vic Roads in a special work vehicle similar to a farm with special restrictions. Usage of ATV are not to be used on a road unless moving equipment to a beach and any special circumstances. If any questions specific to your club, please email me. IRB trailer registration, we are no longer need to have a special document to tow carried with using them. SOP expected to come out in the next few weeks with regards usage of ATV's.



iv. **LIMSOC update Grace Lightfoot**

Circular released on Wednesday that LIMSOC going live on Monday. Access to sign on training LIMSOC and training platform to all. Implementation on Monday, outside of paperless, all new written interface by the development team with great result. Testing group at the moment were finding a few bugs but all quick fixes and expected to be working well by season start.

Mark Scott: Question to Grace. Noticed we have 2 codes and we seem to be used the old code.

Grace: Codes from last season will be carried forward to this season and your members are able to use their single sign on to look at the platform. Email me the details and we will address it.

7) **Questions/Open Forum**

Colin Williams: Club Admin side, I tried to login the other day and was unable to get into it. Are we able to add people to LIMSOC and GEMS?

Hugh Day: Ensure you are set up as Club President, secretary, club captain and paid administrator role on SurfGuard so the permissions are automatically granted to those 4 positions. If not, please send us and LIMSOC email and I will look into it personally for you.

Mark Scott: Admin was down all weekend during our equipment check. It is now working. GEMS was working.

Hugh will pass that on.

Question: Where is LIMSOC located?

Grace Lightfoot: Link will be sent to members on Monday.

Question: Has there been an update to the type of tourniquets needed to be included in the First Aid kits? As a new piece of equipment should we give more instructions/training?

David Rylance: Does not have to be used this coming season and in conjunction with medical advisory panel and training the appropriate training will be developed.

Question: All training conducted at clubs should be logged on through LIMSOC.

Hugh Day: Yes.

Question: Cup day beaches was packed with no masks or social distancing?

Kane Treloar: That feedback is important to let us and government know what is going on and the reason why the increased escalation of enforcing rules is expected for this season. Please notify Comms know if there are any ongoing issues but we do know that Vic pol are stretched at the moment to attend to demonstrations and other COVID enforcing patrols. Our role is to provide the safe space around the water and aim to focus on this.

Question: Observational patrols in the bay, any changes?

Kane Treloar: Observational patrols as per normal patrol agreement and less numbers than a full patrol. We recommend a full patrol and full service, circumstance dependent, especially warm days as Cup day.

Simon Wilson: August AGM. Directors are term dependent. David Rylance will finish his term and we would like to thank him for all his years of service. He has been a dedicated and motivated member. He has been a dedicated training assessor, president and chief instructor at Elwood LSC and chief pilot of the RPAS (Drone program) and involved in the development of that drone program. Thank you for all your involvement and value you have added to the service.



David Rylance: I enjoy what I do and the training, that's why I do it. I am a believer in that if you think things need to change be that person to make the change. Thank you to the team in training, operations and across LSV for your support.

Kane Treloar: Thank you for all your hard work and standing ovation for your work. Thank you to your wife to make a special presentation. Katrina and I have lots of work for you.

Simon Wilson: We hope that we will be able to see you in person in February and aim to look at supporting connection and solid feedback session in February, rules pending. Our great challenge now is to get ready for the upcoming season and best of luck with it. Good night.

Meeting Close at 8.03pm.

CONFIRMED

