

Recreational Safety and Search and Rescue Review SEARCH AND RESCUE SCOPE EXPLAINER

1. The role of Search and Rescue (SAR) is to locate and recover people in distress, potential distress or missing and deliver them to a place of safety.
2. Typically, people requiring SAR services are recreating (tramping, mountaineering, boating, flying etc). The SAR sector also searches for people lost in urban and other areas due to cognitive impairments (dementia, autism etc). It also captures nationally significant SAR events including the Wahine disaster, sinking of the Mikhail Lermontov and the Costa Concordia, and the prolonged search for Malaysian Airlines flight MH370.
3. The New Zealand Government has obligations to establish and provide SAR services under international conventions to which it is a signatory. Through several international agreements¹ and New Zealand statutes², New Zealand has SAR responsibilities for a vast area of the world, approximately 30 million km². The New Zealand Search and Rescue Region (NZSRR) is attached at Appendix 1.
4. The Minister of Transport, through the Civil Aviation Act 1990 and Maritime Transport Act 1994, has responsibilities for the coordination of SAR activities within the NZSRR. Additionally, the Ministers of Police, Conservation, Internal Affairs and Defence have SAR interests and responsibilities.
5. Maritime New Zealand's Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) coordinates around one-third of SAR operations, and the New Zealand Police coordinate the remaining two-thirds. RCCNZ coordinate search and rescue operations at a national level, including, operations associated with missing aircraft or aircraft in distress, and offshore marine operations within the NZSRR. Police coordinate search and rescue operations at the local level, including land operations, subterranean operations, river, lake and inland waterway operations, and close-to-shore marine operations. They are supported by an amalgam of government, non-government and commercial entities involving over 11,000 people, of which 91 percent are volunteers.
6. The SAR system is governed by the New Zealand Search and Rescue Council (NZSAR Council), established through a Cabinet Minute³ and drawn from the Chief Executives (or delegated senior executives) of the Ministry of Transport, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Department of Conservation, Maritime New Zealand, the Civil Aviation Authority, Fire and Emergency NZ, and an independent member.

¹ The Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) – Annex 12 – 'SAR Standards and Procedures'; the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) (1974 – amended 2000) Chapter V – 'Search and Rescue'; the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (1979) – 'Provision of regional SAR services and RCC'; and the Law of the Sea Convention – Article 98 – 'Duty to render assistance'.

² New Zealand statutes that relate to the provision of SAR services include the: Civil Aviation Act 1990, S 14, S 28(1), S 72B (2A); the Maritime Transport Act 1994 S 431(3); the Land Transport Management Act 2003 S (9)1; and the Policing Act 2008 S 9(h).

³ 2020-09-09-CO14a-CBC_Min_03_2_14_establishing_NZSAR_Council-v2.pdf.

7. The NZSAR Council is supported by a Secretariat and advised by sector representation via the NZSAR Consultative Committee. The SAR sector and the governance structure are illustrated at Appendix 2.

8. Fire and Emergency New Zealand is responsible for urban search and rescue (USAR), a specialised form of SAR involving collapsed structures, which sits adjacent to the NZSAR sector. Both NZSAR and USAR are nested within New Zealand's wider emergency management framework.

The New Zealand Search and Rescue Region

Appendix 1



SAR Sector and SAR Governance

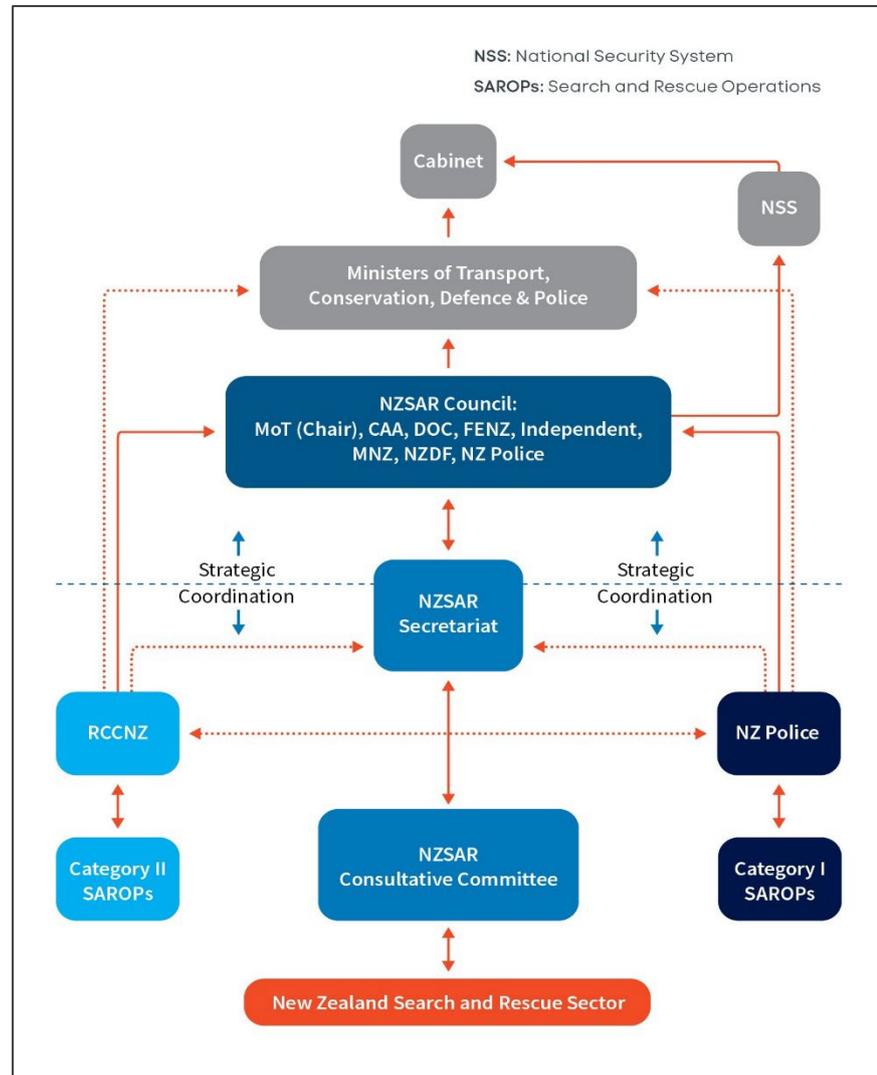
Appendix 2

NZSAR Council

The Council's role is to provide national strategic governance and leadership to New Zealand's SAR sector. In keeping with the Council's high-level strategic function, its membership is drawn from the chief executives (or delegated to a senior executive) of the Ministry of Transport, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Department of Conservation, Maritime New Zealand, the Civil Aviation Authority, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, and an Independent Member.

NZSAR Secretariat

Provides the NZSAR Council with information, support services and advice. It also provides sector leadership and implements measures to effect strong strategic coordination of New Zealand's SAR sector.



NZSAR Consultative Committee

Provides a national forum for all New Zealand SAR stakeholders, including voluntary groups. Consultative Committee members include:

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, Ambulance New Zealand, Antarctica New Zealand, Aviation New Zealand, Civil Aviation Authority, Coastguard New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Land Safety Forum, Land Search and Rescue New Zealand, Maritime New Zealand, Maritime Operations Centre, Ministry of Transport, National Ambulance Sector Office, New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, Police, NZSAR Secretariat (Chair), Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, Surf Life Saving New Zealand, and Water Safety New Zealand.