



Memorandum

To: SLSNSW Branches and Clubs
From: Brent Manieri – General Manager, Public Safety & Emergency Management
Date: 21/12/2023
Pages: 2
Subject: NSW Rural Fire Service and Surf Life Saving NSW Coastal Helicopter Trial Expression of Interest

Background

In early 2023 the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) and Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) undertook a controlled trial of coastal surveillance flights utilising an NSW RFS helicopter along the North Coast. These flights covered the coastline from Red Rock to South West Rocks and provided an additional layer of surveillance on weekends and public holidays to support volunteer and lifeguard patrols along this busy stretch of coastline.

SLSNSW members on these flights provided their expertise in coastal surveillance whilst also collecting statistics of beach population numbers and other incident data during the flights. The success of the trial will see the program implemented once again for the 2023/24 season. The program will run for approximately 18-20 days across a 6-7 week period in late February and March 2024.

Expression of Interest Selection Criteria

SLSNSW are now seeking expressions of interest from those members who would like to be considered to participate in the helicopter coastal surveillance program on the North Coast at Coffs Harbour.

Members must be current financial members and must hold and be proficient in the following awards as a minimum:

- Bronze Medallion
- Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue
- Provide First Aid
- Advanced Resuscitation Techniques

Members selected will also need to be able to attend training with the NSWRFS in late January/early February 2024 to undertake two short training courses. These courses are Work Safely Around Aircraft and Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET).

The program will run from Coffs Harbour and whilst the EOI is open to all SLSNSW members those members selected will be required to transport themselves to and from Coffs Harbour to undertake their designated shifts at their own cost. SLSNSW will not be covering any travel expenditure during the trial period.



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Members are strongly reminded that their club patrol obligations must be met before being able to undertake any coastal surveillance flights. All hours undertaken during the program will be recorded as patrol hours however for each member.

Any member wishing to be considered for this opportunity are required to complete the EOI form located here: [Coastal Surveillance Flight EOI](#) Expressions of interest will close on 15th January 2024.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team via email lifesaving@surflifeaving.com.au or phone on 9471 8000.