

EMERGENCY SERVICES REFORM AMENDMENT BILL 2023; STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE BILL 2023; MARINE RESCUE QUEENSLAND BILL 2023

Submission No: 9
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Submitter Comments:

Para 7 (1) Functions and Powers: A major part of MRQ will be radio services, including logging of vessels, emergency listening watch, regular weather broadcasts, receiving calls for assistance etc. There is no mention of radio services in the functions or anywhere in the bill. An appropriate para could be: (c) to provide marine radio services to persons or vessels in the community. Para 16 - Suspension of MRQ volunteer: The bill is very one sided and provides no reference to how a MRQ volunteer defends themselves or what process would be followed that would provide a fair and reasonable outcome for the MRQ volunteer. Para 18 (4) - MRQ Unit boundaries: in the marine environment, hard line boundaries are not realistic. Current VMR and Coastguard boundaries for units overlap and this is a better solution. Boundaries should be nominal. As an example, vessels from both Hervey Bay and Bundaberg go to the Sandy Cape (K'gari/Fraser Island) area. The distance from each location (Hervey Bay and Bundaberg) is very similar, so it should NOT be introduced that one of the squadrons is responsible for all assists at Sandy Cape and vessels assisted should be returned to one location. Para 22 (1) (a) - Functions of MRQ Coordinators: The way this paragraph reads MRQ Coordinators only coordinate the performance of MRQ functions in the areas of their group when resources are brought in externally. I would expect that the MRQ Coordinator would want to be coordinating the performance of MRQ functions in their areas 'at all times' ie when staffing does not include resources from outside the area. As I would expect this would be the norm?? Para 23 - Power of Entry: Why is there an emphasis on 'Place' which is defined as premises, vacant land, vehicle, a place in Qld waters, a place held under 2 titles etc? MRQ are a MARINE ie water-based organisation. No MRQ personnel should EVER be entering a Premise (building) on land, a vehicle on land or any other property on land. This paragraph looks like it has been taken directly from the Police Act or whatever and does NOT relate to what MRQ volunteers do? I understand that a vessel is a type of vehicle as defined in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, but why not just use the word 'Vessel' and delete all of the references to premises, buildings, vacant land, vehicles aircrafts, helicopters in this Power of Entry clause.