



Type:	SLSNR SLT Appointed Advisory Group
Title:	LIFESAVING ADVISORY GROUP (LAG)
Objective:	To provide regional leadership, expert guidance, and member representation for lifesaving and search and rescue in the Northern Region, ensuring that operational delivery, development priorities, and volunteer needs are aligned with SLSNZ's national policies, strategic objectives, and system-wide standards. The lag acts as the regional conduit between clubs, volunteers, SLSNZ staff, and national committees, supporting consistent, effective, and safe lifesaving services across the Region.
RESPONSIBLE TO:	SLSNR Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

1. COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & FORMATION

- 1.1. Appointments to the LAG will be made through an open Expression of Interest (EOI) process facilitated by SLSNR. Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising the NR Lifesaving Manager, two returning LAG members (normally inclusive of the Chair), and an independent panellist. The panel will recommend successful applicants to the NR Senior Leadership Team for appointment.
- 1.2. Members are appointed for a two-year term. To ensure continuity, the LAG may extend a member's term by up to one year to avoid excessive turnover in any given cycle. LAG members will retire and be appointed on 30 May of each year.
- 1.3. To ensure continuity of the committee's knowledge and experience, the appointment process should be structured to ensure no more than three members of the committee retire at any one time.
- 1.4. The Chair will be elected annually by the volunteer members of the LAG within 30 days of their first meeting.
 - 1.4.1. In the absence of the nominated member, members present at a LAG meeting will appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
- 1.5. A LAG member may be nominated by the LAG as a regional representative on SLSNZ's National Lifesaving Committee (NLC), noting that the appointment process is governed by the NLC Terms of Reference.
- 1.6. **Role of the Chair**
 - 1.6.1. Chair meetings and workshops in accordance with Standing Orders.
 - 1.6.2. Ensure the meeting is planned effectively and deals with matters in accordance with the terms of reference.
 - 1.6.3. Develop and implement an annual committee work programme.
 - 1.6.4. Be the spokesperson for the committee.
 - 1.6.5. Ensure matters on the agenda are dealt with in an orderly and efficient manner.
 - 1.6.6. Provide a written report on the previous years' regional lifesaving matters for publication in the SLSNR Annual Report.

2. COMPOSITION

- 2.1. The LAG will consist of at least five, and no more than ten appointed members.
 - 2.1.1. The LAG may co-opt independent members as needed to fulfill representation requirements under 4.1, or to fill skills gaps, representation gaps, or project-specific needs.
 - 2.1.2. Co-opted members will have full voting rights with appointed members



2.1.3. Co-opted members will serve an initial period not exceeding 12 months, after which they will be eligible for extension or re-appointment after a formal review of their performance.

2.1.4. The committee shall also include:

SLSNR Lifesaving Manager

2.2. QUORUM:

2.2.1. A quorum shall be 50% of all voting members. In instances where this is not a whole number, it is to be rounded up to the nearest whole number. No business may be transacted by the LAG if a quorum is not present.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

3.1. The committee is responsible for, and exists to provide expert guidance, strategic advice, strong advocacy, and informed recommendations to the Lifesaving Operations Team and Operations Manager. This support ensures the effective delivery, continual development, and ongoing improvement of Surf Life Saving Northern Region's Lifesaving and Search and Rescue services. In fulfilling this role, the committee advocates on behalf of clubs, lifeguards, and volunteers across all operational elements – including patrolling, Search and Rescue, powercraft operations, and any activity associated within the red-and-yellow environment.

3.2. The committee is responsible for advocating for the lifesaving and Search and Rescue priorities and needs of Northern Region to all relevant national committees and staff.

3.3. The committee will establish an annual work programme and outline key focus areas in line with its key responsibilities, which include:

3.3.1. Consultation with membership in the development of Lifesaving delivery and Search and Rescue development priorities

3.3.2. Monitoring the delivery of the annual plan priorities

3.3.3. Monitor and review all Lifesaving delivery and Search and Rescue operational policies and programmes and provide feedback on recommended changes, or recommend changes to policy to the relevant national committee or staff member.

3.3.4. The LAG will endorse or provide recommendations on all Lifesaving delivery and Search and Rescue operational reviews and decisions, making recommendations to the Lifesaving Operations Team and Operations Manager on any changes

3.3.5. Monitoring performance of Lifesaving delivery and Search and Rescue programmes and services within the relevant lifesaving work plans.

3.3.6. Alignment of regional Lifesaving delivery and Search and Rescue activities and programmes with the National programmes and policies.

3.4. NLC Representation

3.4.1. The LAG may provide a recommendation to SLSNZ on a suitable candidate for the SLSNZ National Lifesaving Committee (NLC) role; however, the LAG does not hold appointing authority for this position under the current NLC Terms of Reference.

3.4.2. Where a current LAG member is appointed to the NLC, their LAG term must be formally extended (where required) to align with the duration of their NLC appointment, ensuring continuity of representation and operational insight.

3.4.3. The LAG Chair is not automatically the regional representative to the NLC, unless separately appointed through the national process.



4. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION PROCESS:

- 4.1. Diversity of members is encouraged in order to include all perspectives and make informed decisions on behalf of the membership.
- 4.2. Where possible a balance of representation is sought from:
 - Geographic spread across the region.
 - Youth representation
 - Female representation
 - Collective member experience across all elements of Lifesaving delivery and Search and Rescue and development in SLSNR (namely)
 - Relevant surf lifesaving practical knowledge and experience
 - Health and safety standards relevant to a surf lifesaving environment
 - Civil Defence and emergency services with NZ
 - Critical incident management and support
 - Innovation and development

5. AUTHORITIES

- 5.1. The LAG has the authority to create working groups to assist with completion of their duties and responsibilities.
- 5.2. The LAG is authorised by SLSNR to carry out the core responsibilities and functions detailed above. It also has the authority to seek any information it requires from any officer or employee of SLSNR or its member clubs.
- 5.3. The committee will make recommendations to SLSNR via the Operations Manager on all strategic matters requiring a decision.
- 5.4. The committee does not have the power or authority to make a decision on behalf of SLSNR management or SLSNZ or SLSNR Board's, unless specifically delegated to do so.
- 5.5. The Chair of the LAG will be responsible for drawing to the Operations Manager and/or the Chair of the SLSNR Boards immediate attention any material matter.

6. MEETINGS

- 6.1. Generally, the LAG will meet monthly having regard to the organisation's operations, reporting and annual cycle.
- 6.2. The committee may have in attendance such members of SLSNR/SLSNZ management, SLSNR/SLSNZ officers and such other persons including the member club directors or officers, as it considers necessary to provide appropriate information and explanations.
- 6.3. Reasonable notice of meetings and the business to be conducted shall be given to the members of the committee.
- 6.4. Any member of the committee may request a meeting at any time if they consider it necessary.
- 6.5. The LAG may meet in person, by telephone or by video conference
- 6.6. From time to time as required the Chair of the LAG may present to SLSNR General Meetings or Delegate Meetings.



7. REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

7.1 The committee will undertake an annual self-review of its objectives and responsibilities.

8. REPORTING PROCEDURES

8.1. From time to time as required, the Chair of the LAG may present to SLSNR General Meetings and/or Delegate forums.

8.2. After each meeting the Chair will report the committee's business and recommendations to the SLSNR Delegate forum via the SLSNR Operations Manager.

8.3. The LAG will also maintain formal reporting pathways to the relevant SLSNZ national committees – including the National Lifesaving Committee (NLC), Search and Rescue Committee (SARC), and the National Powercraft Committee (NPC). Reporting may occur through formal written communication (such as letters or briefing papers) and/or through attendance of a LAG representative at national committee meetings.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.1. Members of the LAG shall declare any conflicts of interest and not participate in the consideration or voting of the particular matter of conflict. Notwithstanding this, members of the LAG shall comply with the LAG protocols in conducting the business and performing the duties of the LAG.

10. PROCEDURE:

10.1. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, the LAG will regulate its own procedure.