POLICY STATEMENT

DATE: 14th December 2002
SUBJECT: All Terrain Vehicle Operating Guidelines (Surf Rescue / Operations)
DEPARTMENT: Lifesaving

THE POLICY:

1. INTRODUCTION

All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) enable suitably qualified surf lifesavers to be more mobile and capable of quickly responding to emergencies both inside and outside of the patrol area.

2. DEFINITIONS

The procedures in this document govern the use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) for surf lifesaving purposes, including:

- 4WD Vehicles (cars and light utility vehicles)
- 2WD & 4WD Bikes
- All Terrain Vehicles (i.e. Gators)
- Other vehicles that may be used in a lifesaving support role, however, not including tractors or other vehicles used solely to take equipment on and off the beach.

3. DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS

Operators shall be 17 years of age and hold a current and proficient:

- Driver's License (Provisional or Open)
- Bronze Medallion

It is desirable for operators to hold:

- Senior First Aid Certificate
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate
- Four Wheel Drive Vehicle/ATV Operators Driving Course (appropriate to the vehicle being operated)

4. EQUIPMENT

The vehicle shall carry the following lifesaving equipment:

- First Aid Kit
- Oxygen Equipment

- Rescue Board
- Rescue Tube
- Communications / radio equipment applicable to the area of operations (handheld protected by a waterproof pouch or mounted to the vehicle)

Additional equipment that may be considered depending on vehicle and local requirements:

- Stretcher
- Flippers
- Defibrillator
- Blanket
- Loud Hailer / PA System
- Stinger Kit in high risk periods (Tropical beaches)

Any modifications including roll bars, carry racks and storage containers must adhere to manufacturers guidelines and carried out in consultation with the manufacturer or dealer.

5. SPEED, LIGHTS AND REVERSING BEEPER

A quad bike or ATV (Gator type) shall not exceed 20km/hr.

Four wheel drive vehicles (cars and light utility vehicles) may only exceed 20km/hr when not in heavily populated areas where speed limits are sign-posted.

The speed limit in heavily populated areas and between the red and yellow flags is 5km/hr. Headlights and Hazard Lights shall be “on” at all times whilst the vehicle is operating.

An amber flashing light shall be fitted to the vehicle and “on” whilst the vehicle is operating. An audible reversing beeper shall be fitted to 4WD vehicles (cars and light utilities) and is preferable on other ATVs (Quad Bikes, Gators).

6. COLOUR & SIGNAGE

Colour Scheme

The preferred colour scheme for a 4WD vehicle, is a white vehicle with red sign writing.

The preferred colour scheme for all other ATV’s shall be red or yellow (this may not be possible for some vehicle types).

Identification shall be placed on the vehicles in the form of the words “Surf Rescue” on the front, sides and rear of the vehicle. Writing should be red in colour (or yellow where an ATV is red in colour).

Signage

For any vehicle that comes with labels containing important safety information, the labels shall be considered as permanent parts of the vehicle. If a label comes off or is hard to read, contact your dealer for a replacement.

Sponsorship is an important fundraising activity for surf lifesaving, however, sponsorship signage should not interfere with the visibility of identification and safety information.

7. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance shall be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, although, more regular maintenance will be needed to combat the harsh conditions of operating in a beach environment. The condition of the equipment also reflects and affects the image of the association and the operators shall ensure the vehicle is in good condition at all times.

8. FUEL AND OIL

Fuel shall be used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and shall be stored in an appropriate container in a suitable location. Guidelines (Australian Standards, Local Authorities, etc) will need to be conformed to.

9. PUBLIC AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Passengers are not to be carried on the ATV unless permitted by the manufacturers specifications.

Never exceed the stated load limits for an ATV. Cargo should be properly distributed and securely attached. Reduce speed and follow instructions for carrying cargo or towing a trailer. Allow greater distances for braking. In populated areas, Surf Lifesaving personnel should act as a look out for all roving operations.

Always inspect the ATV each time before use to make sure it is in a safe operating condition. Always follow the inspection and maintenance procedures described in the ATV owner's manual.

10. ROADWAY AND BEACH USAGE

Legislative requirements and road rules must be complied with if the vehicle is driven on a roadway. Permits will also be required from the Police to operate on the road.

A permit will be required from the local authority to operate the vehicle on the beach.

11. ACCIDENT REPORTING

All accidents must be reported to the appropriate officer of the Surf Life Saving Club or Service (President, Club Captain, Transport Officer, Supervisor) immediately following the accident.

All information must be obtained at the scene of the accident if possible including the names and addresses of people involved, vehicle types and registration, photographs and/or diagrams of the incident.

Police must be notified in the event of a major accident (involving significant damage to the vehicle or property), multiple vehicle collision or the injury of a person.

Insurance guidelines which apply to the vehicles, property and/or persons should be complied with and the necessary claims lodged.

12. VEHICLE SPECIFICATIONS

The minimum engine size considered appropriate for lifesaving operations is 400 cc (cubic centimetres) for quad bike type ATVs. The ATV should also be able to operate in Four Wheel Drive (4WD) to allow greater traction in sand.