



**Tuesday 31 March 2020**

Dear Members,

The Surf Life Saving SA Board met last night and decided to bring forward the end of the volunteer patrol season by two weeks.

**The decisions of the Board last night were;**

- 1) Effective immediately all clubs and beach based patrols will cease operations.**
- 2) The Emergency Operations Group will continue to provide an extended presence, where it is safe to do so, and where they can operate with two or less people such as jet ski and drones.**
- 3) All of our Clubs and Emergency Operations Group will remain 24/7 rescue ready as always, to respond to emergencies if and when required.**

This decision to bring forward the end of the patrolling season by two weeks was not taken lightly. The Board and all of us have a responsibility to protect the safety and welfare of volunteer surf lifesavers from potential infection by the COVID-19 virus and also importantly, as a community focussed organisation to ensure we are in no way contributing to the spread of this pandemic

Allowing patrols to continue under the current circumstances would have been in conflict with our own mission which is to save lives and build sustainable and healthy communities. It is hoped this decision also discourages social gatherings on our beaches at a time when government is asking us to stay home. The Board also recognised and acknowledged the position many Clubs had already taken in limiting or ceasing patrols for the season.

We thank our selfless volunteer surf lifesavers for another extraordinary patrolling season which has seen in excess of 70,000 patrol hours performed across the state and another 142 people's lives saved.

We look forward to next season with great anticipation and raising those iconic red and yellow flags, until then please take care and look after one another.

Kind regards,

Damien Marangon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Surf Life Saving SA