

Service Information Sheet

GOWRS GOES LIVE INTRODUCING A NEW WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR MEMBERS, YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



An MoU signing between OSRL and the GOWRS Network at Interspill 2022 paved the way for the GOWRS Assessment Team Service to go live on a 'best endeavours' basis in July. This article provides an overview of what that means for our Members in practice.

What wildlife services are included in the OSRL Service Level Agreement (SLA)?

In total there are now **three** elements to the SLA Wildlife Services:

1. Continued guaranteed access to **Technical Advice from Sea Alarm** – 2 x Technical advisers with the option to mobilise 1 x on-site
2. Oiled Wildlife Assessment Service from **GOWRS** – a 4 person team delivered by a network of leading wildlife response organisations (currently available on a 'best endeavours' basis), and
3. Access to **Tier 3 wildlife response equipment** – standardised across our four surface operations bases.

Which wildlife services are included in the OSRL Service Level agreement (SLA)?

The GOWRS Oiled Wildlife Assessment Service is a ready to deploy 4-person team delivered by a network of 10 leading wildlife response organisations (see below for more details). The four-person team will initially deploy for four days to provide on-the-ground recommendations when Tier 1 or 2 capabilities have been exceeded. The team will also inform the client on potential providers of full-scale Tier 3 response operations, should they be required to provide additional support.

Achieving a live status for the GOWRS Service represents over a decade of hard work and dedication by many individuals and organisations, including OSRL, Sea Alarm and the GOWRS Partners, to create stronger ties between the global oiled wildlife response community and to develop a framework for Tier 3 response that could be integrated into industry response structures.

Which organisations are involved in delivering the GOWRS Assessment Team?

The Global Oiled Wildlife Response Service (GOWRS) is a collaboration of ten of the world's leading professional oiled wildlife response organisations unanimously committed to best possible outcomes for wildlife.

It currently consists of: Aiuká (Brazil), Focus Wildlife International (U.S.A.), International Bird Rescue (U.S.A.), Oiled Wildlife Care Network/UC Davis (OWCN) (U.S.A.), PRO BIRD (Germany), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), (U.K.), South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) (South Africa), Tri State Bird Rescue and Research (U.S.A.), WILDBASE/Massey University (New Zealand), and Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend (Belgium).

How do I mobilise the GOWRS Assessment Team and what's the cost?

The GOWRS Assessment Team is fully-integrated into OSRL notification and mobilisation procedures. As with Sea Alarm's Technical Advisory Service, Members can request and mobilise the GOWRS Assessment Team via the OSRL Duty Manager.

The cost to mobilise a four-person GOWRS Assessment Team of leading wildlife response experts for four-days is \$13,600 USD.

What will the GOWRS Partners be doing when not responding to incidents?

The Oiled Wildlife Assessment Service is funded through the OSRL annual membership fees. This annual funding enables year-round activities by the 10 partner organisations to develop and maintain a pool of qualified, response-ready personnel, including training, exercises, and maintenance of operational procedures.

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What is the difference between the existing Sea Alarm Technical Advisory Service and GOWRS?

The on-site Sea Alarm Technical Adviser acts as an adviser to the Environment Unit in the Planning Section. From this seat they would support the development of the wildlife section of the Incident Action Plan.

The GOWRS Assessment Team complements this role. The team would support wildlife response planning in a similar way to how a SCAT (Shoreline Clean-up and Assessment Technique) Team informs the planning for shoreline response operations. In doing so, they help ensure that our members can access the best professionals in the world and establish a wildlife response correctly from Day One of an incident response.



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GOWRS is currently available on an 'Best Endeavours' basis? What does this mean?

The network of 10 wildlife response organisations that are delivering the GOWRS Assessment Team are currently determining the best way to contract with OSRL and to interface with each of the partner organisations. The timeframe for establishing this new GOWRS contract is the end of 2022, hence the MOU with OSRL as an interim step to bring the service into an active status on a 'best endeavours' basis in the meantime. In practice, the network will do everything they can to mount an Assessment Team if requested. However, there may be some limitations in mobilisation based on the contracting status..

How do I find out more about the Wildlife SLA Services?

Please join our Member Q&A session on Thursday 8th September at 14:00 UTC to find out more about the Wildlife SLA Services and how they can support Member preparedness and response for wildlife emergencies.

[Click here to register](#)

A slide deck has also been created to summarise the 3 x elements of the Wildlife SLA Services (including GOWRS) and can be downloaded [here](#).

For any questions or further information please contact Paul Kelway on myosrl@oilspillresponse.com

