



Guidelines for MBW Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) can issue a distress alert via satellite in the event that an emergency occurs. They also provide a beacon for search aircraft.

They are recommended for extended, overnight and day activities in remote areas where there is no readily accessible mobile reception, noting that they:

- Can save lives, although they may not be completely reliable in all circumstances.
- Are a last resort in cases of grave and immediate risk to life – not a first resort.
- Are not a substitute for sound leadership and party strength.

Usage:

Personal Locator Beacons should only be used when there is a threat of grave and imminent danger to life.

- **In such an emergency, communication should first be attempted using mobile phones** (e.g. from a nearby high point), and other suitable communications means.
 - Activating a PLB will result in a Search & Rescue Activity involving many people and expensive resources e.g. helicopters, ambulances etc
 - Inappropriate or irresponsible use of a PLB may result in action by authorities
- **Ensure you are in a clear open area and as high as possible** to increase your visible area of sky for satellites.
 - Steep, narrow gorges or overhanging foliage can affect performance.
 - Follow the instructions provided with the PLB
- **Distress Beacons are a one-way device.**
 - The flashing red light when activated indicates the beacon is transmitting *but does not confirm your activation has been received.*
- **Distress Beacons are registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Council.**
 - If activated incorrectly or if the emergency is over then advise AMSR on **1800406329** or **+61293326323** as soon as possible
- **If the Clubs PLB is activated the Rescue Command Centre will try and contact Nigel Holmes (0428244267), Stuart Hanham (0457892111) or Mick Noonan (0429700686)**
 - It will assist with the response if you make sure that they are aware of your route and timetable particularly if it has changed from the Preview
- Similar guidelines should apply to personal or hired PLB's.
- **Do not test the PLB when you borrow it as frequent testing impacts battery life.**
 - The PLB's will be tested periodically.