



BORROWING A PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACON (PLB)

A PLB is a distress beacon that can be activated when life is endangered and you have no other means of communication. It uses GPS data and satellite communications to send SOS signals to emergency services. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) oversees PLB registration and responses.

When Should I Carry a PLB?

We recommend that you carry a PLB if you are **leading** a club activity in locations where other means of communication may not be available – eg away from inhabited areas, out of mobile range, in wilderness areas, areas with difficult terrain (ravines, canyons etc).

Availability

Our Club has two PLBs available for use by members on **club activities**. They may be borrowed by contacting the Equipment Officer and completing a PLB Activity Form. PLBs should be booked at least 2 weeks in advance.

PLB Activity Form

This form is available from the Equipment Officer and must be completed when the PLB is collected. It records information about the PLB borrowed and important details about the club activity including leader, dates, location & itinerary. The Equipment Officer must be notified of any changes to activity details as soon as possible, as this may affect emergency response.

Using a PLB correctly

You must ensure that you, and other members in your group, know how to use the PLB correctly.

Please download & read the PLB User Manual from the club website.

The PLB is only to be activated in an emergency, when other forms of communication are unavailable. Once activated, the PLB must remain active and with the distressed party. It is important that they do not move from that location for correct guidance of the emergency response.

If the PLB is activated accidentally, the most important thing is to switch off the beacon and notify the AMSA as soon as possible by calling **1800 641 792** to ensure a Search & Rescue operation is not commenced.

Booking & Returning PLBs

The club PLBs are borrowed regularly, so it is important that they are booked in advance and returned as soon as possible after the activity. The Equipment Officer's contact details can be found on the last page of each quarterly activity program.