

4<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

The Independent Reviewed  
PAMA and PBLIS Independent Review  
Transport for NSW  
231 Elizabeth Street,  
Sydney NSW 2000

Attention: Mr Ed Willett – by email [freight@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:freight@transport.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Willett,

Thank you for taking the time to conduct virtual PAMA Act and PBLIS Maritime Consultation Sessions. I attended the session held on 14 February, 2022. It was a very informative session where all attendees shared their opinions on the PAMA and the PBLIS. At the conclusion of the session all attendees were encouraged to make formal submissions on the review.

As I am a current member of the Maritime Advisory Council, I fully support the submission made on behalf of the Maritime Advisory Council by Mr Darren Vaux. My formal submission refers mostly to Question 2.

#### **Maritime Advisory Council & Waterways Fund**

**Question 2:** *Do you have any feedback on the provisions of the Act in relation to the **Maritime Advisory Council** or the **Waterways Fund**?*

#### **Maritime Advisory Council**

I believe that the Maritime Advisory Council (MAC) has been a vital communication conduit between the boating public, the maritime industry and maritime governing bodies.

The members of MAC are committed to ensuring the safe and equitable use of all NSW waterways natural, man-made and commercial.

The members of MAC have experienced in many maritime areas ranging from:

- Non-powered vessels to powered vessels from paddle craft to the largest and most innovative power vessels
- Recreational and Commercial users, waterways residents
- The reach of groups with whom the MAC members interact ranges from next door neighbours new to boating to experienced waterway users who have noticed local changes to waterways throughout NSW including maritime realty, accessibility to waterways and suggestions for better education / communication with waterways users.
- The members of MAC have links with many maritime organisations throughout the world resulting in broad knowledge of latest trends in marine activities and shared global goals of ensuring that all maritime activities operate in a shared, safe and sustainable environment.

Janice Thurgar



- The members of MAC respect the terms and conditions of each individual's appointment to the council and whenever an agenda item or out of meeting issue is raised within MAC any member with a Conflict of Interest immediately advises the MAC of his/her individual Conflict of Interest.

A small sample of variety of matters raised by MAC with the Minister include:

- a multitude of innovations and improvements to maritime safety
- the importance of being pro-active about new ways of managing shared boat ownership
- long term stay accommodation on boats
- Marine Air BnB
- increased boat ownership and boating license holders
- the need to provide important maritime safety information in ways that can reach the very diverse maritime users via the vast range of communication tools used by the community.
- role diversity of Boating Service Officer duties
- improved focus of education rather than penalties by Boating Service Officers
- the effective introduction of Boating Education Officers in all regions of NSW

#### **Marine Rescue**

The MAC was instrumental in the amalgamation of the marine volunteer safety groups to form one united group - Marine Rescue.

The MAC recognised that the amalgamated group would require equipment upgrades, and funds for maintenance, education and general running costs. To cover this cost of the equipment and training required by Marine Rescue the Maritime Advisory Council recommended that a Marine Rescue levy be implemented by the government. The suggestion was implemented resulting in well-equipped, better trained volunteers providing essential help to waterways users in need throughout NSW. The boating public embraced the levy as funds committed for use in a vital area relevant to the safety of the maritime community.

#### **Recommendation:**

**It is imperative that regular funding reports are shared with the Maritime Advisory Council regarding the balance and usage of the Marine Safety funds.**

#### **Boating Now program**

MAC recommendations resulted in improvements made to the Boating Now program regarding grant applications and accountability resulting in:

- Safer waterways throughout NSW
- Increased grants awarded throughout NSW.
- Better accountability of use of the grant funds.
- Excellent new ramp guidelines created through consultation with MAC and interested parties.

#### **Future Directions:**

- Maintain the Maritime Advisory Council
- Amend the functions of the MAC to reflect areas that they have assisted the Minister with including with maritime safety, property, infrastructure and maritime research.
- Increase the number of MAC meetings or create sub-committees to carefully assist in the education of new waterway users and to improve communication with the growing number of people returning to our vast waterways as we learn to live with Covid.



- In our Maritime Boating media campaigns ensure that the excellent maritime apps are advertised in a way that engages the age groups of all maritime users
- Ensure that implemented innovations are monitored and reviewed with stakeholder engagement throughout NSW

### ***the Waterways Fund***

The Waterways Fund is a unique fund that must continue.

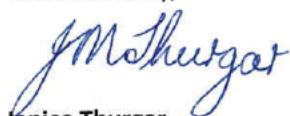
It is fit-for-purpose and has been responsibly used since its inception in the maritime realm. It must not be absorbed into general government funds.

### **Future Directions:**

- The Waterways Fund is a unique fund that must continue. It is essential that the funds remain as an hypothecated fund.
- Members of the boating community who are aware of the Waterways Fund appreciate the importance of the hypothecated structure of the fund which protects the fund from being absorbed in general Treasury funds
- The MAC should receive regular reports on the Waterways Fund should be made to All government members and transport committees must be made aware of the conditions of the hypothecated fund.
- It should be part of an induction program for government members.
- The members of the community should receive an annual report about the use of the funds
- All members of the government must be
  1. made aware of the guidelines for an hypothecated fund
  2. honour the guidelines
  3. leave the operation of the fund as a maritime only fund.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my thoughts to the review team.

Yours Sincerely,



**Janice Thurgar**  
**Maritime Advisory Council Member**

