

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 10 May 2016, 1700 hours
Venue:	Meeting Room 1A & 1B, NSW Maritime, 33 James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Michael Drake (MD), Principal Manager Port and Maritime Policy, Transport for NSW
Admin:	Lucas Taylor (LT), Senior Project Officer, Port and Maritime Policy

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Michael Jarvin (MJ)	Boating Industry Association
Jeff Richards (JR)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
David Lyall (DL)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Andrew Mathers (AM)	Paddle NSW
Alexander Barrell (ABL)	Roads and Maritime Services
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Alan Barrett (AB)	Boating Industry Association
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Angus Mitchell (AML)	Roads and Maritime Services
Apologies:	
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW
Chris Gillett (CG)	Marine Rescue NSW
David Edwards (DE)	Yachting NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 9 August 2016
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1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 MD welcomed attendees to the meeting, members introduce themselves and apologies were noted from Tony Andrew, Philip Dulhunty, Andy Kent, Chris Gillet and David Edwards.
- 1.2 AML introduced himself and thanked the group for their continuing work. AML discussed the latest RMS delivery plan and invited the group to review Maritime Divisions deliverables.

- 1.3 AML invited questions from the group. Marine Rescue funding was raised and a request for the RVAG to comment on any future agreement was put forward.
- 1.4 JR requested the audit report into Marine Rescue be circulated to the group.
- 1.5 DL commented that the red tape for marine planning in Sydney Harbour was excessive and should be changed. AM acknowledged and detailed the work between Department of Planning and RMS, particularly around the SHREP.
- 1.6 DL congratulated AM on the work Maritime Division is doing.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
1. Circulate Marine Rescue audit report once ready for publishing.	DH	ASAP

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 **Action 1** review: This item was deferred until Action 4.
- 2.2 **Action 2** review: DH updated on the action item. MD provided an update on the new regulations. MP suggested the introduction to new laws would require a planned approach strategy including a longer grace period and strong communications program. DH enquired after what was considered suitable minimum grace period. MP suggests 12 months plus, JR added that 1 month at least in the summer period. DL suggested two months into summer as a minimum.
- 2.3 In regards to the lifejacket wear changes for paddlers, GD suggested that the occasional paddler would be the one penalised. GB suggested engaging retailers early would assist connecting with the occasional paddler. AM suggested getting the message to paddlers as soon as possible. Discussion continued around the interpretation of paddlers and the new legislation.
- 2.4 **Action 3** review: DH referred to tabled documents and the work Crownlands was doing around sustainable dredging. The group had a discussion around the dredging strategy, including how to engage Crownlands.
- 2.5 **Action 4** review: DH updated on the Terrigal Haven Boat Ramp. MP said there should be an opportunity to comment on the design of the Boat Ramp as other Lake Macquarie boat ramps have not been up to standard.
- 2.6 **Action 5** review: MD briefed on the continuing work around revitalising lifejacket safety messages.
- 2.7 **Action 6** review: MD noted that the majority of the group were in favour of a new three month schedule for holding RVAG meetings.
- 2.8 DH said he would seek further advice from Tony Johansson and maybe request someone attend the next RVAG and present on this and other Boating Now matters.
- 2.9 It was moved by MD and seconded by DL, that the minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2016 were a true and accurate record.

3 Reports

- 3.1 Boating Incident Report:
 - MD stated that the demographic of fatalities is shifting towards older people and an increase had been seen involving yachts. MD stated that connecting with older boaters is a priority.
 - MD mentioned that one fatality was recorded at an incident at La Perouse and the victim was not wearing a lifejacket. Six lifejackets were recovered from vessel.

- DH commented on a Lake Illawarra incident in which a paddler was seen at 2:30am and by 6:30am the kayak was located with no person on board.
- JR, referring to the description of an incident in the Boating incidents report for April, questioned whether a prosecution would follow an incident in which a vessel was travelling at 30 knots.
- MP questioned why lifejacket wear was not recorded during all incidents. MD commented that in fatality incidents that data is collected while other self-reported incidents or when a BSO is not in attendance lifejacket data is not always reported.
- DH added that lifejacket wear was improving as shown through BSO collected stats.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- MD said registrations and license are growing slightly and PWC registrations have continued to increase at a greater rate.
- MD stated there are over 500,000 licence holders in NSW and that anecdotal evidence showed an increase in paddlers and yachts.

4 New Marine Safety (General) Regulation – TfNSW update

- 4.1 MD said the new Regulation is proposed to commence on 1 July 2016 but until then the new law applies and nothing has changed. He also said all new laws will be publically gazetted and that a full brief would be provided at the next RVAG.
- 4.2 MD discussed the Marine Legislation Amendment Bill and the outlined some of the prominent features including drug testing and increased measure targeting consistent and high end PWC offenses.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
2. Circulate Legislation brief and information pack	Chair	ASAP

- 4.3 A discussion was held regarding PWC in the new legislation. PH commented that the first prompt on the RMS hotline is to report a PWC incident.
- 4.4 MD added that there is an expectation that something is done to address anti-social PWC behaviour to minimise the likelihood of harsher measures are forced upon users as a result of media and community pressure. MJ suggested that seizing the PWC of some poor users was a good thing for the larger PWC community.
- 4.5 PH detailed how he went on patrol in Botany Bay with a SBSO and witnessed both boaters and PWCs behaving badly. MD acknowledged this and the issue of poor behaviour around Botany Bay and Georges River.
- 4.6 PH suggested educating PWC riders about speed at the point of sale, CD suggested it would be better during the initial training course. MJ suggested making gaining a PWC licence more stringent in terms of training. MD discussed the possibility of giving prospective PWC licence holders practical training. DH suggested there was no correlating pattern between offenders and licence providers.
- 4.7 MD reiterated that it wasn't the general rider who would be greatly affected by these changes but rather those who harass, intimidate and demonstrate anti-social behaviour.
- 4.8 MJ asked about the use of camera technology. MD discussed the idea of cameras in compliance management.
- 4.9 MJ suggested using Boating Now fund for cameras. MP asked if speed cameras were able to be used. MD described how currently marine based automatic speed detection technology is not yet available to NSW.
- 4.10 PH asked if PWC fees would be reduced. MD suggested the Government was not in favour, that instead those funds would be used for compliance management.

5 Lifejacket Wear Initiative – TfNSW update

- 5.1 MD advised that lifejacket wear would be increasingly targeted at older boaters.
- 5.2 An update was provided on the Lifejacket van. The program will finish by the end of May. The model may change in the future to refresh and reach a different audience. An incentive may also be introduced to increase the care and service message.
- 5.3 MP raised concerns about service and the need for qualified people to recertify lifejackets. MD added that work was being done to strengthen messaging and awareness programs aimed at the public to promote appropriate care and service of inflatable lifejackets.
- 5.4 MD invited suggestions on tweaking program.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
3. Submit suggestions on potential lifejacket program ideas to DH.	DH	next RVAG

6 Summer Compliance Campaigns – RMS update

- 6.1 ABL explained six state-wide compliance campaigns had been completed out of a total of seven planned for this year.
- 6.2 ABL discussed the campaign format. An educative phase was followed by an intensive compliance phase. New model well received. Media has been engaged and responsive especially in rural areas and good results are being seen.
- 6.3 ABL mentioned that following the Minister's announcement for stronger action a PWC compliance campaign on the Georges River was held for 3 months and resulted in 1600 checks on PWC and 123 on water patrols.
- 6.4 MC enquired if the campaign changed behaviour. ABL suggested incidents were down. DH added changes in behaviour had been noticed by local stakeholders. Additionally 120 calls were taken regarding PWC behaviour. 70 in the Sydney region.
- 6.5 DH advised joint agency campaign work was ongoing. ABL added that the joint patrol model had changed due to emerging security threat.
- 6.6 MJ suggested the summer campaigns should be declared a success. MP seconded it.

7 RBAG Groups

- 7.1 DH outlined the intention of the Regional Boating Advisory Group initiative and discussed the terms of reference.
- 7.2 MJ added that appointed members to RBAGs should also be invited to RVAG as observers and vice versa. DH agreed that as long as the chair of the groups allowed the visit there was no issue.
- 7.3 Discussion was held about the current users groups, their structure, composition and numbers. ABL suggested his representatives may choose to allow the users groups to organise themselves and report in the RBAG. JR requested minutes be mandated for the RBAG. This was agreed.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
4. Ensure RBAG ToR express that minutes are mandated	DH	ASAP

for all meetings and submitted for collation and reporting at RVAG		
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- 7.4 MC suggested maintaining the current groups and implementing RBAGs could be confusing. Discussion was held over the treatment of productive and non-productive user groups and how to prevent uninvited members from attempting to gain entry onto RBAG.
- 7.5 DH asked the group to note the TOR and action recommendations. Members endorsed the actions in the ToR as discussed in the meeting.

8 Recreational Vessel Cleaning

- 8.1 DH introduced the recreational vessel cleaning paper and asked group to note. AB provided more detail and noted the need for RMS and EPA coordination. MP commented on the need to increase measures to prevent pollution so as to protect fish stocks. MP added that he would like to comment substantially on the paper.
- 8.2 DH asks the group to note the recommendations for the recreational vessel cleaning.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
5. Note the recreational vessel cleaning factsheet and provide comment	DH	Before next RVAG meeting

9 Flares

- 9.1 DH updated on the Flare collection program. Tabled a document outlining the location and numbers of flares collected.
- 9.2 DL complimented the program. MP complimented the flare collection media on Facebook and added that forewarning will increase the uptake.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
6. Flare stats circulated to group. Forward flare collection will be sent to Marine Rescue for distribution to their network. Submit suggestions on how to improve the program.	DH	ASAP

10 Boating now

- 10.1 DH referred to tabled document and provided an update.

11 General Business

- 11.1 GB asked after new technology on flares. MD commented that new technology was emerging but authorities were yet to endorse these as replacements for traditional flares.

Trailer Boat Parking

- 11.2 Boat trailer parking was discussed. JR added that the legislation is unclear and potentially unmanageable. Getting information from councils is difficult. Concerns were raised that Councils not involved in the trial can implement legislation before the end of the trial.
- 11.3 MP suggested RVAG endorse motion to postpone start date of legislation and defer expansion to other councils. It was also suggested the trial period needed to be longer

than 3 months to assess all the factors around practical implementation. AB added that trial councils intend to declare their entire LGA's trailer free zones. It was speculated this would concentrate the issue in other LGA;s which will force those Councils to declare their areas resulting in a trailer boat ban in all Sydney and Wollongong LGAs.

- 11.4 General discussion was held regarding trailer parking. RVAG agreed on the need to work with OLG to establish guidelines to assess the trial.
- 11.5 MD explained that the legislation has been supported and the ability to influence is limited. AB suggests that 200,000 boats are likely to be impacted.
- 11.6 Motion needs to go to Minister and a practical discussion needs to be had. Motion will be raised with the Minister.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
7. RVAG endorsed a motion to be raised with the Minister which would support postponing the start date of the legislation and defer expansion by other Councils until the completion and analysis of a three month or ideally longer trial.	All	ASAP

Rhodes Wharf

- 11.7 MC reports that the Rhodes Wharf has been postponed for three years.

Recovery Prohibited

- 11.8 GB described how \$25,000 worth of equipment was lost from a capsized vessel after police stopped an accompanying boat from assisting in the recovering on the equipment. Suggest bringing this matter up with police.

Summary of Actions

#	Action Items	Person	Due
1.	Circulate Marine Rescue audit report once ready for publishing.	DH	ASAP
2.	Circulate Legislation brief and information pack when ready	Chair	ASAP
3.	Submit suggestions on potential lifejacket program ideas to DH.	All to DH	Next RVAG
4.	Ensure RBAG ToR states that minutes are mandated for all meetings and submitted for collation and reporting at RVAG	DH	ASAP
5.	Note the recreational vessel cleaning factsheet and provide comment	All to DH	Before next RVAG
6.	Flare stats circulated to group. Forward flare collection will be sent to Marine Rescue for distribution to their network. Submit suggestions on how to improve the program.	All to DH	ASAP
7.	RVAG endorsed a motion to be raised with the Minister which would support postponing the start date of the legislation and defer expansion by other Councils until the completion and analysis of a three month or ideally longer trial.	All	ASAP