

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 14 February 2017, 1700 hours
Venue:	Meeting Room 1A & 1B, NSW Maritime, 33 James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Lucas Taylor (LT), Centre for Maritime Safety
Admin:	David Chieza (DC), Centre for Maritime Safety

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Declan Brennan (DB)	Australian Sailing (formerly Yachting NSW)
Michael Jarvin (MJ)	Boating Industry Association
David Lyall (DL)	Marine Rescue NSW
Glenn Evans (GE)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Tony Hystek (TH)	Paddle NSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
Drew Jones (DJ)	Roads and Maritime Services
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Apologies:	
Jeff Richards (JR)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Sen Sgt Alexander Barrell (AB)	Marine Are Command (NSW Police)
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 9 May 2017
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1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 LT welcomed attendees to the meeting. Members reiterated the need to improve the gender balance of RVAG representation. DH said there is good gender balance within the Regional Boating Advisory Groups (RBAG).
- 1.2 LT briefed RVAG that The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP has been appointed the new Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. LT added that Minister Pavey is also the Member for Oxley and has a strong regional focus and both CMS and RMS looked forward to working with the new Minister and bringing her up to speed on the Maritime agenda.

- 1.3 Members introduced themselves and LT raised apologies from those who could not make the meeting, including the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) who were a last minute cancellation due to recent weather events. BoM would seek to present at the next meeting.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

Action 1: DH advised he had not received any feedback from members and PN said the issue is essentially around displaying more lifejacket wear reporting on the statistics. DH agreed and noted that after an incident and particularly a fatality, lifejacket wear was one of the first issues RMS tried to ascertain. LT agreed and said this was a focus for the Centre for Maritime Safety (CMS) reporting as well.

TH said it would be useful to also receive reports of rescues from Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW). He stated that he had found out through his own sources about a rescue of paddlers in Port Stephens recently and if MRNSW were able to provide a report on a regular basis this would help his organization concentrate their safety promotions more effectively on those hot spots.

GE said incidents that involve MRNSW are reported directly to the Maritime Advisory Committee (MAC). GE said they could incorporate a reporting system to allow sharing under certain circumstances on a case by case basis.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
1. Investigate the possibility of sharing 'rescue information' with relevant stakeholders like Paddle NSW to alert on potential hot spots.	DL, GE and LT	ASAP

Action 2: LT said there's some content planned for the Afloat magazine shortly and there would also be a larger campaign project relating to the Digital Licence.

MJ said the Digital Fishing License product is very cumbersome and not ideal and he hoped that the boating licence version would be vastly different and not go down the same path. MP noted that the electronic wallet isn't working well at all and very clunky in its current format.

Action 3: Completed.

Action 4: Completed.

Action 5: Completed. MJ asked what happens next and DH said Councils can bid for funding to do the maintenance work. MJ said he thought the proposal was for RMS to do the work but DH responded that we are expecting to have funding dedicated to infrastructure maintenance which we previously didn't have, however the facility owner (eg Council) would still need to do the work.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
2. RMS to present to RVAG on how the new 'infrastructure maintenance funding' regime will be implemented.	DH	9 May 2017

LT moved that the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 8 November 2016 be accepted, and this was seconded by MP.

3 Reports

- 3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- LT advised that the *Boating Incidents in NSW* 10year statistical report would be published soon and distributed to RVAG. He said the new format for this report will be to produce the 10yr report each year dropping off the oldest year.
- LT said there's work being conducted with CMS and RMS to update and streamline incidents reporting according to the National Guidelines.
- LT stated there were four provisional fatalities relating to medical issues which cannot be confirmed yet as boating fatalities. MP said the Rock Fishing Coroner's Report deems it a boating fatality if they were boating regardless how they died.
- LT mentioned that the Centre for Road Safety (CRS) report on two figures a Road Toll and a Provisional Road Toll and CMS is considering adopting a similar model.
- DH said there are essentially two purposes governing our incidents reporting, one is to measure the success of controls put in place and the other is to gather information on any lessons learned.
- LT added there could also be incentive for CMS to develop educational tools targeting the issue of non-boating fatalities attributed to medical conditions.
- MJ noted that any such educational program has to be very well thought through and not promote inhibiting factors to boating.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
3. Report back to RVAG on how the reporting of 'provisional boating fatalities' would work in the future.	DH and LT	9 May 2017

- LT tabled the Incidents Report and highlighted to members the major incidents in January including at Burwood Beach, Newcastle and items 10, 14, 15, 16 and 17 which were notable serious injuries.
- PH asked if there was any issue with RVAG members distributing incident data reports provided at RVAG to their wider networks. Both LT and DH indicated there was no immediate issue with this.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
4. Clarify if members can share with their wider networks the 'Boating Incidents Reports' currently provided at RVAG.	DH and LT	9 May 2017

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- LT tabled the licence and registration reports and advised that the graph movements look extreme however this was just due to a scaling issue and the differences are in fact modest and within the expected range.
- DB asked if any state-wide boat usage data was available yet and LT stated he would provide a paper out of session on how we're tracking so far with the boating observational study.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
5. Circulate information to RVAG on the status of the 'observational study'.	LT	ASAP

- LT added that it's important to note that PWC registrations continue to increase and this is a consistent trend.

3.3 Members Reports:

- GE advised that there were no issues to report except seeking more information on RMS Collection program.
- DL asked if RVAG would consider asking Councils for chemical clean up services to run alongside the Flare Collection program. DH said there was an effort to ask Fire and Rescue to be involved however they declined to participate for various reasons.
- PD tabled papers and briefed members on an incident he was involved in the past that involved a rescue by Water Police. TH asked about the incident in Perth and PD said Sea Pilots Association was very interested to know more details about the sea plane that came down in Perth and would pass on any further details to RVAG as they came available.
- GB stated he's still waiting for further details on trailer boat issues with Councils but it's been very safe with Diving activities.
- PH said he continues to spend a lot of time on the water giving out PWC educational materials. PH said the education material particularly PWC Safety Labels seem to have run out at stalls and in some instances he had to pay out of pocket to mail material out to riders.
- MJ said PH should be refunded for any personal expenditure incurred while he was conducting PWC safety educational work. LT agreed and DC said he will discuss this further with PH for an outcome.
- PH mentioned a number of concerns that he felt were disadvantaging PWC riders in particular the PWC Handbook which mentions speed in knots rather than kilometres as well as inconsistencies with label and legislation about wearing of inflatable lifejackets on PWCs. He also mentioned issues on the South Coast regarding section 50 of the Marine Safety Act concerning vessels exempt from registration.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
6. Review and correct the PWC Handbook and meet with PH to address any additional concerns regarding education and enforcement actions for PWC riders.	DH	ASAP

- PH showed a lifejacket that was deemed non-functional by a Boating Safety Officer (BSO) based on a small tear above the shoulder. MJ said he supports the BSO as the lifejacket had tears on it.
- GD said we conducted the Australian Junior Championships in January 2017 for the 10-16yrs age group and girls outnumbered the boys in all three classes, there were entries from four States. GB added that they are trying to encourage the juniors to be safe and competitions run the same rules for juniors as they do for seniors.
- GB noted that there will be a big race meeting in Mulwala next weekend and the weekend after St George Club will host another big event. GB said we work closely with the RMS High Speed Review committee with a view to exchange ideas and improve on safety.
- PN said he'd been away for a few months and that TH would be presenting on Paddle NSW activities.
- MC stated that Rowing had championships last week however the heat across much of Sydney made it difficult to run the full program.

- DB said about 330 boats involved in sail regattas and also noted that while the summer was packed with sailing events the incidents remained relatively low.
- DH advised that a review of the Aquatic License regime is continuing and that in the future there may be a change so that sailing events will no longer need an aquatic license but all the safety and risk management aspects would remain in place. DH said that however the larger events would still require a license.
- DH said this action is part of getting rid of red tape and GD asked if club events would still need to register with RMS and DH said that would continue to be the case.
- DH added that recruitment is underway for the role of Principal Manager Sydney Region and that DJ is currently acting in this position. He alerted members to a digital newsletter from RMS Maritime that would soon be published.
- MP said boat ramp upgrades need attention particularly more funding and service maintenance. He said a dredging update is also needed, and RMS need to consider how they are engaging and educating paddlers as he had observed many still not wearing lifejackets despite new laws.
- MP remarked that there's a new campaign being released by NSW Justice about Drowning Related Fatalities. He also noted with concern that at Swansea Chanel, Boxhead and Half-tied Rocks he had reports that boaters are being fined for exceeding 4knots when in fact the outgoing current exceeds 4knots.
- DH responded that when implementing speed restrictions there's a robust process followed which includes consulting with User Groups and other identified on-water users and agreement is reached amongst all stakeholders, DH said he's happy to discuss process offline with MP.
- LT encouraged representatives that if there's any pressing issues they wanted a response to, they should e-mail questions in advance and where possible he and DH would come with the answers and present to the group during the meeting.
- DB asked if Councils and RMS/TfNSW processes regarding Boat Trailer parking were now aligned. MJ added that RVAG should be provided an update on this process.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
7. Provide an update on TfNSW and Council positions on Boat Trailer Parking.	LT	ASAP

- PH asked whether any consideration had been made following a paper he produced supporting a PWC practical component for PWC licencing. DH said he wasn't aware of any action on this and requested PH forward him this paper.
- TH said have had some very hot days for paddle sport and last weekend there was a successful paddle event in Ulladulla. TH also said he played a major role in creating the Paddle Safe video produced by the Australia New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group (ANZSBEG) and that PaddleNSW is very proactive when it comes to safety.

4 Current lifejacket regulation relating to 'canoes' (PaddleNSW)

- 4.1 TH presented a paper to the group and stated that the primary goal is to amend the current lifejacket regulation to create a fairer, more appropriate regulation for PaddleNSW competitive paddlers.

- 4.2 TH showed the group a video of paddlers in competition on flat water and he said paddlers who train on flat water with clubs do so in a very secure environment with strong safety protocols in place.
- 4.3 TH requested that consideration be given to introducing some amendments to the current legislation for protected, non-alpine waters during daylight hours, and for paddlers over 12 years of age.
- 4.4 TH said we need a common sense approach, and the current lifejacket regulations do not take into account that there are many advocates for safety particularly from within the competition paddling community.
- 4.5 DH suggested that a meeting with TH and LT to go over all the issues highlighted would be a first step to coming to a positive resolution for all.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
8. TH, DH and LT to meet and discuss concerns raised by PaddleNSW regarding the lifejacket regulations introduced recently and their effect on paddlers .	TH, DH and LT	ASAP

- 4.6 DJ commented that as someone with a BSO background it is at times difficult to see what kind of paddle craft it is either training or in competition at a given time. TH remarked that inflatable lifejackets should not be recommended for paddlers especially as some paddlers anticipate going in the water at some time during a paddle and will not inflate them, rather there is a preference for visible foam lifejackets.
- 4.7 MP added the Rock Fishing safety group is working on Lifejackets Safety and Lifejackets Options for accessories which may be of interest to paddlers.

5 2017 NSW Maritime Medal

- 5.1 LT said nominations for the NSW Maritime Medal 2017 will open up soon and representatives are encouraged to seek nominations from their networks. He said the medal winners would be announced at this year's Sydney Boat Show.
- 5.2 MJ said we need more boating safety ambassadorships and asked why the medal still exists, and whether or not there was a need to continue, LT responded that the medal has great merit and support and is beneficial in raising awareness and the profile of individuals who work hard throughout the year promoting safety on our waterways.

6 PWC Compliance Cameras – RMS update

- 6.1 DH presented copies of an image taken by one of the PWC Compliance Cameras, and said there were some issues with camera at Georges River regarding accuracy and blurred pixels which were being investigated. DH reiterated that these were speed cameras but behaviour detection cameras and more work is being done. LT agreed and said that two PWCs had being seized so far under this program.

7 Lifejacket Wear Initiative – TfNSW update

Old4New Program:

- 7.1 LT said the Old4New Program is currently underway without any major issues and continues to focus more on lifejacket care and service, he also said the team receives a weekly report of the program's activities which DC will circulate.
- 7.2 GE commented that it would be interesting so the quantities being sold between inflatables vs auto-inflatable lifejacket.

Lifejacket service video (ET and Finn the fish):

- 7.3 LT briefed representatives that CMS worked with the TfNSW Campaigns team to produce a new lifejacket care and service video featuring E.T and Finn the 'talking fish'. The video uses humour and animation including E.T's TV personality appeal to reinforce the message of care and service for inflatable lifejackets.
- 7.4 DC said the video would be distributed via social media channels and is viewable at <https://www.facebook.com/nswmaritime/videos/10154872235640631/>.

8 Recreational Boating Problem Definitions and Strategy - review

- 8.1 LT provided a summary on work being done through CMS on the recreational boating problem definitions that will inform future boating strategy and campaigns.
- 8.2 LT said CMS has engaged a behavioural scientist to look at the boating safety issues in a broad context applying a similar model to one used in Road Safety 'safer systems' research.
- 8.3 LT stated the findings from this work would inform a Maritime Safety Plan produced by CMS that would provide an evidence based approach to future boating safety programs.

9 Summer Compliance Campaigns – update

RMS Flare Collection Service 2017 schedule – update:

- 9.1 DH distributed a Summer Compliance Campaigns summary report for members to note and mentioned a surprising low number in lifejacket wear.
- 9.2 DH said over 11,000 flares were collected and the program will incorporate more regional sites in the next season.

10 Boating Now - update

- 10.1 DH advised that a new and updated map based website was being created as a new 'Boat Ramp Locator Map'. DH said he would construct an updated 'Regional Boating Plan/Boating Now' briefing paper that would be circulated to RVAG shortly.
- 10.2 TH said that Paddle NSW have a great and similar product which is an App called the '[Waterways Guide](#)' which is now being adopted by WA and QLD. He stated it's managed by Paddle NSW and rolling out to other states and RVAG is encouraged to use and share the App.

11 RVAG Terms of Reference

- 11.1 LT extended the window for members to provide feedback and comments on the ToR for RVAG. MJ asked LT to circulate the BIA's feedback on ToRs to all RVAG representatives.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
9. Circulate to RVAG the BIA's feedback on the RVAG ToR.	LT	ASAP

12 General Business

Pittwater User Group Items – David Lyall:

DL said the User Group meeting was well attended and they were disappointed there was no feedback from the Regional Boating Advisory Group and issues raised were sent to the Regional Manager for Hawkesbury Region.

- 12.1 The meeting closed at 7:30pm.

Summary of Actions

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1.	Investigate the possibility of sharing 'rescue information' with relevant stakeholders like Paddle NSW to alert on potential hot spots.	DL, GE and LT	ASAP
2.	RMS to present to RVAG on how the new 'infrastructure maintenance funding' regime will be implemented.	DH	9 May 2017
3.	Report back to RVAG on how the reporting of 'provisional boating fatalities' would work in the future.	DH and LT	9 May 2017
4.	Clarify if members can share with their wider networks the 'Boating Incidents Reports' currently provided at RVAG.	DH and LT	9 May 2017
5.	Circulate information to RVAG on the status of the 'observational study'.	LT	ASAP
6.	Review and correct the PWC Handbook and meet with PH to address any additional concerns regarding education and enforcement actions for PWC riders.	DH	ASAP
7.	Provide an update on TfNSW and Council positions on Boat Trailer Parking.	LT	ASAP
8.	TH, DH and LT to meet and discuss concerns raised by Paddle NSW regarding the lifejacket regulations introduced recently and their effect on paddlers.	TH, DH and LT	ASAP
9.	Circulate to RVAG the BIA's feedback on the RVAG ToR.	LT	ASAP