

# MINUTES

<b>Meeting title</b>	<b>RVAG Meeting No. 85</b>		
<b>Date and time</b>	Tuesday 10 November 2020 – 5:00pm - 7:00pm		
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams		
<b>Chairperson</b>	David Hunter (DH) TfNSW (Maritime)		
<b>Attendees</b>	Chris De Jong Chris Carmichael Glenn Evans Mike Jarvin Neil Patchett Hendrik Clasie Dush Sharma Brianna Coyte Terry Barber Jon Horbury Tony Hystek Adam Smith Murray Clarke Malcolm Poole Rose Ussia	CDJ CC GE MJ NP HC DS BC TB JH TH AS MC MP RU	Boat Owner Assoc. TfNSW (Maritime) Marine Rescue NSW Advanced Marina Management BIA (representing Shane Wilson) TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (CMS) SLS NSW SLS NSW Ski Racing NSW Paddle NSW Australian Boating College (ABC) NSW Rowing Assoc. RFA NSW TfNSW (Maritime) Secretariat
<b>Apologies</b>	Adam Milgate Peter Harvey Phil Dulhunty Cliff Ellmers Chris Doolin Greg Blackburne Geoff Duval Shane Wilson Carl Webster	AM PH PD CE CD GB GD SW CW	TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (CMS) Seaplane Pilots Association AJSBA TfNSW (Maritime) Scuba Clubs Assoc. of NSW Aust. Power Boat Assoc. BIA Australian Sailing



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October long weekend was the busiest weekend for Marine Rescue on record.</li> <li>• New Deputy Commissioner was appointed and announced - Alex Barrell.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scuba Clubs NSW – Greg Blackburne: Apology</b></p> <p><b>SRF – Malcolm Poole:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swansea Bar Camera was meant to be operating by 13 November after the rebuild to the tower, still no access to the camera. {Camera now operational - Update was provided in all-member email dated 19 Nov}</li> <li>• Bar cams are reviewed every week, during radio broadcast.</li> <li>• Victoria is now installing cameras at boat ramps.</li> <li>• Suggested a boat camera is needed at Terrigal Haven off the Marine rescue base.</li> <li>• Boat ramps have become busier and other free traffic users are starting to use the boat ramps, particularly on weekends.</li> <li>• Seeing more conflict in the boat ramp areas, particularly adjacent to major roads, from overnight stayers, e.g., campers and grey nomads, boaters arrive in the morning the car park is already full.</li> <li>• Overnight stayers are abusing boaters on a regular basis. Mooney Mooney is an example.</li> <li>• Boating access in Sydney Harbour is reducing, this needs to be a future focus area.</li> <li>• Maritime Infrastructure Stimulus Package (MISP) – keen to see the details of projects. Discussed whether boater's money should be utilised to pay for dredging operations.</li> <li>• Need to formalise a process where MIDO is involved with RVAG/RBAG. DH advised Ex-Crown Land stakeholders are being invited to participate in RBAGs as members.</li> </ul> <p><b>SLS NSW – Brianna Coyte/ Terry Barber:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLS NSW Annual report/stats was tabled at the end of last week.</li> <li>• Annual statistics were tabled.</li> <li>• 398 rescues by PWCs, 400 rescues by IRBs.</li> <li>• Surf clubs responded to 600 after hour call outs.</li> <li>• Action: SLS NSW can develop one page report relating to boating issues.</li> <li>• Task this year is to look at public rescue equipment for beaches and rock shelves and fisheries.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/reports/annual-report-2020">https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/reports/annual-report-2020</a></li> </ul> <p><b>BIA – Neil Patchett</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIA had a restructure on 23 October and as a consequence of COVID-19, BIA lost 4 permanent staff out of 12, leaving only 9 staff, Bulk of the three out of the four were part of the Events Team.</li> <li>• There has been no major events in the boating sector or many sectors this year. Unfortunately there will be no future events any time soon.</li> <li>• Colleague working in the event team is currently developing a show readiness strategy plan, so when it's safe and appropriate to do so BIA will recommence events.</li> <li>• COVID-19 has had a major impact on BIA.</li> <li>• Board of Directors has stated the association will remain absolutely committed to corporate functions for recreational boating, working with Governments and career development for pathway industries across Australia.</li> <li>• End of Life Vessels paper - congratulate Transport putting together a good discussion paper, BIA have provided Transport with an ELV submission paper.</li> <li>• Pointed to Waterways Fund as a source of funding to develop programs, products</li> </ul>	<p></p> <p>GB</p> <p>MP</p> <p></p> <p>TB</p> <p></p> <p>NP</p>

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<p>and services to support the solutions to ELV. Particularly as Transport is a major builder of roads, bridges and huge public infrastructure the opportunity to incorporate recycled material in these projects is substantial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congratulate Transport on the participation in National Safe Boating week.</li> <li>• New website called “Discover Boating” which relates more to the boating life style.</li> <li>• BIA launched a new life jacket service portal to help inform people about the care, service and maintenance of their inflatable life jackets. URL is: <a href="http://lifejackets.org.au">lifejackets.org.au</a></li> <li>• Wash Campaign that Transport is working on is needed in the Murray River area, and is overdue. Should incorporate NSW, VIC and SA.</li> <li>• BIA raised concerns with ARBSC that Australian Builder Plate regime displayed low control and lack of national consistency</li> <li>• BIA provided input to Marine Estate Management Strategy, lack of balance at the triple bottom line – skewed too far toward environmental protection</li> <li>• Crown lands (Aug 2020) strategic review is supported, recognises socio/economic value of boating</li> <li>• Australian Standard for lifejackets is under review (across all jurisdictions)</li> </ul> <p><b>Ski Racing NSW – Jon Horbury:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult time for sports organisations due to COVID-19. Postpone season until July 2021. Reason due to Covid-19 and financial pressure.</li> <li>• Ski Racing Australia will try and commence the season earlier. A lot of preparation has been done in the last couple of weeks.</li> <li>• Ski Racing Australia is in a difficult position, reduced membership has led to loss of funding revenue.</li> <li>• Ski Racing has closed down many operations to reduce expenditure.</li> <li>• Discussion on economic benefit, particular regional. Ski Racing Australia contributes \$60m to the regional community, across South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.</li> <li>• Reaching out to Government bodies where appropriate to seek any assistance that’s possible.</li> <li>• \$10K grant received from Victoria.</li> <li>• Internal fund raiser commencing 16 November, asking clubs and their community, State bodies to assist in the fund raiser to keep Ski Racing Australia active.</li> <li>• Ski Racing NSW to contact Maritime to hold an event at the end of January.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sailing NSW – Carl Webster: Apology</b></p> <p><b>NSW Rowing – Murray Clarke:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an extraordinary period for NSW Rowing.</li> <li>• Clubs are operating with usual activities.</li> <li>• Regattas are proceeding, some spectators restrictions.</li> <li>• On the water the 1.5 metres social distancing requirement between occupants in row vessels is easily achieved</li> <li>• NSW Rowing is doing the best they can during this difficult time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advanced Marina Management – Mike Jarvin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No update.</li> </ul> <p><b>AJSBA – Cliff Ellmers – Apology</b></p>	<p>JH</p> <p>CW</p> <p>MC</p> <p>MJ</p> <p>CE</p>

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	<p><b>Paddle NSW – Tony Hystek</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paddle craft washed up on beaches. Vessel Identification was proposed and whether Maritime will be interested creating a passive recreational vessel identification system. System would assist in location of owners and help prevent sending out unnecessary search and rescue.</li> <li>• If Video surveillance at boat ramps was able to capture all water users, much better idea of the effect of unregistered recreational vessels using those facilities. We can then make a value judgement on what their contribution should be.</li> <li>• Paddle NSW had a couple of events, one in particular on the Hawkesbury River, the event was held at dusk so not to interfere with power boater activities. Maritime involvement was appreciated, especially one of the BSOs, in that event did a great deal of good for their reputation with the paddle boat community.</li> </ul>	TH
5.	<p><b>Other Business:</b> <b>EXAMINATION OF OYSTER LEASE HAZARDS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper submitted by Tony Hystek refers.</li> <li>• To follow up on a previous discussion regarding the dangers and unsightliness of unused Oyster lease. This item was raised several meetings ago, with a response proposed following investigations around the removal of old leases and consequent cleaning-up of unused sites.</li> <li>• These sites are the equivalent of condemned housing sites on land, and are dangerous because they are not maintained, nor well signposted</li> <li>• They detract from what are often pristine waterways that can be enjoyed by recreational boaters, especially passive watercraft.</li> <li>• Moonee Mooney Creek is a prime example, though there are many others. That investigations be resumed/concluded as soon as possible with a view to the removal/signposting/navigation channel improvement in the vicinity of leases.</li> <li>• The members thanked Tony Hystek for the paper and raising the matter.</li> <li>• The current sustainable Aquaculture Strategy on the fisheries website calls out requirements for marking. If there's some lease areas not complying, we should advise the specific location for Fisheries to review <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/marine-waters-strategy">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/marine-waters-strategy</a></li> <li>• DH advised DPI has reported an aquaculture audit had recently been completed; most unused leases are located in the Hawkesbury, Georges River and Port Stephens areas.</li> <li>• The Aquaculture Strategy is currently under DPI internal review. Options include releasing the infrastructure or remediating the site.</li> <li>• DPI and TfNSW will work together to remark the site and enhance navigation safety</li> </ul>	TH
6.	<p><b>Maritime Reports:</b> <b>Operations &amp; Compliances- Chris Doolin – Apology</b></p> <p><b>Industry and Environment - Hendrik Clasié:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APL England from a State prospective the response regarding termination plan has been finalised, it will include ongoing monitoring and a response capability from the ships and insurers. It will be in place for 12 months, possible extension.</li> <li>• AMSA heavily involved in terms of prosecution and orders for the shipping company to undertake a search for other containers that have not been recovered.</li> <li>• Commonwealths activities did direct the ship owners to undertake a container search, project has been completed. 1000 square kilometre search area.</li> <li>• Hendrik shared a map on TEAMS with the members.</li> <li>• Recent successful prosecution in the Land and Environment Court, Supreme Court jurisdiction, Disposal of waste offenses by a waterfront contractor in the Pittwater</li> </ul>	CD  HC

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<p>area (Scotland Island) in 2016. Matter came before the court and was recently finalised. Maritime is pleased after 4 years of investigation the defendant was brought to justice. Penalties amount to \$130,000 and costs for that matter were found in Maritimes favour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful activity in terms of keeping our environment clean.</li> <li>• Marine Pollution Act Amendment Bill; currently being read in Parliament, expected to pass through to the Lower House, subject to any further questions that may arise in the next few days. In the New Year the Bill should proceed to the Upper House.</li> <li>• CVAG is in a couple of weeks' time, have heard of the impacts on businesses, particularly on small businesses due to COVID-19, small businesses rely on the international tourism and they are trying to focus on the domestic tourism. Noting that in some cases the market isn't available.</li> <li>• Commonwealth Government mandatory rental relief scheme have been extended due to extension of COVID-19.</li> <li>• A facility for sewage pump out at Rozelle Bay, project proceeding and is still in early stages but it's to replace the facility prodominally used by commercial vessels at Blackwattle Bay, noting that Urban Growth or Infrastructure NSW have taken possession of the site and preparing for its development.</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Delivery &amp; Education – Chris Carmichael:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam covered off on the digitalisation on the boat licence knowledge test system. Service Delivery &amp; Education are very happy and is progressing nicely. Due for completion around March/April 2021. Great project Manager liaising with ATPs in regards to ironing out software and hardware issues.</li> <li>• Rewrite of the Boating Handbook the layout has been finalised. Contents has been approved and should be released early December.</li> <li>• Expired Marine Flares collection and disposal program; Marine Flares ~11,000 collected per annum. The success of the program is attributed to the collaboration between Maritime and the Contractor that provides the service. Maritime were able to renegotiate the contract and secure an extra collection date. First collection schedule is on Nov, following through to the one in January, and the additional collection in April. On 20 November will be the start of the first collection and it will go for 10 days. Collection will start in Tweed to the North and Eden down South and work its way towards Sydney CBD ending in Rozelle on the 30 November. Schedule is available on the website.</li> <li>• Boating Education Officers (BEOs), slight disruption to normal coverage and was mentioned at the last RVAG Meeting. Over the last few months we have had over 3000 interactions with boaters. Which included visiting 600 boat ramps, an increase of 40%.</li> <li>• Life Jacket clinics put on-line for trial to reach out to customers during Covid-19 restrictions. Customers who registered will receive a \$15 voucher that can be redeemed with participating boating retailers to have their life jacket serviced. Currently 300 registered participants.</li> <li>• Product Services, regarding Moorings Online, last Wednesday a private mooring map and an online application process was released on the TfNSW Website. Moorings Online provides customers access to enquire about mooring bays or an area where they would like to apply for a Mooring. The interface allows users to explore the website, which provides a map with flags which indicates if that bay is a wait list area and fee rates for the area and also any restrictions related to that mooring. Eventually everything will be an online process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications – Adam Milgate: Apology</b></p>	<p>CC</p> <p>AM</p>



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<p><b>Operational Policy &amp; Performance – David Hunter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer Campaign Program commenced with 1<sup>st</sup> campaign on the October long weekend. State-wide Campaign. This involved Boating Safety Officers (BSOs) in conjunctions with Boating Education Officers (BEOs) and a very comprehensive media engagement program led by the Transport Communications Team. Dozens of media releases were issued over that period. A lot of coverage regarding safety messages went out to the boating Community. Next State Campaign will be in January, and two further campaigns later in Summer. Local Campaigns being held on the Victorian November long weekend in the Murray area. North area is holding a Campaign this weekend (14-15 Nov), centred on the Port Macquarie waterways. Sydney will hold a similar campaign in several weeks' time.</li> <li>• Yachts that are currently stranded in the South West Pacific and South East Asia areas. Following the advice from BIA the yachts may require a safe haven area which is not prone to cyclones. Maritime has been working with Department of Health NSW, Australian Boarder Force and Department of Premier and Cabinet to develop a strategy on how we would receive these vessels visiting NSW. All international arrivals have to be treated differently due to COVID-19 and now go into quarantine. Issue is how we adapt our current business as usual process for accepting foreign nationals arriving through boating, and whether their journey time can be counted towards the quarantine period. No outcome has been reached yet, this is being led by NSW Health and Department of Premier and Cabinet.</li> <li>• The review into Vessel Advisory Groups continues (RVAG, CVAG, MPAG, RBAGs). A new common Terms of Reference (ToRs) for RVAG and CVAG has been drafted, MPAG ToRs likewise are being amended but will remain slightly different to the combined version. RBAG ToRs will be drafted following finalisation of the other three. Membership requirements, processes and protocols for all groups are also under review. Drafts will be shared with members for comment before finalising.</li> <li>• Mooring Standard and Recognised Mooring Contractors Scheme, three workshops have been held with the Mooring Contractors over the last couple of months in Wollongong, Newcastle and Sydney. Mooring contractors were eager to share their input. 76 contractors operate across NSW 80% attended the workshops either in person or via video link.</li> <li>• Maritime Structure Australian Standard being developed, led by the Australia Standards team. A number of Maritime Stakeholders involved in that project, including Maritime. Process has just recently commenced, Transport will keep members updated on progress. Follows the Marina Standard that was finalised this year.</li> </ul>	DH
<p>7. <b>CMS Reports – Dush Sharma</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnering strongly with Maritime partners to ensure that co-ordination of all of the Safety interventions helps reduce the fatalities and serious injuries as much as possible.</li> <li>• CMS has invested significant extra funds on boating safety campaigns for the upcoming season; lifejacket and priority issue campaigns are currently in market</li> <li>• A new website has been developed which offers tools for lifejacket selection, Lifejacket servicing locations and reminders, also with some new resources around Boating Safety priority issues, which initially was development with the Maritime Safety plan 2020/2021. The new website can be accessed at: <a href="https://www.lifejacketwearit.com.au/">https://www.lifejacketwearit.com.au/</a></li> <li>• Maritime Safety Toolkit with all boating safety campaigns and education materials to download and use has also been launched: <a href="https://maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/documents/maritime-safety-toolkit-september-2020.pdf">https://maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/documents/maritime-safety-toolkit-september-2020.pdf</a></li> <li>• CMS has launched the Aboriginal Maritime Safety Plan, which adapts our safe system approach to boating safety, and commits to appropriate cultural engagement</li> </ul>	DS

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	<p>on boating safety programs and waterways management, as well as boat safety education programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy update: End of Life Vessels stakeholder seminars to discuss the issues paper have been conducted successfully and feedback has been taken on board. CMS will put together a policy paper to look at the options and enable us to enhance safety and sustainability outcomes going forward. Next engagement stage should take place around the next RVAG meeting and CMS look forward to discussing more about the new policy paper.</li> <li>• Planning for the Maritime Safety Plan 2026 when it comes to safety is well underway and invitations will be issued to key stakeholders to participate in discussion forums prior to Christmas. The current Maritime Safety Plan has made good progress, and provides a good basis for looking at strategies for the upcoming five year period.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding of MISP from the Waterways Fund – there was further discussion expanding on MP's member report suggesting this was not the most appropriate source of funding for these projects. DH: all sectors of government were required to identify opportunities to help stimulate the economy following COVID.</li> </ul>	MP
9.	Meeting Closed at 7:10pm - <b>Next Meeting: 16 February 2021</b>	

### Actions arising from previous meeting (20 August 2019)

3.1	<p>Update on RVAG Action Items from 20 August 2019</p> <p><b>Action Item 1- 20 Aug 2019</b> – Peter Hunter (Cliff Ellmers) to work with Industry to develop a paper for the next RVAG meeting on PWC licence and Registration costs. Carry over to next meeting</p> <p><b>Cliff Ellmers; Apology Note: DH will discuss in person with AJSBA representatives. Action closed for RVAG purposes</b></p>	CE (On hold pending comment/agreement by CE) Completed
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### Actions arising from previous meeting (11 Feb 2020)

3.3	<p><b>Action Item 3 – 11 Feb 2020</b> - Provide updates from RBAG meetings.</p> <p><b>CD:</b> <i>Review of RBAGS across the States, 17 in total, Review to cover chair role, role of RBAG, improve regional and local level of boating advisory, stakeholders and Maritime as chair and regulator. More information from 1 July 2020</i></p> <p><b>Chris will send an update to members, discuss off line.</b></p>	CD/DH: Ongoing
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### Action arising from previous meeting (11 August 2020)

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action Item 1. 11 Aug:</b> Meet with DPIE (Marine Parks) to discuss PWC use in Byron Marine Park in offshore areas.</li> <li>• <i>Maritime met with DPIE (Maritime Park Section) and initiated the discussions regarding Jet skis use in Marine Park and offshore areas, and raised the issues, further discussion is needed and DPIE needs to liaise with their Legal team.</i></li> </ul>	DH/ MP: Ongoing
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## New Action Items 10 November 2020

1.1.	<p><b>Action Item 1.1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of all Advisory Groups including Terms of Reference, memberships and how information discussed at Advisory Group meetings is easily accessible, manageable and transparent between Groups.</li> </ul>	DH: Ongoing
1.2	<p><b>Action Item 1.2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRNSW/Maritime to distribute high level quarterly MRNSW statistics</li> </ul>	DH: Ongoing
1.3	<p><b>Action Item 1.3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Rescue (to check with internal management) and SLS NSW to provide quarterly high level reports/stats related to Boating and Safety incidents and distribute to RVAG members.</li> </ul>	GE/TB: Ongoing
1.4	<p><b>Action Item 1.4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dush Sharma will contact Chris De Jong out of session.</li> </ul>	DS: Ongoing
1.5	<p><b>Action Item 1.5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational Resource 'Don't Make Waves', material to be reviewed by CMS in due course.</li> </ul>	DS: Ongoing
1.6	<p><b>Action Item 1.6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate that Transport provides to RVAG a breakdown of individual MISP items, and where the \$205 million is allocated.</li> </ul>	DH: Ongoing
1.7	<p><b>Action Item 1.7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General conversation by members: education campaign on acceptable lifejacket standards is needed.</li> </ul>	CD: Ongoing