

1 February 2022
3.00pm-5.00pm
MS Teams

Minutes RVAG meeting February 2022

Attendance and declarations

Welcome & Apologies, Welcome to Country:

Cherrie Ashford, Chair

In attendance:

Cherrie Ashford, Sandra Ricklefs, Hendrik Clasie, Darren Wood, Andrew Dooley, Deon Voyer, Sian Nivison, Rosemary Donley, Tatiana Nasoufi, Bahram Abedi, Jen Robinson, Kay Heycox, Adam Smith, Alan France, Brianna Coyte, Terry Barber, Ken Cameron, Cliff Ellmers, Emma Humphries, Greg Blackburne, Keith Clark, Rohan Walter, Michael Jarvin, Murray Clarke, Neil Patchett, Suzanne David, Peter Tate

Apologies:

Chris Carmichael, Nicole Watts, Alex Barrell, Geoff Duvall, Stan Konstantaras

Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting

Accepted

CMS reports Rosemary Donley

Maritime Safety Plan 2026 – Inaugural MSP concluded end 2021. Developed successor plan for review of Maritime safety data, technology and stakeholder feedback. Happy with feedback received during consultation. CMS to provide to government for consideration and launched in coming months.

Lifejacket Reform Implementation – as part of consultation on MSP 2026, CMS consulted on two potential reform options. Reason for lifejacket reform was a commitment from MSP 2021, also evidence of the relationship between lifejacket wear and fatalities and current laws can be stronger. Received lots of feedback. CMS to provide to government for consideration.

OFFICIAL

Ferry wharf upgrade
Hendrik Clasie

Ferry Wharf Upgrade program has upgraded 20 of the Sydney Harbour wharves in network for Sydney Ferries. Package 3 will upgrade the remainder of the wharves in the network. The aim of program is to be compliant with Federal legislation to all public transport modes to be made accessible incl. disabled accessibility, tidal steps replacement, etc. Design is configured to best suit Ferry type vessels but aware of opportunities for other vessels to use and configured in the design. There is consideration for recreational vessels to provide fender systems and ladders on back of pontoons.

Visual presentation provided.

Regarding funding, the Infrastructure team does not deal with the Boating Now program so the two programs are not in conjunction.

Michael Jarvin requested visual of Cockatoo Island wharf to talk through. He stated for the record, for over 100 years the old style wharves met the needs of recreational boats and ferries and now knows the importance of the transport system means new wharves with floating pontoons needs to go in. Effectively, the tidal steps are unsuitable but have served well, and understands they have to go. The problem is for the recreational boater, particularly with vessels under 15m. For example, take Christmas Day, Boxing Day, NYE, NY Day, Australia Day at Double Bay wharf during that period, out of those 5 days there were 620 boats under 15m using the tidal steps. Once the floating timber wharf goes in there will be no tidal steps for those boats. Believes, the Boating Now and Ferry Upgrade programs link together to add pontoons.

Rosemary stated the Boating Now Round 3 funded improvements to Manly Boatshed, to improve access to recreational boaters. If there are other locations that we could fund, these can go into the Boating Now Round 4 which is now open.

Adam Smith suggested signage to indicate wharf safety for recreational boaters and provide education to users.

Neil Patchett stated the waterways fund exists to provide funding and services back to the boating community. Opportunity to add on infrastructure that is recreational boat friendly and accessible.

Key Boating Data and Data
Ecosystem
Hamid Eqbal

Maritime is currently uplifting some IT architecture and systems to increase capability and delivery is expected Quarter 2 or 3 this year.

In terms of format, the suggested approach from Maritime is to provide a dashboard, but this will be determined following discussion with RVAG members.

Recreational Vessel
Advisory Group (RVAG)

Boating Infrastructure
Rosemary Donley

The Boating Now program is the primary investment program for funding boating access and infrastructure upgrades across NSW. Round 4 currently open, closes 28 February.

The Boating Asset Sub-Maintenance program opens March 2022. Program will fund maintenance on wharves, pontoons, boat ramps, jetties, car parks, etc. Further information to be released in March.

The Mooring Reform program is making good progress. Working through issues such as developing the mooring standards, mooring audit work, mooring contractor authorisation scheme, end-of-life vessels, etc.

The ELV Options paper out soon for public consultation, subject to Ministerial approval. Thanked members for their input on this work to date.

In regards to the environmental impact on moorings, Maritime has been working CSIRO including developing a standard maritime friendly mooring. Working towards having a trial.

For vessel storage, Boating Now program in the past has funded a number of storage projects for non-powered craft but has been limited opportunity to support trailer vessels. Funding is available subject to criteria being met. information needs to be provided by members on the extent of unmet demand of vessel storage and where those locations are.

For reporting maintenance issues, Adam Smith uses Snap Send Solve to report infrastructure maintenance issues and Hendrik provided the process to report maintenance issues: Requests can be made via 13 12 36 or online <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/feedback-form.html>. Feedback2Go is an app on all app stores where reports for all NSW Transport services including maritime issues can also be made.

Australian Builders Plate
Rosemary Donley

The Builders Plate Working Group still in existence and working to implement a standard consistent compliance and monitoring framework and a training package. In other issues raised, it's an offence under the Maritime Health & Safety Act to do any amendments to an Australian builders plate. If any illegal activities are going on, report to regulator who are Maritime.

Neil Patchett stated the industry is concerned about this is a consumer confidence to public safety piece. There are case studies of what is going on in and the certifier is in QLD and we are raising it with the regulator in QLD. Fact that a self-declared certifier is able to modify plate and doing it online, get an amended plate sent to them. Suggest Transport to add to agenda to discuss at next ARBSC meeting.

Recreational Vessel Advisory Group (RVAG)

Manufacturers Identity Code

Cherrie Ashford / Rosemary
Donley

Cherrie notes there have been a number of changes to BIA resulting in the MIC database now being managed by BIAWA. Maritime requires a MIC code in order to provide a HIN, however Maritime does not stipulate that BIAWA charge customers, nor do they have any input into what the cost should be. Maritime have also not seen any formal agreement in place between Transport and BIAWA. Maritime are open to collaborate with BIA to improve the system, however the MIC fee, is outside of our remit to change.

Rosemary stated that Chair of ARBSC wrote to BIA WA in support of the trial.

Neil appreciated any suggestions on a solution. Neil also requested a data set to enable the trial to proceed.

Private Mooring Licence Conditions

Ann Waddington

The new conditions and categories for private mooring licences and commercial mooring licences occurred because of the repealing of the old legislation. which governed mooring management. Moorings are now issued under the Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2021. Commercial moorings are also now assigned categories. These categories replace the previous outdated 'class' system. The new categories provide a more descriptive and accurate reflection of the types of commercial mooring businesses and the nature of their operation.

In regards to Ken Cameron's enquiry about the new condition requiring a service to be undertaken within 3 months of expiry, it was advised that after consideration this condition would be revoked and the previous condition requiring servicing every 12 months would be reinstated. A pink slip type system has been talked about for sometime and once this option is investigated further, servicing requirements may change again. At this point consultation will occur. Alan Smith asked from a speedboat point of view on rivers like the Hawkesbury could classifications be looked at to better align with the use of the mooring e.g. only for certain times of the year Ann responded there is ongoing discussion around vessel storage and many options to be considered in any future mooring modelling but nothing firm at this point.

PAMA and PBLIS review

Marie Lodge

The independent review was announced in 2021 and a discussion paper released in December 2021. The review looks at the whole of Ports Administration Management Act and Port Botany Landside Improvement Strategy. Sessions to be held 11 February and 14 February. Sessions are only for recreational and commercial vessels interested parties.

Members Update

Adam Smith Australian Boating College Sydney

- Busy over summer. Getting out there and amongst it. It would be good to have visual presence of Maritime BSOs in some places.

Alan France Ski Racing NSW

- n/a

Brianna Coyte / Terry Barber Surf Life Saving NSW

- Providing stats and data to wider agencies and we would like to have it presented to members. Busy season and responded to 55 boating incidents over period Nov-Jan, including a few fishing incidents, PWC incidents and small unpowered charts. SLSA put together a national Powercraft Working Group overseeing all craft and test new devices to see if it's fit-for-purpose and any craft at end-of-life. Also looking at power plants for our boats as 2 stroke become harder to obtain and also move to a 1 boat policy. SLS opened up a new dashboard. Emergency response beacons rollout mainly in black spot locations. SLS is now a 24hr emergency operation.

Ken Cameron Boat Owners Association of NSW

- Ken is now President of BOA. Previous President retired. We have concerns about mooring licence but thank you for discussion. I had input to the Ferry Wharf Upgrade program, I would suggest there is scope and budget around they can and can't do around the ferry wharves. Maybe there is scope for Boating Now to put small platforms at the end of pontoons. We continue to engage with our boating community.

Cliff Ellmers Sea-Doo Product Expert

- n/a

Emma Humphries Australian Sailing

- Busy summer and most major events went ahead including Sydney to Hobart and Australian Sailing played a part in the Inspire program. Had useful meetings with Maritime about dredging program particularly with Lake Macquarie Sailing clubs. Most clubs continuing with the requirement to be fully vaccinated to participate in activities at clubs.

Darren Schott

Marine Rescue NSW

- Alison Dunsford is new General Manager of Communications. Darren is new to Marine Rescue only been there 2 weeks. New starter this week is Courtney Greenstone for Greater Sydney. MR are operating on Level 2 restrictions which means face-to-face essential only. Financial year-to-date MR have had over 40,000 log-ons involving 26,000 persons on vessel. Out of 2,026 the top two activities of those incidents were fishing and cruising.

MRNSW Raw Data July 21 to Jan 22

40,137 Log-ons involving 126,972 passengers on vessels

2,026 Requests for Assistance as well as

30 Pan Pan

40 May Day

344 Not Specified

Top 2 Vessel Activities at the time of the incident

Fishing 595

Cruising 523

Nature of Incident believed to have led to the vessel being disabled

Engine 991

Disabled Vessel (other) 361

Flat Battery 253

Geoff Duvall

Australian Power Boat Association

- n/a

Greg Blackburne

Scuba Clubs Association of NSW

- Pretty quiet diving wise due to COVID. Most members own their own boats and are 95% fully vaccinated. General diving, weather patterns permitted.

Rohan Walter

Seaplane Pilots Association Australia

- The handbook is important to Seaplane Pilots, and are quizzed on that particularly on sound signals and distance signals, as part of our annual licence. Person doing Marine maritime maps now retired. Need to find out who the new person is. 19th Feb is the 50th anniversary and unveiling of memorial bench for Phil Dalhanty. No incidents or accidents to report.

Michael Jarvin

Advanced Marina Management

- Next meeting will be raising emerging technology and the silent eco-friendly and sophisticated flightboard/wakeboard driven by batteries.

Murray Clarke

Rowing NSW

- Clubs are operating. January is when schools and clubs have rowers. There was one camp that had to be abandoned due to COVID.

Neil Patchett

Boating Industry Association Ltd

- BIA ran a 3 month multi-media Discover Boating campaign which ended 31st January. Sydney International Boat Show runs 28 July- 1 Aug. Sent submission to Marine Parks for comment. BIA remains concerned around the threat and risk assessment process which underpins the marina state process. Industry doing well including jobs. Last year announced Apprentice of the Year program and launched a marine jobs website. Launched BIA marketplace for members to advertise and promote boating products and services.

Suzanne Davies

Marina Industries Association

- n/a

Alan France

Ski Racing NSW

- Back on water and had 3 races in NSW. Met with Nick Dinham and Jon Moran about dates on the Hawkesbury.

Peter Tate

Paddle NSW Inc

- n/a

Stan Konstantaras

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

- n/a

Actions from previous
meetings

10 November 2020

1.1 - Sian to provide update of DPIE network management plan.

Response: DPIE have commenced development of a network management plan for the five mainland marine parks using a new planning approach with two stages. Stage 1 is the development of the management plan for NSW mainland park network. Consultation is now complete. Stage 2 is the development of the draft marine park management rules, including zoning, to implement those actions in the plan that relate to the rules. Consultation is underway. Recommend RVAG members subscribe to DPIE Have Your Say website

<https://yoursay.marine.nsw.gov.au/>. **CLOSED**

1.2 – Marine Rescue/NSW Maritime to distribute quarterly MRNSW statistics – Marine Rescue has raw data and will put in format to distribute. **Action:** Darren Schott (Marine Rescue) and Hamid Eqbal (Maritime) to work together to provide data to group. **OPEN**

1.3 – Marine Rescue and SLS NSW to provide high-level reports/stats related to Boating Safety incidents and distribute to RVAG members – Combine with Action 1.2 above.

1.4 – Educational Resources ‘Don’t Make Waves’ material to be reviewed by CMS - Rosemary provided a response following the last meeting. Re-sent to Director Insights and Operations. **OPEN**

16 February 2021

2.1 – Transport provides breakdown of individual Infrastructure Stimulus Program (MISP) items and copies of new media releases – Update provided by Andrew Mogg at previous meeting. **CLOSED**

23 September 2021

3.1 – Hendrik to liaise with Transport team leading wharf upgrades to look at ways to incorporate the needs of recreation vessels – part of Feb 2022 agenda and to be discussed at today’s meeting. **CLOSED**

3.2 – Maritime staff to further discuss the property team side of things with Michael Jarvin offline – conversation held. **CLOSED**

3.3 – Maritime to talk to DPI Fisheries about options around better marking of fish trap buoys. **Response:** No update as yet. Hendrik to talk to team and update group at next meeting. **OPEN**

3.4 – RVAG members to encourage their groups to report near misses or actual connections with those fish lines and fish trap market boys. Without data we struggle to demonstrate the issue. **Response:** Data required. **CLOSED**

1 February 2022

6 – Ferry Wharf Upgrade – Michael Jarvin to circulate stats spreadsheet to the Secretariat. Michael and Darren Wood to discuss going on-water on a recreational vessel to visit the wharves in question.

7 – Key Boating Data and Data Ecosystem – Regarding the future provision of relevant data, Hamid will circulate interim licencing and registration data in static dashboard layouts to RVAG members for feedback by the end of March and engage with RVAG members to integrate consolidated RVAG feedback into a proposed solution for presentation at the next RVAG meeting.

New Actions

Michael Jarvin / Darren Wood

Hamid Eqbal

Recreational Vessel
Advisory Group (RVAG)

All

Regarding ongoing Maritime data provision for licencing and registration, RVAG members to meet to consolidate member feedback prior to the next meeting and send to Hamid **four weeks prior to the next meeting** for action: hamid.eqbal2@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Marie Lodge

12 – PAMA and PBLIS Review – Neil Patchett stated Part 4 on Safety Directions would that pick up the relationship with Port Authority of NSW particularly around issues of the Harbour Masters powers. **Action:** Marie to take on notice and provide update at next meeting.

Proposed next meeting

Tuesday 5 April 2022, 3.00pm-5.00pm