

12 November 2024  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
MS Teams

## Minutes

### Recreational Vessel Advisory Group (RVAG)

Chair	Sian Nivison, SN, Director Insights & Operations Maritime
Attendees	<p><b>Transport for NSW – NSW Maritime</b></p> <p>Damian Logue, DL, State Coordinator Maritime Liljana Bridge, LB, Senior Manager Engagement &amp; Education Daniel Cini, DC, Project Manager, Infrastructure Delivery Office Angela Porritt, AP, Manager Intelligence &amp; Insights Sandra Ricklefs, SR, Coordinator Insights &amp; Operations (Secretariat)</p> <p><b>Transport for NSW – Safety, Environment and Regulation</b></p> <p>Rosemary Donley, RD, Director Maritime &amp; Transport Safety Strategy &amp; Policy</p> <p><b>Members</b></p> <p>Niall Powers, NP, Australian Sailing Matthew Hundleby, MH, Boat Owners Association Suzanne Jones SJ, Rowing NSW Dan Duemmer, DD, Marine Rescue NSW John Price, JP, Sailability NSW Inc Peter Freeman, PF, Australian Boating College Peter Tate, PT, Paddle NSW Inc</p>
Apologies	<p>Wahib Gereige, WG, Jet-ski Social Club Oliver Munson, OM, Surf Life Saving NSW Neil Patchett, NP, Boating Industry Association (BIA) Geoff Duvall, GD, Australian Powerboat Association Grant Campbell, GC, NSW Police Force Doug Walker, DW, Senior Project Manager MIDO, Maritime</p>
Guests	<p>Cherrie Ashford, CA, Director Greater Sydney, NSW Maritime Anthony Downs, AD, A/Manager Operational Policy, NSW Maritime</p>

#### Welcome, Apologies, Acknowledgment of Country

- Welcome new members Matthew Hundleby, Niall Powers and Oliver Munson.
- Resignation received from Gordon Peterson and Ken Cameron. Members acknowledged for their services to RVAG.

#### Conflict of Interest Declarations

- Matthew Hundleby declared potential conflict of interests. The Chair determined that the member was able to continue to attend the meeting given the content of the agenda items.

#### Approval of minutes from previous meeting

- Approved

#### Items for Discussion

### Item 1: RVAG Terms of Reference update SN

RVAG ToR has been updated with changes intended to improve the clarity of the document. Document will be circulated separately with high level summary of organisational structure and members to endorse updated ToR.

### Item 2: Safety Campaigns: trends and outcomes DL

- Boating season 2024/25 campaigns: 2 Domestic Commercial Vessel, 3 Statewide (Sept 2024, January 2025, April 2025); 5 Regional.
- 28-29 Sept Statewide campaign: Total 861 vessel safety checks conducted: 59 Informal warnings; 94 official cautions, 48 penalty notices.
- 2-3 Nov South region campaign: Total 363 vessel safety checks; 6 informal warnings 26 official cautions, 17 penalty notices.
- NSW Smart Waterway Program underway. Safety boating through technology.

### Item 3: Policy and Legislation update RD

- **Marine Safety Amendment Bill 2024:** The NSW Minister for Transport introduced the Marine Safety Amendment Bill 2024 on 18 September 2024 to amend the Marine Safety Act 1998. The proposed amendments aim to improve, update and streamline NSW's marine safety laws.

### Item 4: Maritime Engagement & Education LB

- **Focus areas:** Waterway Safety Education Programs; Youth + PWCs / Tinnies; PWC drivers (hot spot areas); Lifejacket Safety and Awareness (including wear/servicing/fit); Older boaters 60-75+ years; Bar Crossings; Information, publications and associated tools and resources; Expired Flare Collection program 2024/25.
- Useful links and information:  
[Lifejacket Safety / Information webpage](#)  
[Lifejacket Online Learning](#)  
[Expired Flare Collection Program 2024/25 - Round 1](#) (underway)

### Item 5: Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office DC

- Kamay Ferry Wharves (La Perouse to Kurnell) – Due for completion early 2025. Asbestos find delayed project close out.
- Inner City Sewer Pump Out – Initial Rozelle Bay location not proceeding due to unknown development future of site. Investigation of an upgrade to King St wharf underway.
- Balls Head Waverton (Northern Access and Mooring Upgrade) – Design and approvals underway. Target completion Q1 2025.
- Wharves – Walsh Bay (No. 10 east and west), Bayview Park and Kirribilli wharves currently closed due to safety concerns. Works scheduled for completion by FY 24/25.
- Tuncurry Boat Maintenance Facility – Design and approvals underway. Construction due to start mid 2025. Project funding approved.
- Crowdy Head Harbour Upgrade – Design and approvals complete. Construction targeted Q2 2025 – Q2 2026.
- Port Macquarie Breakwater Upgrade – On hold.
- Swansea Breakwall - \$3m funding approved. Construction to start mid-late 2025.

- Coffs Harbour – Unleaded refuelling facility and boat ramp projects complete and open since March 2024. Coffs Harbour boat ramp and unleaded refuelling facility open to public.
- Brunswick Head Harbour – Harbour upgrade on hold. Funding approved for utility upgrade including sewer pump out. Work to commence mid 2025.
- Snug Cove Maritime Precinct (Eden) – Maritime pursuing a federal grant to construct a marina, facilities, and public domain. Design and approvals underway.
- Narooma Wharf Upgrade – Design and approvals complete. Project on hold pending funding.

#### Item 6: Customer trends and insights

AP

- **Recreational Vessel Driving License summary:** Driver licences – 548,779
- **Recreational Vessel Registration summary:** Recreational Vessel registrations – 233,882

#### Item 7: NSW Mooring Action Plan

RD

- **NSW Mooring Action Plan:** The Mooring Action Plan (MAP) is a new and expanded agenda for the improved management of boat moorings in NSW. The MAP replaces the Mooring Reform Program (MRP) and responds to strategic and operational priorities and reflects the reforms that have occurred as well as new and emerging issues.
- **Recent updates sent to mooring licensees:** Transport conducts a review of environmental factors when approving changes to moorings. Approximately 14% of active moorings sites are located within 10m of culturally or environmentally sensitive areas. Mooring licensees with identified sites in the South region were recently sent a letter advising them to contact Transport prior to making any changes to their moorings, vessels or licences as changes will be subject to assessment and relocation may be required. Letters will be sent to affected mooring licensees in the Greater Sydney and North regions in the next month. A flyer will be included in annual licence renewals.
- **Response:** JP mentioned mooring encroachment at Rushcutters Bay narrowing channel. AD to link this enquiry with the Maritime Operations team.
- Useful links and information:  
[Environmentally friendly moorings](#)  
[Environmentally Friendly Mooring Research Program | Transport for NSW](#)  
[Moorings Review of Environmental Factors | NSW Government](#)

#### Member Submissions

##### Item 8: Boating Access/Waterway Usage

*Submitted by Neil Patchett*

*Presented by Sian Nivison*

- **Recommendation:** For discussion by RVAG and determination of what, if any, strategic actions could be asked of TfNSW to support improved outcomes regarding boating access in NSW.
- **Response:** Nil input.

##### Item 9: PWC licence application numbers

*Submitted by Peter Freeman*

*Presented by Angela Porritt*

The comparison is between the number of licences as at 01/07/2021 to 31/10/2024:

- General Boat Driving Licences Decreasing – down 0.54% ≈ -2.5k
- Personal Watercraft Licences Increasing – up 21.8% ≈ 16.3k

<b>Any other business</b>	Chair	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair reminded all RVAG members to submit updates prior to next meetings.</li> <li>PT recognised the Paralympian paddle team.</li> <li>SJ proposed Rowing NSW as sole authority for Aquatic licences (AQLs) across NSW waterways.</li> </ul>		
<b>Actions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RVAG Terms of Reference to be circulated for member endorsement along with high level summary of Maritime organisational structure. <b>Action:</b> Secretariat</li> <li>Maritime education pamphlets to be circulated. <b>Action:</b> Secretariat</li> <li>Any concerns or feedback regarding moorings to be sent to <a href="mailto:rvag@transport.nsw.gov.au">rvag@transport.nsw.gov.au</a>. <b>Action:</b> All</li> <li>Maritime and Rowing NSW to convene to discuss Rowing NSWs request to act as sole authority for Aquatic Licences (AQLs) statewide. <b>Action:</b> Director Maritime Insights &amp; Operations and Rowing NSW.</li> <li>Follow-up on mooring encroachment at Rushcutters Bay with the Maritime Greater Sydney Operations team. <b>Action:</b> Anthony Downs</li> <li>RVAG members to submit member updates prior to next meeting. <b>Action:</b> All</li> <li>Potential agenda items discussed for March 2025 meeting – update on boat licence recognised qualifications review, and lifejackets. <b>Action:</b> Director Maritime Insights &amp; Operations.</li> </ul>		
<b>Next meeting</b>	All	March 2025