

Maritime Advisory Council

Date	Tuesday 30 June 2015	
Time	09:00am to 12:00pm	
Venue	Watsons Bay Pilot Station, 1A Marine Parade, Watsons Bay	
Chairperson	Darren Vaux	
Attendees	<p>The Hon. Duncan Gay, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight</p> <p>Members</p> <p>Kay Cottee (Deputy Chair)</p> <p>Alan Blake</p> <p>Lawrie McEnally</p> <p>Jan Thurgar</p> <p>John Barbouttis</p> <p>David Edwards</p> <p>Ian Ford</p> <p>Brett Moore</p> <p>Howard Glenn</p>	<p>Invited Advisors</p> <p>Adrian Toovey, Office of the Minister for Roads, Maritime & Freight</p> <p>Angus Mitchell, RMS</p> <p>Andrew Mogg, TfNSW</p> <p>Michael Drake, TfNSW</p> <p>David Surplice, TfNSW, Secretary</p>
Apologies	Nil	

1.	Welcome and Apologies (Minister, Chair)
1.1	<p>The Chair welcomed attendees.</p> <p>The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight acknowledged Members and advised that Adrian Toovey replaces Adam Culbert as the Maritime Departmental Liaison Officer.</p>
2.	Confirmation of Agenda and Declaration of Conflicts of Interests (Chair)
2.1	<p>The Chair confirmed the Agenda with members. Jan Thurgar declared a potential conflict of interest regarding any discussions relating to the management of the Bridge 2 Bridge event, due to her role as a Chief Judge. Ian Ford declared a potential conflict of interest regarding any discussions relating to Manly Fast Ferry services, due to his son's involvement with that company.</p>
3.	Minutes from MAC meeting – 26 August 2014 (Chair)
3.1	<p>The Chair presented the Minutes of the 21 November 2014 MAC meeting.</p> <p>Alan Blake moved and Brett Moore seconded the adoption of the Minutes. The Minutes of the 21 November 2014 MAC meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record.</p>

4.	Actions arising from MAC meeting – 21 November 2014 (Chair)
4.1	<p>The Chair noted progress on Actions arising from the 21 November 2014 MAC meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 4.1 – Moorings Review (MMC)</u> - Refer to Item 5.3.</p> <p><u>Item 5.2 – NSW Boating Now (MMC/RMS)</u> - This matter had not been progressed. The Chair clarified that the issue relates to inadequate maintenance of maritime infrastructure managed by Local Councils. The MAC seeks advice on what can be done to encourage Councils to commit to better maintenance regimes.</p> <p>Action: MMC to explore what can be done to encourage Local Councils to undertake adequate maintenance of maritime infrastructure and report findings to the MAC.</p> <p><u>Item 6.3 – Waterways Fund (RMS)</u> - Refer to Item 7.2. Waterways Fund updates are now a standing item on notice at all Maritime Advisory Council Meetings.</p> <p><u>Item 7.3 – Marine Rescue NSW Funding (Chair)</u> – Refer to Item 6.2.</p>
5	Maritime Management Centre Items on Notice
5.1	<p>NSW Boating Now Update (Andrew Mogg)</p> <p><u>Priority Regional Projects</u> - A total of 192 Priority Regional Projects have been identified to receive total funding support of approximately \$33.7 million. These projects include upgrades and new infrastructure such as boat ramps, jetties, pontoons, car parks and sewage pump out facilities, and for studies to further develop identified priority projects. The program is designed to deliver all projects by Dec. 2017.</p> <p><u>Riverbank erosion</u> - MMC is in the process of releasing a draft Management Plan for the Clarence River for public consultation and has commissioned the UNSW Water Research Laboratory to undertake a re-examination of the banks of the Williams River, following a major flood event in March 2015.</p> <p><u>Slipways</u> - MMC is working with Crown Lands and other stakeholders to discuss potential slipway options in Coffs Harbour and Wollongong and is working with the Lord Howe Island Board to progress development of a slipway on Lord Howe Island.</p> <p><u>Storage</u> - MMC is working with Pittwater and Lake Macquarie councils to develop boat storage strategies.</p> <p><u>Boat Trailer Parking</u> - MMC is currently considering alternate funding mechanisms to maximise the outcomes that can be delivered from the allocated funds.</p> <p><u>Emergency Repairs of Maritime Infrastructure</u> - Funding Guidelines are currently being prepared that set out details for how Councils can apply for funding for emergency repair of maritime infrastructure.</p>
5.2	<p>Marine Safety Regulation (Michael Drake)</p> <p>On 1 December 2015 the Marine Safety Regulation 2015 is to commence. The most significant changes proposed include streamlining boat driver licensing including licence fees, the adoption of new lifejacket standards and simplifying requirements for the wearing of lifejackets, the introduction of new requirements to enhance safety, changes to streamline the administration of aquatic licences, changes to some penalties and disqualification periods and the removal of requirements for registration labels.</p> <p>Motion: Jan Thurgar proposed and John Barboutis seconded a motion that the Maritime Advisory Council endorse the content of the draft Marine Safety Regulation and its release for public consultation. The Motion was unanimously supported.</p> <p>Initially the draft Regulation included a proposition to consider whether licensing should be made compulsory for all powered vessels. Members discussed this proposition and determined that further investigations are required into the impact of such a change and called for the need to further explore a number of factors including: the potential for licensing based on size of vessel; the number of vessels that are used as an auxiliary to a mother vessel; the impacts of reducing licensing costs and/or expanding the base; and considering licensing requirements using a risk-based methodology.</p> <p>Action: MMC to undertake detailed investigations and modelling of options for changes to licensing requirements and report back to the MAC.</p> <p>John Barboutis noted that the existing PWC license does not state the licensee also holds a General Boat</p>

	<p>License (GBL). In other jurisdictions, including overseas, this can lead to non-recognition of a GBL.</p> <p>Action: RMS to ensure that PWC licenses include recognition that the licensee also holds a GBL.</p>
5.3	<p>Moorings Review Update (Andrew Mogg)</p> <p>A total of 93 submissions were received on the Moorings Review Issues Paper. The responses confirmed that rather than pursuing significant increases in mooring numbers in response to growing demand for boat storage, the focus should be on making better use of existing capacity through tighter regulation, improved administration and exploring new technologies and delivery mechanisms.</p> <p>Most submissions identified the need for action to reduce the number of mooring minders to help reduce waiting lists and reduce the incidence of property damage from mooring minders breaking free.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the Moorings regime include: introduction of a compulsory 'Pink Slip' for mooring apparatuses; requiring compulsory insurance for moored vessels; introducing a vessel disposal service; trialling alternate mooring systems; exploring alternate delivery mechanisms ; and increasing the use of environmentally friendly moorings. Major pricing reform is not proposed at this stage.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposed changes and provided a number of comments for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of life disposal of GRP (fibreglass) vessels is an emerging global issue facing the industry and appropriate disposal methods need to be considered. Any vessel disposal scheme proposed or supported by Government should incentivise re-use technologies, not send boats to land fill. • Trialling alternative mooring configurations is supported, noting lessons learnt from past endeavours. • The 'Bay Manager' proposal could be abused and should be approached cautiously. • An accreditation scheme, setting minimum standards for mooring contractors, should be considered. <p>Motion: The MAC endorsed the progression of the Moorings Review to its next stage of implementation.</p>
5.4	<p>Reports from Maritime Advisory Groups (Andrew Mogg)</p> <p>The MAC noted the minutes from recent meetings of the Recreational Vessel Advisory Group (RVAG) and Maritime Property Advisory Group (MPAG). MPAG requested that the MAC be informed that it considers review of the Sydney Harbour Regional Environment Plan a priority.</p> <p>Ian Ford noted that a meeting of the Commercial Vessels Advisory Group (CVAG) is overdue.</p> <p>Action: A CVAG meeting to be convened as a matter of priority.</p>
5.5	<p>Maritime Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>Comments from the MAC were sought on the need for, or value in, conducting another Maritime Stakeholder Forum in the second half of 2015.</p> <p>The MAC advised that the current stakeholder engagement process of progressing issues through the Advisory Groups and the MAC is an efficient consultation framework and is leading to excellent outcomes for boaters.</p> <p>Policy development has occurred over recent years through implementation of the Maritime Policy Agenda and delivering these changes is currently the primary focus. As such there is no need for a peak stakeholder forum in 2015.</p> <p>Members noted that stakeholder engagement processes could be further improved by allowing issues raised at Local User Group meetings to be escalated through the formal Maritime Advisory Groups.</p> <p>Action: Consider providing an interface for issues raised at local user group meetings to be escalated via the formal Maritime Advisory Groups.</p>
6	<p>RMS Updates (Angus Mitchell)</p>
6.1	<p>RMS Updates</p> <p><u>Boating Education Officer Program and Boating Safety Officers</u> - The ongoing benefit and success of the program has been recognised and resulted in the establishment of 13 permanent BEO positions and one Coordinator role. Six new Boating Safety Officer positions across NSW were also created and filled.</p>

	<p><u>Boating Handbook</u> - A review of the current handbook was finalised with a new edition distributed in March 2015. The handbook is also now available as an eBook.</p> <p><u>Boat ramp information and signage</u> - 77 boat ramps have been identified as priority locations for the modular signage. Installation of 55 signs has been completed and the remainder scheduled before 30 June 2015. A total of 119 key boat ramps will have the new sign installed at the end of this rollout.</p> <p><u>Bar crossing and alpine waters safety camera improvements</u> - Five additional cameras are now installed at Camden Haven, Batemans Bay, Nambucca River, Macleay River and Evans Head, taking the total to 19.</p> <p><u>Better Boating Program and Boating Now</u> - 2013-14 marked the final year for new grants to be awarded under BBP. The delivery, progress monitoring and acquittal of completed grant funded projects will continue during 2014-15 and 2015-16. Approximately \$4.5 million in grant funding has been finalised.</p> <p><u>Environmental Services</u> -As a result of the Sydney storms, in the month of April, the Maritime Environmental Services team retrieved the largest volume of hazards to navigation and floating debris from Sydney Harbour waters (325 cubic metres) since 1998.</p> <p><u>Review of High Speed On-water Events</u> - In late 2014, RMS engaged Thompson Clarke to review the safety risks of high speed on-water racing events and how they are currently managed by RMS, race organisers and peak bodies. It is anticipated implementation of most of the agreed recommendations be in place before the commencement of the next boating season in October 2015.</p> <p><u>Commercial Vessels</u> - RMS continues to act as a delegate of the National Regulator, providing survey and certification services to commercial vessel owners and operators. RMS is implementing AMSA's streamlining and red tape reduction initiatives and continues to advise AMSA on emerging issues and industry impacts.</p> <p><u>Wharf Upgrade Program</u> - Major upgrades to Drummoyne, Mosman Bay, Cremorne and Sydney Olympic Park and Balmain East were completed. Pyrmont wharf upgrade commenced construction in April 2015.</p>
6.2	<p>Marine Rescue NSW Funding</p> <p>The RMS Director, Corporate is currently progressing with a Marine Rescue NSW State Funding Expenditure Review. The objectives of the internal audit are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Marine Rescue NSW expenditure for 2013-14 financial year against the terms of the Funding Agreement and to make recommendations where appropriate; and • Establish a process for an annual acquittal to RMS via the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services (MPES) to be undertaken as part of the year end statutory audit process. <p>The current Operational Funding Agreement between the MPES and Marine Rescue NSW remains in place and funding to MRNSW will continue for the duration, and on the terms of, that Agreement. MPES, RMS and Marine Rescue NSW will review this arrangement in the lead-up to the end of the current Agreement, to ensure that the arrangements remain robust and transparent.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the MAC's interest in this matter lies in ensuring an appropriate and demonstrable return on investment and value for money, for the marine rescue levy.</p>
7	Technical and Standing Items
7.1	<p>Maritime Incident report (Andrew Mogg)</p> <p>Members noted the update on the Maritime Incident report.</p>
7.2	<p>Waterways Fund Expenditure (Angus Mitchell)</p> <p>Members noted the update on the 2014-15 Waterways Fund YTD financial report.</p>
8.	MAC Members' Items on notice (Members)

8.1	<p>Lifejackets and Rock Fishing (Brett Moore)</p> <p>Existing education programs have been promoted across the State through fishing clubs and media with some success, however there appears a lot more could be done to encourage rock fishers to wear lifejackets. The work of the boating safety team on the lifejacket wear campaign has been very successful and it would be beneficial if this expertise was utilised to improve rock fisher attitudes to lifejacket wear.</p> <p>Motion: The MAC endorsed a motion that: The Maritime Advisory Council write to the Premier of NSW and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, advising that based on its knowledge and experience of lifejacket wearing initiatives, it supports the compulsory wearing of lifejackets at known rock fishing black spots, supported by an education campaign designed along the lines of that developed to promote the wearing of lifejackets on boats.</p>
8.2	<p>Minister's Title (Brett Moore)</p> <p>The MAC commended the Minister for the inclusion of the word 'Maritime' in his formal ministerial title.</p>
8.3	<p>Service NSW (Brett Moore)</p> <p>Service NSW has been created to provide the many clients who access Government transactions with a one-stop online service facility or walk in Service Centre to conduct business. The current brochure promoting Service NSW contains a list of services available; but makes no mention of 'maritime' services. Angus Mitchell advised that he has raised the matter with the head of Service NSW and 'maritime' will feature more prominently in the next print run of brochures. BSO's and BEO's are also attending Service NSW centres to help improve product knowledge of maritime services.</p>
8.4	<p>Angler Access to Sydney Harbour Wharves (Lawrie McEnally) [Verbal]</p> <p>Improving recreational fishing access to Sydney Harbour commuter wharves would be of benefit, if the needs of fishers, commuters and wharf owners can be accommodated. However, recent behaviour at certain wharves has not been encouraging and unless attitudes improve, these uses are not compatible.</p>
9.	<p>Other Business</p>
9.1	<p>Government Radio Network (GRN) -Jan Thurgar</p> <p>The ability to hire units to access the GRN is useful for ensuring safety during Aquatic Licence events. Recently it has been difficult to obtain GRN units and there has been conjecture that this service is being discontinued.</p> <p>Action: RMS to find out status of GRN and any issues in obtaining units.</p>
10.	<p>Next Meeting – The next meeting of the MAC will be in October 2015. Date and location TBC.</p>
<p>END - The meeting closed at 12:00pm</p>	

Actions arising from Maritime Advisory Council meeting 30 June 2015

	Action	Responsible/ Due Date
1.	4.1 – Maritime Infrastructure Maintenance Action: MMC to explore what can be done to encourage Local Councils to undertake adequate maintenance of maritime infrastructure and report findings to the MAC.	MMC, Nov 2015
2.	5.2 – Marine Safety Regulation Action: MMC to undertake detailed investigations and modelling of options for changes to licensing requirements and report back to the MAC.	MMC, Nov 2015
3.	5.2 – Marine Safety Regulation – PWC Licenses Action: RMS to ensure that PWC licenses include recognition that the licensee also holds a GBL.	RMS, ASAP
4.	5.4 – Maritime Advisory Groups Action: A CVAG meeting to be convened as a matter of priority.	MMC, Aug 2015
5.	5.5 – Maritime Stakeholder Forum Action: Consider providing an interface for issues raised at local user group meetings to be escalated via the formal Maritime Advisory Groups.	MMC / RMS, ongoing
6.	6.1 – Lifejackets and Rockfishing Action: The MAC write to the Premier of NSW and the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, advising that based on its knowledge and experience of lifejacket wearing initiatives, it supports the compulsory wearing of lifejackets at known rock fishing black spots, supported by an education campaign designed along the lines of that developed to promote the wearing of lifejackets on boats.	MMC, ASAP
7.	7.1 – Government Radio Network Action: RMS to find out status of the GRN and any issues in obtaining units and report back to MAC.	RMS, Nov 2015