

MINUTES

Maritime Advisory Council

Date	Wednesday 12 March 2014	
Time	09:00am to 12 noon (morning tea provided at 10:30)	
Venue	Royal Automobile Club of Australia, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney	
Chairperson	Darren Vaux	
Attendees	Members The Hon. Duncan Gay, Minister for Roads and Ports Kay Cottee (Vice Chair) John Barbouttis David Edwards Guy Bailey Malcolm Poole Jeff Richards Jan Thurgar Ian Ford Howard Glenn Brett Moore David Lyall	Visitors Adam Culbert, Office of the Minister for Roads and Ports John Nicholls, GHD Peter Duncan, RMS Michael Wright, RMS Maryanne Graham, RMS Andrew Mogg, TfNSW David Surplice, TfNSW, Secretary
Apologies	Nil	

1.	Welcome and Apologies (Minister, Chair)
1.1	<p>All members of the Council were in attendance.</p> <p>The Minister welcomed members and introduced Adam Culbert as the new Departmental Liaison Officer, thanking Matt Jones for his work in the role.</p> <p>The Minister thanked the Council for its support of the Government's dredging access program, announced in February 2014.</p>
2.	Confirmation of Agenda and Declaration of Conflicts of Interests (Chair)
2.1	<p>The Chair confirmed the Agenda with members. Item 7 – RMS Updates - was moved to Item 6.</p> <p>The Chair sought any conflict of interest from members. No Conflicts of Interest were declared.</p>
3.	Minutes from MAC meeting – 8 November 2013 (Chair)

3.1	<p>The Chair presented the Minutes of the 8 November 2013 MAC meeting.</p> <p>Michael Wright requested that Item 4.1 be amended from "The Minister advised that he will discuss options to improve the delivery of the Maritime program <i>within RMS</i>" to '<i>... across the cluster.</i>'</p> <p>Malcolm Poole requested that Item 7.1 refer to the <i>Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing</i>.</p> <p>All members were in favour of these amendments. Malcolm Poole moved the adoption of the Minutes; Jan Thurgar seconded. The Minutes of the 17 July 2013 MAC meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to the above changes.</p>
4.	Actions from MAC meeting – 8 November 2013 (Chair)
4.1	<p>The Chair read through the Actions of the 8 November 2013 MAC meeting and noted that all items are complete, underway, or subject to a tabled paper.</p> <p><u>Item 7.2 - New Procedure – Review of Environmental Factors</u></p> <p>Michael Wright tabled the new Environmental Assessment Procedure 'Project Review of Environmental Factors (REF) – Maritime'. The new REF procedure guides project managers, environment staff and contractors on how to prepare and manage the environmental assessment of maritime projects, including the process of preparing a REF and conducting consultation.</p> <p>An additional procedure is also being prepared to streamline assessment of minor or routine maintenance works.</p>
5.	Regional Boating Plans (John Nicholls, GHD)
5.1	<p>John Nicholls delivered a presentation outlining progress on the Regional Boating Plans (RBPs). TfNSW has engaged GHD to conduct a study of boating infrastructure and access to inform the development of eleven RBPs.</p> <p>The RBPs will help inform projects to be funded under a new boating infrastructure partnership program (BIPP) by identifying infrastructure priorities for each region and across the state.</p> <p>The study will focus on the actions required to enhance the boating experience across NSW by improving boating safety, boat storage and waterway access on our major waterways.</p> <p>A comprehensive stakeholder engagement program is being implemented for each region. This engagement will involve a variety of stakeholders ranging from high- level industry and stakeholder groups to everyday users of boating facilities.</p> <p>All members are encouraged to invite boaters to participate in the relevant survey for each region and can also make submissions directly to GHD about any relevant issues.</p>
5.2	<p>The Council discussed the RBPs and some members expressed concern at the level of stakeholder engagement being undertaken. Some members also stated that local planning instruments such as Local Environment Plans can make gaining approval for waterside developments difficult and suggested the views of some councils can be a barrier to delivering projects. GHD encouraged Members to make submissions around these issues. The Minister advised he can invite the Minister for Local Government to attend a MAC meeting to hear Members' concerns, if required.</p>
6.	RMS Updates (Michael Wright)
6.1	<p>Item 6 was brought forward from Item 7. Michael Wright and Maryanne Graham delivered a presentation on RMS achievements over the past 12 months. Notable achievements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of 13 Boating Education Officers and 6 additional Boating Safety Officers. • The work undertaken by the Mobile Safety, Education and Compliance Team. • Boating safety campaigns, including the very large number of vessel and operator checks and compliance rate. • Safer boating outcomes, including the significantly lower bating fatality rate to date. • Implementing a new modular boat ramp signage program. • Production of new boating maps. • Red tape reduction and safety for Commercial Vessel Regulation. • Sydney Harbour Environmental Services. • Better Boating Program.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with maritime precincts at Rozelle Bay, Berrys Bay and Wentworth Point. • Major Aquatic Events including the International Fleet Review. • Upgrading Sydney Harbour Ferry Wharves.
6.2	<p><u>Compliance stats</u></p> <p>Members suggested that the compliance figures provided be used as a baseline to measure the effectiveness of compliance and education campaigns.</p>
6.3	<p><u>Boating Maps</u></p> <p>Malcolm Poole queried whether RMS is considering developing boating maps for inland lakes and impoundments. Michael Wright advised RMS would consider this proposal.</p> <p>Action: RMS to consider developing boating maps for inland lakes and impoundments.</p>
6.4	<p><u>National System for Commercial Vessels</u></p> <p>Ian Ford advised that in some circumstances RMS may be interpreting the new National System for Commercial Vessels inconsistently (sometimes applying the “National System” and sometimes applying “State Rules”).</p> <p>Peter Duncan advised that is not the intention of the new system and the situation will be reviewed.</p> <p>Action: Ian Ford to provide further detail on any aspects of the National System for Commercial Vessels which RMS may be interpreting inconsistently.</p>
6.5	<p><u>Environmental Services</u></p> <p>Guy Bailey reported that White Bay 6 Marine Park has installed separate sullage and oily waste vessel pump out facilities; however some commercial operators are pumping oily discharge into the sullage tanks and compliance is difficult.</p> <p>Michael Wright advised the Commercial Vessels Advisory Group is holding a meeting to consider improving the management of pump outs facilities and this topic will be discussed.</p> <p>David Lyall queried whether it would be possible to expand the work of the Environmental Services Harbour Cleaning program to Pittwater. Michael Wright advised this would be challenging from a resourcing perspective but could be considered by RMS.</p>
7.	Maritime Management Centre Items on Notice (Howard Glenn)
7.1	<p><u>Update on Boating Safety Initiatives</u></p> <p>The MAC noted progress on the delivery of the boating safety initiatives from the Maritime Policy Agenda (MPA).</p> <p><u>Lifejackets</u></p> <p>Howard advised the effectiveness of the lifejacket awareness campaign is being assessed by an independent expert. Early indications are that the cut-through of the campaign has been much higher than usual for Government advertising campaigns and community responses to the campaign have been extremely positive.</p> <p>The lifejacket promotional vehicle has engaged almost 2000 people at 61 ramp sites and accepted 2038 old lifejackets as ‘trade ins’. MMC is liaising with the BIA and independent retailers on a plan to extend the promotions across NSW.</p> <p><u>Fish Traps</u></p> <p>MMC has been working with NSW fisheries to develop a strategy to address the issues of fishing floats becoming entangled on vessel propellers or keels. David Lyall congratulated MMC on progress to date.</p> <p><u>On Water Compliance Reform</u></p> <p>Achievements since the last MAC Meeting include commencing co-location trials at Sans Souci and Tweed Heads as well as new procedures for a range of activities.</p> <p>Initial reports and stakeholder feedback from the Sans Souci trial indicate cross-agency efforts to increase high-visibility patrolling have had a positive impact on anti-social Personal watercraft behaviour at Revesby Beach and Sandringham.</p> <p>Initial feedback suggests the Tweed Heads trial has had a significant impact on improving on-water safety and compliance, dramatically increased the rate of new lifejacket purchases, increased the</p>

	<p>responsiveness for search and rescue activities, broadened patrol ranges along the northern coastline, and enhanced cross-border cooperation and intelligence.</p> <p>The Minister acknowledged the benefits of compliance staff operating 'two-up'. Howard advised that MMC will report back on statistics from the trials later in the year.</p>
7.2	<p>Boat Storage and Waterways Access</p> <p>The MAC noted progress on the delivery of boat storage and waterways access initiatives in the MPA.</p> <p><u>Boating Infrastructure Partnership Program</u></p> <p>Planning for the new boating infrastructure partnership program is well underway with an announcement regarding funding levels likely to be made shortly.</p> <p><u>Boat Storage</u></p> <p>The final version of the Sydney Harbour Boat Storage Strategy was released on 14 February 2014 and is available online at http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/content/sydney-harbour-boat-storage-strategy. Members are encouraged to provide comment.</p> <p>Ian Ford commented that there is limited dry stack storage developed around the state. Howard advised supporting storage is one of the aims of the new BIPP. Jan Thurgar noted that vacant land on flood plains may provide suitable locations for providing vessel storage; however existing planning laws prevent this type of development.</p> <p><u>Boat Trailer Working Group (BTWG)</u></p> <p>The Government's response to the recommendations of the Boat Trailer Working Group Report is expected to be announced shortly. Current actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TfNSW to examine the authorising of Council Officers to issue infringements for parking unregistered trailers on roads. • TfNSW working closely with the Division of Local Government within the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding potential changes to the Impounding Act which would limit the amount of time a trailer could be parked on the road. • Additional funding confirmed available for dedicated boat trailer parking facilities. • TfNSW requesting RMS relax the Parking Permit Guidelines so that Councils have discretion to issue boat trailer owners with Residential Parking Permits, which is currently prohibited. <p>Malcolm Poole advised he is happy for unregistered trailers to be targeted but has concerns about changes to the Impounding Act that would limit the amount of time a trailer can be parked on the road. The Minister advised that indefinite parking of boat trailers on the road does not meet community expectations.</p>
7.3	<p>Red Tape Reduction</p> <p>The MAC noted progress on the delivery of reducing red tape initiatives in the MPA.</p> <p><u>Planning Reforms</u></p> <p>Two long awaited reforms have been implemented since the last MAC meeting. Amendments to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (Codes SEPP) commenced in February 2014. The changes allow repairs and maintenance to water-based structures.</p> <p>Amendments have now been made to clause 18A of the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 (SREP) regarding the subdivision of land that is 'continuing use'.</p> <p>Michael Wright advised that new 20 year lease templates have also been developed and are now being implemented. Work on other reforms is ongoing.</p> <p><u>Moorings Review</u></p> <p>The Moorings Issues Paper was tabled at the MAC. Members are invited to comment.</p> <p>Update: The Moorings Review Issues Paper has now been publicly released and is available on the TfNSW website at http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/engagement/moorings-review-issues-paper.</p> <p><u>Review of Marine Safety Act 1998</u></p> <p>MMC is carrying out a review of the <i>Marine Safety Act 1998</i>. Members are invited to comment. The review</p>

	<p>is to examine if the policy objectives of the Act are still valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives.</p> <p>Update: Details of the Review are available at http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/marine-safety-act-1998-review. Submissions can be emailed to mmc@transport.nsw.gov.au by 24 April 2014.</p> <p><u>Property Policies Review</u></p> <p>A new Maritime Property Policy is being finalised following consultation with the BIA on the draft policy. The MMC is also discussing with Crown Lands and DPI opportunities to harmonise policies and procedures for the management of submerged lands across the State.</p>
The Meeting broke for morning tea at 10:30. The MAC reconvened at 10:45.	
7.4	<p>Whole of Government Initiatives</p> <p><u>Bays Precinct</u></p> <p>Howard advised that progress on Bays Precinct initiatives has been slower than desirable. Members noted that the recent heritage listing of the Glebe Island Bridge makes removal of the bridge less likely.</p> <p><u>Dredging Campaign</u></p> <p>MMC, RMS and Crown Lands Division have worked together to deliver a joint dredging campaign. On 5 February 2014 the NSW Government announced it will provide \$2.5 million for the long-term navigational dredging of Swansea Channel through a funding injection from the Waterways Fund. While dredging is usually outside of the scope of projects delivered by the Fund, this project is of enormous significance to boating on Lake Macquarie and to the broader regional economy. Jeff Richards conveyed the appreciation of the Boat Owners Association for making funds available for the Swansea dredging project.</p> <p><u>Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA)</u></p> <p>The Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA), of which TfNSW is a member, released 'Managing the NSW Marine Estate: Purpose, Underpinning Principles and Priority Setting' in November 2013. The paper outlines a vision for the NSW marine estate and the underpinning principles that will be used to guide management and is available at www.marine.nsw.gov.au.</p>
7.5	<p>Management of Maritime Program & RMS Restructure</p> <p>The Minister advised that discussions with the new Secretary of TfNSW are in train.</p>
7.6	<p>Marine Rescue NSW - Financial Information and Governance</p> <p>Howard advised that a new direct funding arrangement will apply from the 2014/15 financial year. The Marine Rescue Levy will now be paid directly to Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW), rather than via the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services. MRNSW will be required to provide detailed financial information regarding Marine Rescue Levy expenditure, allowing effective oversight of the Levy and ensuring it is spent as intended.</p> <p>Members discussed linking the Marine Rescue Levy to a set of KPIs to ensure accountability and efficiency. The MAC reiterated that it is not criticising the valuable work of Marine Rescue volunteers, but is seeking financial accountability to allay perceptions of a growing MRNSW bureaucracy at the expense of core rescue services.</p>
8.	Technical and Standing Items
8.1	<p>Boating Incident Statistics</p> <p>The MAC noted boating incidents and fatalities for October 2013 through to January 2014. While the fatality rate is significantly lower this year than last, it is still too early to draw strong conclusions. Darren Vaux noted that 2014 has been the busiest boating summer in years and the low fatality rate to</p>

	<p>date is an excellent reflection of the strong work being done in boating safety by all involved.</p> <p>Jeff Richards advised knowledge of an incident involving a vessel that was not captured in the statistics. Howard advised that MMC is aware that there are incidents that go unreported and advised that MMC is exploring options to work with NSW Health and other agencies to improve the capture of incidents, particularly serious incidents (resulting in hospitalisation or out-patient treatment). MMC will also explore options for information sharing with MRNSW.</p> <p>ACTION: MMC to explore options to improve reporting of boating incidents to RMS with other agencies, including Marine Rescue NSW.</p>
9.	MAC Member's Items on Notice (Members)
9.1	<p>Media and commentary of Maritime - related issues</p> <p>Brett Moore advised that the lack of a dedicated expert maritime communications spokesperson or team has resulted in the loss of continuity of maritime media messaging and a large volume of 'good news' stories going unreported. Additionally, responses to emerging issues/incidents can be delayed and poorly reported, with Marine Rescue, land-based Police assets or roads-based RMS communication staff providing media commentary that would be better provided by an expert Maritime spokesperson. As such, inaccurate safety messaging is often being disseminated, if provided at all.</p> <p>The role previously provided by Neil Patchett as the Maritime Communications Manager has not been effectively replaced in current structures.</p> <p>Action: MMC to develop a strategy to deliver consistent, "24/7" expert maritime communications and report back to MAC.</p>
9.2	<p>Clean Safe Wharves</p> <p>Malcolm Poole advised that the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) would like to progress an awareness campaign addressing poor behaviour and fishing mess left on wharves. Malcolm advised that RMS has now confirmed support for a coordinated approach. City of Canada Bay Council has also confirmed it is not currently pursuing further wharf restrictions. The RFA will continue to develop a campaign.</p>
10.	Other Business
10.1	<p>Southern 80 & Bridge 2 Bridge</p> <p>Jan Thurgar congratulated RMS for its excellent management of organised waterskiing events over the summer, including the safe and very well managed Murray River Southern 80. Jan also congratulated on water-staff for their involvement at the recent Hawkesbury River Bridge 2 Bridge event, commending Senior BSO Darryl Lennox for his extremely professional and sensitive efforts as first responder to a traumatic fatality that occurred during the event.</p>
10.2	<p>MAC Stationary</p> <p>Kay Cottee advised that stationary for the MAC is excessive and requested less resource-intensive folders to be used in the future.</p>
	<p>Next Meeting: The next meeting has been provisionally scheduled for 17 July 2014 at 09:00 at a location TBC.</p>
END - The meeting closed at 12:00pm	