

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 9 May 2017, 1700 hours
Venue:	Meeting Room 1A & 1B, NSW Maritime, 33 James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Lucas Taylor (LT), Centre for Maritime Safety, Transport for NSW
Admin:	David Chieza (DC), Centre for Maritime Safety, Transport for NSW

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Declan Brennan (DB)	Australian Sailing (formerly Yachting NSW)
Michael Jarvin (MJ)	Boating Industry Association
Chris de Jong (CdJ)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
Sen Sgt Alexander Barrell (AB)	Marine Are Command (NSW Police)
David Lyall (DL)	
Glenn Evans (GE)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Tony Hystek (TH)	Paddle NSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
Natalie Mclean (NM)	Roads and Maritime Services
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Guests:	
Jane Golding (JG)	Bureau of Meteorology
Kerry Scott (KS)	Service NSW
Dom Costello (DC)	Service NSW
Dan Duemmer (DD)	Roads and Maritime Services
Apologies:	
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 8 August 2017
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1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 LT welcomed attendees to the meeting noting the meeting was almost at full attendance. Members agreed and mentioned the need to improve the gender balance of RVAG representation by including more female representation. DH agreed and advised that there was a good gender balance within the Regional Boating Advisory Groups (RBAG).
- 1.2 LT advised members that two presentations will occur during the meeting and introduced Jane Golding (JG) from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) who will talk about marine weather updates and Kerry Scott (KS) from Service NSW providing an update on the Digital Licence program.

1.3 Marine weather update presentation by BoM

JG provided an overview of digital improvements and technology updates coming up through BoM relating to marine weather and showed members the new BoM App and its key features.

DB asked if BoM also supply weather data to MRNSW and JG responded that she's confident that is the case at the moment.

JG said BoM has been engaging with community via many ways including a phone survey on boating trends in relation to weather and they found about 8% of boaters never check the weather (a drop from previous year, 10%).

MP noted that rock fishing and bar crossing advice was missing from the news broadcast over the weekend regarding dangerous surf conditions and advised maybe BoM can look at improving on this to include such vital information.

JG advised that BoM will be making significant improvements to wind and weather forecast by the end 2018. JG said the improvements come from the need to help educate marine weather forecast users to watch and monitor the weather continually and more importantly closer to when they need the service or plan for their trip.

A copy of the complete BoM presentation is attached with these minutes at Tab A.

1.4 Digital licence presentation by Service NSW

KS said a key objective of the digital licence was to enhance the customer experience by going beyond what can be done today with a traditional licence and improve the customer journey to manage and renew a licence adding that the more we can add to this platform the more convenient it will be.

DB asked if the licence holder's details would be accessed in real time and KS said that is correct.

KS showed members different screens of the digital licence and demonstrated some of the functions. MJ said there needs to be improvements on how the digital licence final product looks adding that his experience with the digital fishing licence was not very positive.

KS encouraged members to get in touch on digital_licence@sevrice.nsw.gov.au with any questions they may have following the presentation.

A copy of the complete Digital Licence presentation is attached with these minutes at Tab B.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

Action 1: Action is ongoing.

Action 2: DH to address at Agenda item 9.

Action 3: Action is ongoing, and there are a couple of options including:

1. Assume fatalities are boating related until Coroner reports otherwise
2. Assume fatalities are not boating related until Coroner reports that they are

This action has been updated to include both serious injuries and fatalities.

Action 4: LT and DH agreed that members can share the incidents reports with their wider networks.

Action 5: Action is ongoing as there was no information to circulate at the time.

Action 6: Completed.

Action 7: Boat trailer parking update will be provided to RVAG offline.

Action 8: TH, DH and LT held a meeting discussing the concerns raised by Paddle NSW and work is underway with more discussion to follow.

Action 9: Completed.

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- LT advised that incidents comparison by financial year is fairly good but noted a rise in serious injuries but reduction on minor injuries.
- DH said there are good signs in the incident report but we do need to keep focus on addressing the rise of serious incidents.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- LT tabled the licence and registration report noting there were no unusual trends and encouraged members to read the report and raise any queries offline.

3.3 Members Reports:

- AB said Marine Area Command (MAC) sought funding through the Centre for Maritime Safety (CMS) to enable additional PWC compliance operations on the Georges River as a result of the ongoing issues there. AB advised that as a result of this funding MAC had performed just under 1200hours of additional compliance work on the Georges River.
- MJ agreed and said he's noticed a difference on the Georges River and said this is a positive outcome. MJ stated this shows that all the additional resource and collaboration are starting to yield positive results.
- DL commented that he thinks there are some communication and coordination issues in his view with the Regional Boating Advisory Group (RBAG) representing the Hawkesbury River, Broken Bay, and Pittwater Area and he asked for an update on the matter.
- DH responded that all matters with that specific RBAG should be raised through the RMS office for the northern region.
- GD stated that he had received positive reports about the RBAG in the south who held a successful meeting recently.
- MJ added that the RBAG for Sydney Harbour also met recently and held a productive and engaging meeting.

4 2017 Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS)

- 4.1 LT advised that similar to last years' SIBS there would be a prominent 'safety precinct' comprising of a range of boating and water safety partners and this year would feature a more 'open access' design for the precinct.

5 PWC Compliance Cameras – RMS update

- 5.1 DH said we reviewed about 38,000k images and approx. 325 offences were detected however the vast majority of the images were unable to clearly show legible registration numbers which is a major concern.

- 5.2 DH showed copies of an image taken by one of the PWC compliance cameras, and said this image highlights issues with the camera regarding accuracy and the blurred pixels and he said the matter was being reviewed.
- 5.3 DH reiterated that these were not speed cameras but behaviour detection cameras. LT agreed and said that it's worth noting that two PWCs had being seized through this process.
- 5.4 DL said he'd noticed an increase in PWC activity in Pittwater and asked if there was any behavioural change as a result of this initiative. LT responded that they had noticed some behavioural change in PWC riders since the roll out of the compliance package.
- 5.5 DH added that nine infringement notices and six warnings were issued during the trial and now we're reviewing the program and an external consultant has been engaged to assist with this review.

6 Lifejacket Wear Initiative – TfNSW update

- 6.1 LT said the Old4New program was in its last month for this season and that a review would be carried out over the winter period and would inform next steps for the program.

7 Recreational Boating Problem Definitions and Strategy - review

- 7.1 LT said CMS engaged an external research consultant who has produced the Problem Definitions in a way that mirrors a similar model adopted by the Centre for Road Safety.
- 7.2 LT notified representatives that they will receive invitations to workshops looking into the Problem Definitions that will be run next week around issues and activities affecting recreational boating.
- 7.3 LT said the actions and activities out of the workshops will inform the Maritime Safety Plan which to be released later this year.

8 State-wide Compliance Campaigns – update

- 8.1 DH said during 2016-17 season RMS completed four compliance campaigns and another will run from 3 to 4 June under the tag line 'Know Before You Go' and the specific themes would be determined by the individual regions.
- 8.2 NM agreed and added that RMS was working on a separate Father's Day campaign theme that would be delivered in September 2017.

RMS Flare Collection Service 2017 schedule – update:

- 8.3 DH remarked that he had no new updates regarding flare collection but to add that for the next season visits to Inland waterways would be increased.
- 8.4 DB asked if the flare collection project could be expanded to include sailing clubs and DH encouraged members to let him know of any specific locations that members think are important to include for next season.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
1. Send feedback and suggestions on the RMS Flare Collection program to DH for consideration into next season program roll out.	ALL	ASAP

9 Boating Now - update

- 9.1 DH said the maintenance funding program is under consideration by RMS, TfNSW and the Minister's office and there will be another update in June or July for members.
- 9.2 DH added that he will provide a written update with some summary figures to the group offline.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
2. Provide a summary update of Boating Now including how maintenance funding will be implemented.	DH	ASAP

10 RVAG Terms of Reference review

- 10.1 LT advised that he'd about four responses from representatives and asked if there was anyone who still had concerns on ToR and BIA comments on these. Members to return feedback by 30 June.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
3. Provide feedback and any comments regarding the RVAG ToR to LT.	ALL	30 June 17

11 General Business

- 11.1 DH notified the group that the sailing exemption order which is designed to allow clubs to race without an aquatic licence (excluding major events) is close to finalisation, and members would receive further updates in due course.
- 11.2 CdJ asked if there were any plans for dredging in Brisbane Waters as the ferry has run aground there about four times recently. LT advised that there are discussions with Crown Lands and some work is underway to remedy the situation.
- 11.3 MJ said there are still issues regarding combining payments onto one receipt for multiple licence transactions at Service NSW outlets and he said you should be able to pay for multiple transactions in one transaction on one payment terminal.
- 11.4 The meeting closed at 7:30pm.

Summary of Actions

#	Action Items	Person	Due
1.	Send feedback and suggestions on the RMS Flare Collection program to DH for consideration into next season program roll out.	ALL	ASAP
2.	Provide a summary update of Boating Now including how maintenance funding will be implemented.	DH	ASAP
3.	Provide feedback and any comments regarding the RVAG ToR to LT.	ALL	30 June 17
4.	Action 1 from previous minutes: Investigate the possibility of sharing 'rescue information' with relevant stakeholders like Paddle NSW to alert on potential hot spots.	DL, GE and LT	ASAP
5.	Action 3 from previous minutes: Report back to RVAG on how the reporting of provisional boating fatalities and serious injuries will work in the future.	DH and LT	ASAP
6.	Action 4 from previous minutes: Circulate information to RVAG on the status of the 'observational study'.	LT	ASAP