

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 14 July 2015, 1700 hours
Venue:	Quarterdeck Room, RMS Maritime Division, James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Michael Drake (MD), Principal Manager Boating Safety, Maritime Management Centre
Admin:	David Chieza (DC), Assistant Policy Officer, Maritime Management Centre

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Jeff Richards (JR)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
Chris Gillett (CG)	Marine Rescue NSW
David Lyall (DL)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Andrew Mathers (AM)	PaddleNSW
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
Alex Barrell (AB)	Roads and Maritime Services
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Andrew Cribb (AC)	Yachting NSW
Apologies:	
Alan Barrett (AB)	Boating Industry Association
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 8 September 2015
-----------------------------	---------------------------------

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 MD welcomed attendees including guest Alex Barrell, Manager Sydney Harbour Operations (RMS) to the meeting and relayed apologies from Alan Barrett.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 On review of the previous meeting minutes it was resolved that action items 1 and 2 be carried forward with the intention to resolve out of session.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due

1. Develop an RVAG presence on the MMC website to include representative names and organisations as well as to host future RVAG minute summaries.	DC	ASAP
---	----	------

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
2. Provide the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding 'boat trailer parking' issues out of session.	Chair	ASAP

2.2 It was moved by MD and seconded by MC, that the minutes of the meeting of 12 May 2015 were a true and accurate record.

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- The boating incident reports for April through to June 2015 and a summary paper on fatalities for 2014-15 were presented and MD stated that there were 17 boating fatalities in 2014-15 up on last year's total of eight and that 16 of the fatalities occurred on recreational boats.
- MD pointed out that overall a downward trend in fatalities is still the case and one fatality from 2014-15 is under review pending advice that it may be the cause of a pre-existing medical condition.
- MD said there were now arrangements in place with NSW and VIC hospitals to share data specifically where hospital admission has occurred following a boating incident and relationships are being established with marine insurers such as Club Marine for similar purposes.
- AC asked if data regarding the skipper's demographic was available in the fata incidents and MD responded that this data was known and is reflected in the current campaign target audience.
- DH added that of the 17 fatalities 50% of the victims were males over 40 years old.
- AM asked if it was possible to get data on fatalities involving paddlers. MD agreed and encouraged any members seeking specific boating incidents data to e-mail requests.
- MD informed members that work was underway to collect boating activity data to learn how much people are using their boats. This work is being supported by industry with the goal being to get evidence based data on how boats are being used.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- MD tabled licence and registration reports noting a 10% growth on PWC licences and general upward trend in boat licence numbers.
- MD said PWC registrations continue to grow whilst vessel registrations were steady.

3.3 Expired flares:

- MD asked the group to note the expired flares data submitted by RMS.
- DL said he heard that Bayview and Warriewood RMS centres had received enquiries on the cost of disposing flares. He said the nature of the enquiries suggests there could be moves to question the cost benefit of collecting flares and he emphasized that regardless the cost we need to continue supporting flare collection.
- DH agreed and advised that the intention is to enhance and improve this program.
- MD added that giving a viable alternative for the disposal of flares is a priority and there is no desire to roll this back. MD stated the MMC was looking at new

technologies as well however noting there are concerns by AMSA with regards to some laser devices and how they could pose a risk to aircraft pilots.

4 New Marine Safety (General) Regulation

- 4.1 MD gave a detailed briefing and tabled a presentation on the new Marine Safety (General) Regulation, with the following highlights:
- Changes to PWC licence fees
 - PWC licence fees be set at twice the fee for a general boat licence of the same duration
 - Shift focus of boat licence process to outcome over process
 - Changes to boating theory course, registration labels, lifejackets, navigation safety, powers and penalties
 - Submissions can be made [online](#) during the public consultation period which closes on Friday 28 August 2015.
- 4.2 MD said to allow for enough time for consultation implementation will occur on 1 December 2015.
- 4.3 MD stated that currently the PWC fees were pegged too high and whilst PWC complaints still remain high, incident and compliance data for PWCs continue at the same levels as other vessels. MD also said PWC have mandatory disqualifications which need to be changed to discretionary as the vast majority of these disqualifications were being overturned on appeal.
- 4.4 MD said one alternative being considered was to allow Registered Training Providers (RTPs) to train unlicensed PWC riders under an exemption. AC asked if there would be a change to the accreditation of RTPs, MD responded that RTPs would need to comply with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) requirements and sign an agreement with RMS to be accredited.
- 4.5 DL asked if MRNSW would be extended similar exemptions during their use of PWC and MD replied that current measures were sufficient and no exemption would be given. CG agreed and said currently MRNSW employees are not exempt and must do the course.
- 4.6 MD said as part of the proposed changes the practical course would remain in place however the DVD and online course would be offered free similar to the roads process.
- 4.7 MD stated there was need to bring the current test regime into the 21st century by providing options for testing in online and in different languages however RTPs would still be able to conduct training courses.
- 4.8 MD advised that it is proposed to remove the Young Adult General Boat Licence (YAGBL) however keeping the conditions and make the licence age based rather than class based.
- 4.9 MP questioned why there is a proposal for a 10 year licence and MD responded that this is to ensure consistency with the NSW driver licence. DL said if that is the case then process for concessions should also be consistent across both car and boat licences.
- 4.10 MP said as part of the lifejacket proposals there should be consistency on how belt bag style lifejackets are to be worn as currently the situation differs depending on the compliance officer's interpretation of what constitutes 'wearing a lifejacket' if it's the belt bag style.
- 4.11 MD said emphasis is placed on informing when a lifejacket is to be worn in accordance with the law along with bringing an awareness to the new style and range of lifejackets available for all kinds of activities.
- 4.12 DH mentioned that pilot programs will be run on the Tweed, Clarence and Williams Rivers focussing on finding suitable areas where activities deemed to cause excessive wash and wake could be conducted with minimum impact to both the environment and other craft on the water.

- 4.13 AC said while he supports the pilot programs proposed his organisation was more interested in the on water coordination and support from Maritime for organised aquatic activities. He added that during the busy periods there could be any number of sail races on different aquatic licences racing on the same body of water which can be chaotic.

5 Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS) - update

- 5.1 MD reminded that the SIBS would be running from 30 July to 3 August this year.
- 5.2 MD said that the Minister would officially open the boat show for the first time and that the lifejacket lounge would host the breakfast event. MD added that the Boating Safety Precinct would be back again at this year's show.

6 Boating Now - update

- 6.1 MD advised that 192 priority projects funded to the tune of \$37.5m over 3 years had been identified and physical works were to begin soon if not already underway.
- 6.2 DH also said \$2.5m from the figure above would be set aside specifically to upgrade signage at wharfs and ramps.
- 6.3 MP requested if there was a breakdown of all the funding announced so far. MD responded that the [NSW Boating Statement](#) contains some details on funding for Boating Now projects.
- 6.4 DC advised there is an interactive web based map in development showing the location of each project as well as associated funding and a timeline to completion. DH said he would seek to distribute a link or document showing the funding breakdown.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
3. Provide a breakdown of the funding for the Boating Now priority projects.	DH	ASAP

7 General Business

- 7.1 JR said he had sent through paper for discussion regarding Manly Council action to gazette a Designated Swimming Zone at Cabbage Tree Bay, however he noticed they were not included on the agenda.
- 7.2 DC apologized for the oversight and advised that the papers would be included in these minutes as separate attachments. Members should note and consider the papers attached and contact JR for any comment.
- 7.3 JR added that it seems Manly council are seeking to exclude vessels from this area on the grounds of safety but it appears more of a commercial interest.
- 7.4 DL advised that the boat ramp guidelines project had gone very well expect for the issue of placing life buoys on jetties something DL wanted to see occur. DL asked RVAG for their views and there broad support to have life buoys at jetties.
- 7.5 DL asked if there had been any feedback from the MAC. MD advised that MAC met recently for the first time since November 2014 and that minutes would not been available until they are endorsed at the next MAC sitting.
- 7.6 MP requested if more BEOs could be made available to assist with educational work at boating and cultural events.
- 7.7 DH advised that 13 BEOs had recently been made full time RMS employees and may attend if available. DH said BEOs would form a strong part of the educational support for the 2015-16 compliance campaigns. DH said he would advise RVAG of details of the 2015-16 compliance campaigns at the next RVAG meeting.

- 7.8 MP asked if MRNSW was involved with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and MD advised that MMC was working with ACMA and that there is radio licencing work currently underway.
- 7.9 AC requested if a more practical guide on the 'NSW Light Vehicle Agricultural and Load Exemption Ministerial Order' was available to assist boaters in understanding the new requirements. DC said he would follow up on leads at RMS and advise.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
4. Obtain a simplified guide from RMS for the 'NSW Light Vehicle Agricultural and Load Exemption Ministerial Order'.	DC	ASAP

- 7.10 The meeting closed at 18:45hrs.

Summary of Actions

#	Actions	Person	Due
1.	Develop an RVAG presence on the MMC website to include representative names and organisations as well as to host future RVAG minute summaries.	DC	ASAP
2.	Provide the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding 'boat trailer parking' issues out of session.	Chair	ASAP
3.	Provide a breakdown of the funding for the Boating Now priority projects.	DH	ASAP
4.	Obtain a simplified guide from RMS for the 'NSW Light Vehicle Agricultural and Load Exemption Ministerial Order'.	DC	ASAP