

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 10 November 2015, 1700 hours
Venue:	Integrated Planning Room, (TfNSW) L4-18 Lee St, Chippendale
Chair:	Michael Drake (MD), Principal Manager Port and Maritime Policy, Transport for NSW
Admin:	David Chieza (DC), Assistant Policy Officer, Port and Maritime Policy

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Michael Jarvin (MJ)	Boating Industry 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
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
David Edwards (DE)	Yachting NSW
Invited guest:	
David Surplice (DS)	Transport for NSW
Apologies:	
Alan Barrett (AB)	Boating Industry Association
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Andrew Mathers (AM)	Paddle NSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 16 February 2016
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1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 MD welcomed attendees to the meeting and relayed apologies from Alan Barrett and Peter Hunter. Michael advised the group that Michael Jarvin was attending this meeting on behalf of BIA representative Alan Barrett who was unable to attend.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 **Action 1** review: MD said that in future the Cold Water campaign and educational messages around hypothermia will be extended to cover all relevant lakes and dams including those not currently identified as alpine lakes.
- 2.2 **Action 2** review: DC stated that following further enquiries with RMS it was reported that a PWC gave a glancing blow to the head of a spearfisherman off Bangelly Head and continued without stopping, however no injuries were sustained from the incident.
- 2.3 **Action 3** review: MD thanked JR and PH for their valuable input and noted that it's great when members make contributions and come up with ideas which help to shape and influence legislation, in this case the review of the new Marine Safety Regulation.
- 2.4 **Action 4** review: MD said the current research and incident data showed that there were very few incidents involving people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. He noted that New Zealand has a lot more experience and extensive knowledge in working with CALD communities which would be of benefit when considering a NSW approach, MD advised that he'd work with other jurisdictions including New Zealand through ANZBEG on this issue.
- 2.5 MP also offered support and mentioned RFA have been successfully involved in numerous events for CALD communities and mentioned one recently that was well attended.
- 2.6 DL suggested that one option could be to place boating safety ads and messages targeted to the CALD communities on international airline's in-flight entertainment programs.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
1. Investigate the possibility to feature relevant boating safety campaign ads aimed at CALD community on international airline's in-flight entertainment programs.	MD	ASAP

- 2.7 **Action 5** review: DH said there were some 60 User Groups across the state and that most had Maritime representation either chairing or in attendance. The groups are based on the Council area or in the case of Sydney the waterway.
- 2.8 DH mentioned in confidence that RMS has plans to review the current User Group structures and adopt a more Regional based approach with new streamlined functions complete with fresh terms of reference. He said whilst this process would likely reduce the numbers of these groups by about 50%, existing User Groups that have proven to be functional and productive would maintain status quo throughout this process with the exception of a stronger Maritime presents.
- 2.9 MJ encouraged members to work closely with their User Group representatives to ensure relevant information from the groups was being fed back up to RVAG.
- 2.10 DH agreed and said part of the new approach would identify clear mechanisms for referring issues up to RVAG and vice versa.
- 2.11 MD said there will be a concerted effort to establish clear pathways for passing information and raising issues between the various User Groups and representative bodies including RVAG, MPAG, CVAG and up through to MAC.
- 2.12 DL expressed concern at how the Pittwater user group had encountered obstacles regarding extending a No Wash Zone that the group had supported but was rejected by RMS following intervention by a Club without the group's knowledge. He urged for greater consult and transparency between RMS and the groups.

- 2.13 JR said his organisation was interested in having representation on User Groups but information was difficult to obtain with regards to how individuals and organisations could be involved.
- 2.14 MP suggested that the groups need to be better advertised and monitored, he noted that he didn't know about the group in Narooma and the one on the central Coast hadn't met in some months. He also said it's currently difficult to know the right people and their responsibilities at Maritime regarding on-water boating operational issues. DH said he would assist with providing a list of relevant contacts across the Maritime Operations branch.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
2. Provide a branch structure showing names and position and location of Maritime operational staff at BEO, BSO, Snr BSO and PM level.	DH	ASAP

- 2.15 **Action 6** review: DC will follow up regarding providing contact details for discussions on 'Multiuse Pontoon Standards & Guidelines'.
- 2.16 **Action 7** review: DH said he was having ongoing discussions with MC regarding the issue of the positioning of the proposed wharf at Rhodes Point next to the rail bridge and that a solution had not yet been achieved.
- 2.17 MC reiterated that he felt throughout the whole process of this proposal the rowing community has been at a disadvantage and at no point was any consultation done with Rowing NSW.
- 2.18 MC said he was in favour of a sensible outcome and that more should be done to raise the serious concerns that rowing activity will be greatly diminished if the pontoon goes ahead under current proposals.
- 2.19 MP cautioned that there's greater chance of an incident if the pontoon goes ahead which could lead to more boating being excluded from the area, which would be undesirable.
- 2.20 MC explained that with pontoons being further extended in the current design models and in the absence of proper consultation there's every chance that safety is being compromised.
- 2.21 JR added that there he's aware of the need for a balanced approach but he was not aware of any input from the boating community on the design proposals of this particular wharf installation. He also questioned whether there was an official 'Transport Corridor' for the Parramatta River, which would be ideal for addressing some of these kinds of issues.
- 2.22 MJ advised if Canada Bay Council put in a Development Control Plan (DCP) this may go some way to addressing this problem.
- 2.23 MP said this is an issue which should be raised with the Maritime Advisory Council (MAC) to seek a solution before the proposed developments go further. DH agreed and asked if there was consensus within the group for the issue to be raised at the next MAC meeting.
- 2.24 MD noted the unanimous support from RVAG for the issue to be raised at the next MAC meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
3. Draft and present a paper at the next MAC meeting to highlight the issues of a lack of consultation with Rowing NSW and boaters on the 'proposed wharf at Rhodes Point' on the	MD	ASAP

Parramatta River.		
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2.25 MC said since the introduction of Rivercats on Parramatta River wash has impacted the eco system significantly and this was being ignored because of the perceived impacts this may have on 'public transport' on the river.

2.26 It was moved by MD and seconded by DL, that the minutes of the meeting of 15 September 2015 were a true and accurate record.

2.27 Boat Trailer Parking Update:

2.28 DS gave a brief update on 'Boat Trailer Parking' and in particular a number of changes to the Impounding Act that provide councils with greater powers to address boat trailer parking in areas where it is a problem.

2.29 DS said this issue was heavily debated in parliament before legislation was passed and he said that Councils and similar local government bodies will have an opportunity to opt-in to be able to implement and enforce the changes.

2.30 DS reiterated that though the changes have been passed in parliament they are yet to be implemented and TfNSW is working closely with the Office of Local Government (OLG) to ensure effective consultation and communication with boaters about how the new powers will be introduced.

2.31 DS said up to \$5 million has also been made available to support development of off-street boat trailer parking as part of this bill.

2.32 JR noted with concern that the original Amendment put forward following extensive consultation with boaters seemed to have been ignored and replaced with one written by the Government. He said this had potentially depleted the trust and goodwill that had been built with boaters during the consultations.

2.33 JR questioned the meaning in some of the terminology in the Amendment noting there may already be two different interpretations to the term 'move'. He added that any process whereby Councils seek to identify 'zones' that will be affected should be consultative and involve input from boaters.

2.34 MP asked if the issue of 'over width trailers' was addressed in this Amendment. MD responded that this was a separate matter and that RMS (Roads) are the lead agency. JR said whilst the rules for this are in place they are difficult to understand.

2.35 The group was advised that members can access information online at (<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/road-access/light-vehicle-road-access.html>).

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- MD advised that due to staff movements that had affected data availability from RMS he would be tabling a 'summary' report of boating incidents for October 2015. The summary showed only one fatality was reported for October 2015 bringing the total of fatalities for 2015-16 to date to five.
- MJ said there was a non-boating fatality that occurred near a marina after a man fell from a vessel he had been working from into the water and was electrocuted. He said whilst it was not a boating incident it highlighted the need for safer work practises for those in the marina industry.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- MD tabled licence and registration reports noting that license numbers and PWC registrations were continuing to trend upwards whilst there was a slight decline in vessel registrations.

3.3 Expired flares:

- DH noted the flare collection report and advised members that RMS had identified a ‘preferred tenderer’ to carry out coordinated flare collection and that RMS was currently conducting due diligence assessments.

4 New Marine Safety (General) Regulation - update

- 4.1 MD said he’d received a recent update that the new Marine Safety Regulation (Reg) was still being reviewed and no announcements had been made yet with regards to implementation.
- 4.2 MD stated that the vast majority of changes would be for those obtaining new licenses and not many changes for current licensed boaters.
- 4.3 MD noted that feedback from across a wide section of the boating community had been incorporated into the review.
- 4.4 JR said there was an overall reduction in text of close to 50% following input from stakeholders on the Reg review.
- 4.5 MP asked when the new Reg might be implemented and MD responded that the review process was still ongoing and that he was hopeful implementation would take place from 1 December 2015 or shortly thereafter.

5 Lifejacket Wear Initiative - update

- 5.1 MD advised that the Old4New Lifejacket Exchange program was underway and currently in the Murray Inland region. He also said a strong focus on promoting lifejacket care and service would be a central theme of this season’s roll out.
- 5.2 MP noted that ALDI retailer was now stocking large amounts of inflatable lifejackets and this was good for boaters.

6 Summer Compliance Campaigns - update

- 6.1 DH said RMS would be conducting up to seven campaigns across summer and currently in the midst of the ‘You’re the skipper-You’re responsible’ campaign.
- 6.2 DH advised the campaigns are structured such that the first phase focusses exclusively on education followed by a second phase of heavy compliance operations.
- 6.3 DH briefly noted the following results across the state for October 2015:
 - 162 penalty notices issued (majority lifejacket related followed by other safety issues)
 - 155 formal warnings issued (majority for safety equipment followed by registration issues)
- 6.4 DH also said that with regards to the new Reg, BSOs and Police would educate boaters who were found not complying to the new laws but in compliance with the old.
- 6.5 MP asked if a list could be provided indicating the campaigns, when they would run and regional locations where possible.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
4. Provide information on the current number and type of campaigns, their duration and regional locations.	DH	ASAP

7 Boating Now – update

- 7.1 DH remarked that the Boating Now program is underway with projects at various levels of completion.

- 7.2 DL questioned why RMS will support and fund projects that did not meet some basic design principals with regards to boat ramp construction. He sighted a ramp in Terrigal under tender with Gosford Council as an example of poor design and he doubted whether the '[Boat Ramp Guidelines](#)' had been taken into account.
- 7.3 MP added that the shutdown period advertised for the Terrigal ramp was also not ideal and ill conceived. He also said the facility at Norah Head cost boaters \$2.5m but what was delivered was hardly worth the investment.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
5. Arrange for a meeting between DL, MP and Anthony Johansson (RMS) to discuss boat ramp projects contained in Boating Now.	DH	ASAP

8 General Business

- 8.1 MD on behalf of RVAG congratulated all the winners of this year's [NSW Maritime Medal](#) and noted that two of the winners David Lyall and Peter Hunter were members of RVAG which was a testament to the good work being done by members from this group.
- 8.2 MD announced that the Moorings Review was presented and endorsed at the last MAC meeting and an announcement would be made in the near future.
- 8.3 MJ said members should be aware that the '[Sydney Harbour Boating Destinations Plan](#)' was launched recently and key benefits include access to quality services and amenities for boaters on the harbour.
- 8.4 The meeting closed at 19:00hrs.

Summary of Actions

#	Actions	Person	Due
1.	Investigate the possibility to feature relevant boating safety campaign ads aimed at CALD community on international airline's in-flight entertainment programs.	MD	ASAP
2.	Provide a branch structure showing names and position and location of Maritime operational staff at BEO, BSO, Snr BSO and PM level.	DH	ASAP
3.	Draft and present a paper at the next MAC meeting to highlight the issues of a lack of consultation with Rowing NSW and boaters on the 'proposed wharf at Rhodes Point' on the Parramatta River.	MD	ASAP
4.	Provide information on the current number and type of campaigns, their duration and regional locations.	DH	ASAP
5.	Arrange for a meeting between DL, MP and Anthony Johansson (RMS) to discuss boat ramp projects contained in Boating Now.	DH	ASAP