

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 8 November 2016, 1700 hours
Venue:	Meeting Room 1A & 1B, NSW Maritime, 33 James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Lucas Taylor (LT), Senior Project Officer , Centre for Maritime Safety
Admin:	David Chieza (DC), Assistant Policy Officer, Centre for Maritime Safety

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Michael Jarvin (MJ)	Boating Industry Association
Jeff Richards (JR)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
Michael Crews (MCr)	Marine Area Command (Police)
David Lyall (DL)	Marine Rescue NSW
Glenn Evans (GE)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
David Hunter (DH)	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
Guest:	
Harry Watson-Smith (HWS)	Bateman's Bay User Group
Apologies:	
Declan Brennan (DB)	Australian Sailing (formerly Yachting NSW)
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Tony Hystek (TH)	Paddle NSW
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 14 February 2017

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 LT welcomed attendees to the meeting, members introduce themselves around the table and noted apologies listed above.
- 1.2 LT extended a special welcome to new representatives Michael Crews (MCr) from the Marine Area Command, Glenn Evans (GE) Marine Rescue NSW and guest attendee Harry Watson-Smith from the Bateman's Bay Boaters Association.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 **Action 1** review: DH asked what more information members want to see. MP said we need to know if lifejackets are being worn during incidents. DH noted that when there's a fatal or serious injury boating incident that leads to an investigation, RMS will have in depth information of the incident which is fed into the data base.
- 2.2 DH advised there were numerous interactions over the last lifejacket campaign which yielded more data on lifejacket wear which is being added into the incident reports provided to members.
- 2.3 MP stated there is a broader conversation that needs to happen on lifejackets particularly around lifejacket care and service and whether the statistics are showing what conditions lifejackets are in.
- 2.4 MC said information being presented to the group on both incidents and registration is not of much use, as the data doesn't seem to provide much meaning or long term indications. DH responded that RMS is investigating what QLD Transport is doing with regards to data presentation, with a view to mirror that model and present the information on the RMS website as well.
- 2.5 MP commented that we need to be able to ask the question 'where are we going' with regards to incident data presented. LT asked the group how the incident and registration data could be better used by the group.
- 2.6 LT stated that Transport for NSW already conducts a strategic analysis of incident data and provides reports and publications following this research. He noted that that raw data analysis is not a function for RVAG.
- 2.7 MJ remarked that RMS and CMS are running valuable safety and compliance Campaigns and he's only received positive feedback so far. MJ added that it's good to hear that RMS is investigating the QLD data output model and also working with NSW Police which is a good development.
- 2.8 JR noted that the group was being provided with smaller incidents data including from racing and club aquatic events which was not available in the past. LT added that regarding self-reporting it is a fine line between collecting information and overburdening the public to the extent they feel discouraged to report incidents.
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- 2.9 GB asked if there is a standard form for reporting incidents. DH responded that there is a comprehensive form for reporting incidents hosted on the [RMS website](#).
- 2.10 DH said if we can identify additional columns to add to the incident report to benefit reporting to members.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
1. Provide feedback of any additional information members would like to see on the Incident Reports to DH.	ALL	ASAP

- 2.11 Action 2: Discussed in Agenda Item 7.
- 2.12 Action 3: Completed.
- 2.13 Action 4: DC briefed members on some of the BoM's recent digital tools for boaters and advised that Neal Moodie from the BoM is keen to present to the group in early 2017 as more new marine weather technology is rolled out for boaters.
- 2.14 Action 5: Completed.

- 2.15 LT advised that the MAC meeting was pushed back another 3 weeks and he'd provide an update at the next RVAG after the MAC had met. MJ asked for MAC minutes and LT said they will be published online once approved per the existing protocols.

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- 3.2 LT advised there are three fatalities in 2016-17 to date but one of these may not be a boating fatality and could be due to a medical condition pending outcome of investigation. LT said overall the incidents are down across all categories compared to same time last season.

- 3.3 DH provided a brief summary of the two recent PWC fatal incidents based on current information from RMS investigations.

- 3.4 LT mentioned the most recent PWC incident at Botany Bay on 30 October and noted there had been no PWC fatal incidents in several years and then two fatalities happened in a space of a few weeks which is concerning.

- 3.5 MJ said based on the descriptions of these fatalities perhaps more work needs to be done on 'how to stay on the correct side of the channel'. MJ commented that similar to the road rules, perhaps channel navigation rules should be promoted more.

3.6 Licence/registration statistics report:

- LT advised that registrations data graphs look extreme however this was just due to a scaling issue and the differences are in fact modest and within the expected range.
- LT said that it's important to note that PWC registrations continue to increase and this is a consistent trend.

3.7 Members Reports:

- 3.8 LT said members reports are an important part of updating the group on issues and events going on amongst the different constituents that members represent.

- 3.9 LT encouraged representatives to bring up issues discussed at their organisations meetings during the 'members report' segment of RVAG meetings.

- 3.10 MJ said it's frustrating that customers still have to use multiple points of payment one for Maritime and one for Roads transactions, it would be much more convenient to do both transactions on one payment terminal.

- 3.11 MJ stated that take up of the combined Boat and Driver Licence should be promoted as this is such a convenient feature for customers and he recommended that Centre for Maritime Safety (CMS) should advertise this in the Afloat magazine.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
2. Advertise the customer benefits of the combined Boat & Driver licence in Afloat magazine.	Chair	ASAP

- 3.12 MC said Rowing NSW conducted races last week and he said NSW Maritime should be congratulated for providing excellent support during the event.

3.13 MP said that the following issues are of major concern to his organization:

- Ongoing maintenance issues at Terrigal boat ramp
- Rock fishing penalties
- Narrowing of the channel at Little Box Head

- 3.14 DL mentioned that he no longer held a position within Marine Rescue NSW and expressed the desire to continue providing the experience and knowledge based advice

on recreational boating issues at RVAG and he also welcomed Glenn Evans as the official Marine Rescue NSW representative.

- 3.15 LT acknowledged DL's valuable contribution to RVAG on many issues including boat ramp design and Pittwater local issues.

4 PWC Compliance Cameras

- 4.1 LT mentioned that as a result of some PWC behavioural issues on the Georges River legislation was introduced this year to allow for compliance camera installation on the Georges River which had now been completed with a trial currently underway.
- 4.2 LT advised that two cameras have been installed on the Georges River with a third to follow soon. He added that the cameras will be used to change anti-social and dangerous behaviour amongst PWC riders and also operationally support increased patrols.
- 4.3 LT said the type of issues that the cameras are designed to detect will include irregular riding and menacing behaviour and he mentioned the recent incident involving PWC riders disturbing Osprey birds nesting on a navigation marker could also be the type of thing these cameras would record.
- 4.4 MJ noted that at the recent PWC Forum the kayaker who was struck by a PWC on the Georges River recounted his ordeal and it was terrible what had happened to him and he hoped the cameras would curb such behaviour by some PWC riders.
- 4.5 LT added that as well as helping with enforcement the cameras would also play a role where appropriate to seize and impound offending vessels.

5 Lifejacket Wear Initiative – TfNSW update

- 5.1 LT said the lifejacket wear initiative is ramping up this summer and campaigns will continue with the wear a lifejacket theme, however an increased effort will focus on lifejacket maintenance and servicing, including traditional and social media activations in support of this.
- 5.2 LT also said the Old4New program now in its fourth season is currently underway and will be working with key safety partners including RLSA and Fisheries to support rock fishing lifejacket themes.

6 Summer Compliance Campaigns – RMS update

- 6.1 DH presented an Education and Compliance Campaigns Summary spreadsheet for member's reference and gave a brief summary of the campaign statistics.
- 6.2 DH said the strategy divides the campaigns into two segments, the first five weekends are educational and then the final weekend is compliance focus.
- 6.3 DH remarked that the campaign will consist of a group of five or six Boating Safety Officers (BSO) that will focus on a specific location for that day and then repeat the process at other locations.
- 6.4 DH said one of the benefits of this model is that BSOs are visiting areas they do not normally patrol which is a good thing.
- 6.5 MC asked if 'night patrols' are included as part of these campaigns and DH responded there are not many night patrols as past experience has shown that most skippers driving at night tended to be experienced mariners with all the right safety equipment including lights.

RMS Flare Collection Service 2017 schedule - update

- 6.6 DH mentioned that the RMS Flare Collection program is advertised online and will commence in January 2017.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
3. DH to circulate the website url for the RMS Flare Collection program.	DH	ASAP

7 Boating Now - update

- 7.1 DH gave members a brief summary of the program so far stating roughly 26 projects had been completed at value of approx. \$4.8m and there are 21 boating studies with an estimated value of \$1.1m currently under way.
- 7.2 MJ asked if there were any pontoon maintenance projects underway as the situation at Rose Bay was very disturbing as Council has no desire to maintain the pontoons. He said he had provided LT with a report on proposed maintenance of the facility at Rose Bay and RVAG should come up with a position to present to MAC.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
4. LT to circulate the proposed Rose Bay maintenance report produced by MJ.	Chair	ASAP

- 7.3 MP stated that similar to the Boat Ramp Guidelines there should be a document for Councils to abide by as a maintenance guide that will keep ramps in good condition for boaters.
- 7.4 MP said we need to require a service agreement with Councils, JR said the current shared agreement between RMS and Councils isn't working.
- 7.5 MJ and MP proposed that RVAG should adopt a motion to support a maintenance service level agreement that provides Boating Now funds to Council specifically for boat ramp service and maintenance.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
5. MJ to provide LT a draft RVAG motion supporting release of funding from Boating Now to service and maintain boat ramps.	MJ	ASAP

- 7.6 DL said Boating Now funding applicants should have to supply a five year maintenance program prior to receiving funding.
- 7.7 DL stated there was a boat ramp survey conducted by the Boat Owners Association approx. 7 years ago and maybe that information would be useful to identify ramps that are due for service. JR agreed and said maybe there have been a few changes in the last 7 years and it's worthwhile conducting a new survey on ramps.
- 7.8 GB commented Councils really need to be told they have a duty of care to maintain the ramps and that's the bottom line.
- 7.9 HWS said he did an audit of ramps on the South Coast and the proportion of allocation was completely wrong. He noted that the rate of return to boaters was disproportionately inadequate which had triggered an audit in the first instance.
- 7.10 DH acknowledge that after a period of time there is a need to keep an asset and maintain it in good order however there have been many discussions on the

maintenance issue and the decision has always been that it is the responsibility of the Councils to maintain facilities.

8 RVAG Terms of Reference (ToRs)

- 8.1 LT provided a brief summary of the purpose of the recently announced Regional Boating Advisory Groups (RBAGs) and the need to get best advice from RVAG representatives on issues raised by their constituents. LT said this had prompted the need to review the ToRs which had not been done since 2012.
- 8.2 LT referred to the draft ToRs that had been circulated offline to members and mentioned the role of advisors and guests and the value they can bring on expert issues. LT said there's a genuine desire to establish a link from the boater right up through to the Minister through clear and robust representation created from these committees.
- 8.3 DL noted that there are sections that appear to be in conflict on the draft ToRs in particular pages 2 and 6. He added that the RBAGs are a concern because there is no mention of the user groups and how they link into the new set up.
- 8.4 LT responded that user groups are not being disbanded but are being encouraged administer themselves and to report through to RBAG which in turn can refer issues to RVAG. He also said he agreed with the idea of one representative per organisation on RVAG as mentioned on page 4.
- 8.5 MJ said there should be some provision to allow more than one representative on RVAG for example when someone cannot attend or delegates another person to attend. MJ also said he'd favour an arrangement to allow RVAG members to attend relevant RBAG meetings and vice versa. DH agreed a person could be selected to be a member on both groups.
- 8.6 DH advised that there's no application form to get onto RBAG, membership is by invitation from the Chair. For further details members can contact the relevant RMS Principal Manager for the area.
- 8.7 MC said that MAC seems to be the only committee that's relevant because they report to the Minister. DH responded that the RBAGs are there for a specific reason meant to address regional issues such as wake boarding and skiing at a particular local site for example.
- 8.8 LT added that regarding RBAGs there's no intent to create more layers of committees but rather to have a formalized group chaired by RMS and allow issues to be raised appropriately. LT said the new RVAG ToRs are designed to allow easier and transparent communication for all.
- 8.9 MC said it's worth noting the Sydney Harbour user group is very good and he'd support its continuation. He also said it's a concern that there were no female representatives on RVAG and MJ added we should encourage more observers to diversify the group.
- 8.10 LT encouraged members to return any comments and feedback regarding the draft ToRs to him directly.

9 General Business

- 9.1 PD reminded members that Seaplane pilots need to hold a boat licence in addition to their flying licence and there is also a 'Code of Operation' they need to abide by which promotes safety as a priority.
- 9.2 PD distributed the 'Seabirds' flyer booklet which provided useful historical context regarding seaplanes in Australia.
- 9.3 DH said there's some misunderstanding with Seaplanes amongst boaters with regards to their manoeuvrability for example he said in most instances a pilot will have a good aerial view of where to land and other boaters mostly need to do nothing.
- 9.4 The meeting closed at 7:20pm.

Summary of Actions

#	Action Items	Person	Due
1.	Provide feedback of any additional information members would like to see on the Incident Reports to DH.	ALL	ASAP
2.	Advertise the customer benefits of the combined Boat & Driver licence in Afloat magazine.	Chair	ASAP
3.	DH to circulate the website url for the RMS Flare Collection program.	DH	ASAP
4.	LT to circulate the proposed Rose Bay maintenance report produced by MJ.	Chair	ASAP
5.	MJ to provide LT a draft RVAG motion supporting release of funding from Boating Now to service and maintain boat ramps.	MJ	ASAP