

FINAL MINUTES

Maritime Advisory Council

Date	Tuesday 26 August 2014	
Time	12:00 noon to 3:00 PM	
Venue	Level 9, Roads and Maritime Services, 101 Miller St North Sydney	
Chairperson	Darren Vaux	
Attendees	Members The Hon. Duncan Gay, Minister for Roads and Freight Kay Cottee (Deputy Chair) Alan Blake Lawrie McEnally Jan Thurgar John Barbouttis David Edwards Ian Ford Brett Moore Howard Glenn	Visitors Maryanne Graham, RMS Angus Mitchell, RMS Adam Culbert, Office of the Minister for Roads and Freight Andrew Mogg, TfNSW David Surplice, TfNSW, Secretary
Apologies	Peter Duncan, RMS	

1.	Welcome and Apologies (Minister, Chair)
1.1	The Minister for Roads and Freight welcomed new members Lawrie McEnally and Alan Blake to the Council and congratulated other Members on their appointment for a further term. The Minister also congratulated Angus Mitchell on his appointment as Director NSW Maritime.
2.	Confirmation of Agenda and Declaration of Conflicts of Interests (Chair)
2.1	The Chair confirmed the Agenda with members. Item 9.1 – Update on Marine Rescue Financial Information and Governance was brought forward for discussion with Item 7.2 – Marine Rescue Levy. The Chair sought any conflict of interest from members. No Conflicts of Interest were declared.
3.	New arrangements for Maritime Advisory Council and Advisory Groups (Chair)
3.1	Confirmation of Maritime Advisory Council Procedures The Chair advised Members of the processes and procedures for the conduct of meetings. Note: The Minutes will now be published online to improve transparency and accountability.
3.2	New Advisory Group arrangements The Chair briefed the Council on revisions to arrangements for the Maritime stakeholder advisory bodies.

	<p>The Council agreed the new structures improve connectivity between the advisory bodies and enable more productive engagement. The Council also agreed that inclusion of a representative from a Sydney Harbour community interest group, such as Friends of Sydney Harbour, would improve community consultation on maritime matters.</p> <p>MOTION: Darren Vaux raised and Kay Cottee seconded a motion that Friends of Sydney Harbour, or a similar community interest organisation, be invited to participate on one of the advisory groups. The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: Jan Thurgar raised and Brett Moore seconded that the draft Terms of Reference for the Maritime Property Advisory Group are accepted and adopted. The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>ACTION: Howard Glenn and Maryanne Graham to meet with Friends of Sydney Harbour to discuss participation on a maritime advisory group, possibly RVAG.</p>
4.	Updates from Advisory Groups (Howard Glenn)
4.1	Howard Glenn advised that the RVAG met recently and was advised of the new arrangements. RVAG members agree the new arrangements will significantly improve proceedings.
5.	Minutes from MAC meeting – 12 March 2014 (Chair)
5.1	The Chair presented the Minutes of the 12 March 2014 MAC meeting. David Edwards moved and Jan Thurgar seconded the adoption of the Minutes. The Minutes of the 17 March 2014 MAC meeting were confirmed as a true and correct record.
6.	Actions from MAC meeting – 12 March 2014 (Chair)
6.1	<p>The Chair reviewed the Actions from the previous Minutes. The following updates were provided:</p> <p><u>Item 6.3 – Boating Maps (RMS)</u> Angus Mitchell advised that if there are specific inland lakes that require boating maps, RMS will consider their development, however he is unaware of any current proposals.</p> <p><u>Item 6.4 – National System for Commercial Vessels (Ian Ford)</u> Ian Ford tabled a paper detailing concerns regarding the interpretation of the National System for Commercial Vessels. There is a perception that assessment of safety offences can be subjective and some BSOs have shown a tendency to issue infringement or show cause notices, rather than work with industry to develop solutions.</p> <p>ACTION: Howard Glenn and Angus Mitchell to discuss the issues raised in relation to the implementation of the NSCV and consider any changes or further education required.</p> <p><u>Item 8.1 – Boating Incident Statistics (MMC)</u> Howard Glenn advised that MMC is currently working with NSW Health to correlate incident and injury data. This will help to identify gaps in incident reporting, data capture and analysis.</p> <p><u>Item 9.1 – Media and Commentary of Maritime – Related Issues (MMC)</u> Howard Glenn advised that a potential spokesperson for the dedicated maritime communications role has been identified, with the position to sit within MMC. An announcement on the appointment is expected shortly.</p>
7.	MAC Members' items on notice (Members)
7.1	<p>Recognition in the Minister's Title of the Maritime Portfolio (Brett Moore) Brett Moore tabled a paper requesting greater recognition of the 'maritime' aspects of the Minister's portfolio in the official title. Members agreed there would be benefits in adopting the title of 'Minister for Roads, Freight and Maritime' or similar.</p> <p>The Minister advised it is not his prerogative to change the official title of the portfolio but that this would be proposed in the formation of the next new Government in 2015.</p>
7.2	<p>Marine Rescue Funding (Darren Vaux Item 7.2; Angus Mitchell Item 9.2) Darren Vaux spoke to Item 7.2 - Marine Rescue Funding, Angus Mitchell tabled Item 9.2 – RMS Update on Marine Rescue in response to issues raised. Both items were discussed in concert.</p>

	<p>Darren Vaux outlined the MAC's concerns that the accountability around Marine Rescue expenditure, particularly in relation to the Marine Rescue Contribution remains inconsistent with the representations made by the Government to Stakeholders when the Contribution was established.</p> <p>The Funding agreements between RMS, Ministry of Police and Emergency Services (MPES) and Marine Rescue NSW (MRNSW) were required to ensure that levels of funding for the Commissioner's Office from Licence revenue will not grow over time; consultation with key stakeholders (industry and users) over expenditure priorities, agreed performance targets, and service delivery commitments for inland waters would occur; and that annual reports with detailed reporting on expenditure would be provided, are not being met.</p> <p>Angus Mitchell advised that RMS will coordinate an audit of MRNSW funding expenditure under the Operational Funding Agreement between MPES and Marine Rescue.</p> <p>RMS, MPES and MRNSW will review these arrangements in the lead-up to the end of the current Agreement in 2016 to ensure that the arrangements remain robust and transparent.</p> <p>Various Members stated that an improvement in accountability needs to occur prior to 2016 to fulfil the original commitments for the funding.</p> <p>ACTION: RMS to draft a Terms of Reference for the proposed audit of MRNSW expenditure, and refer to the MAC for endorsement as an out of session priority. The current funding agreement(s) should be provided as an attachment to the above.</p>
7.3	<p>Sydney Harbour Destinations Plan (Darren Vaux)</p> <p>Darren Vaux requested an update on the status of implementing the Sydney Harbour Destinations Plan, noting reported delays in passing benefits to participating marinas. Minister Gay also noted reports that some marinas have not provided access to boaters under the scheme.</p> <p>Angus Mitchell advised that seven of the 17 participating marinas have now received their discounts, with the rest to be applied from 1 November 2014. Random compliance audits of participating marinas will then commence.</p> <p>ACTION: RMS to advise on the implementation of the Destinations Plan and discuss a refresh of arrangements with GM MMC.</p>
8.	MMC Updates (Howard Glenn)
8.1	<p>Regional Boating Plans Update</p> <p>Consultation on the final draft Regional Boating Plan will be completed by the end of September 2014. It is intended that the final versions of each Plan will be released simultaneously during November 2014, including a list of funding commitments for Priority Regional Projects in each region.</p> <p>Members noted that the issue of riverbank erosion has been a common theme raised by regional communities. NOTE: MMC to brief MAC on proposed erosion strategies as they develop.</p>
8.2	<p>NSW Boating Now Funding Guidelines</p> <p>On 2 August 2014 the Minister announced NSW Boating Now, a \$70 million program which will provide \$14 million per year over the next five years towards boating infrastructure across the State. The additional funding is made available from the Waterways Fund as a result of efficiency savings achieved through the establishment of Roads and Maritime Services.</p> <p>\$37.5 million will be allocated over the first three years of the program for the delivery of priority projects identified in the Regional Boating Plans. Each region will be allocated a notional funding allocation based in its relative proportion of vessel registrations.</p>
8.3	<p>Safety Campaign Update</p> <p>The 2013/14 boating safety result is the best on record, with a significant reduction in boating fatalities and a dramatic improvement in observational lifejacket wear rates. Improving life jacket wear rates and awareness will continue to be the primary focus of safety strategy.</p> <p>John Barbouttis requested that a greater focus on the dangers of hyperthermia be considered.</p> <p>MOTION: Lawrie McEnnaly moved and Kay Cottee seconded a motion that the MAC advise the Water Safety Advisory Council (WSAC) and MPES that lifejacket safety messages in major community languages</p>

	should be applied at all relevant rock fishing locations. The Motion was unanimously supported. ACTION: MMC to advise WSAC and MPES that lifejacket safety messages in major community languages should be applied to signage at all relevant rock fishing locations.
8.4	Moorings Review The Moorings Review Issues Paper was released for public comment on 20 March 2014. The Paper is designed to seek public feedback on a range of potential reform options for improving and modernising the administration of moorings in NSW in response to growing demand for boat storage. MMC will undertake detailed analysis of submissions and work with RMS to develop a package of reform proposals for consideration at the next MAC meeting. Action: MMC to undertake detailed analysis of submissions and work with RMS to develop a package of reform proposals for consideration at the next MAC meeting.
8.5	Boat Licence Review MMC is conducting a review of boat driver licensing which will be released for public comment in September 2014.
8.6	Maritime Policy Agenda Debrief Most objectives of the maritime Policy Agenda have now been delivered. The next MAC meeting will be used to help set the reform agenda for the next three years of the maritime program.
9.	RMS Updates (Angus Mitchell and Maryanne Graham)
9.1	RMS Update (tabled) Angus Mitchell tabled an update on RMS activities. These include: <u>Boating Education Officer program</u> Thirteen Boating Education Officers were employed across NSW in January 2014. Recruitment for five additional Boating Education Officers for the 2014-15 boating season is underway. <u>Boat ramp signage improvements</u> New modular boating safety signage at 40 key boat ramps across the state. The roll out will continue in 2014-15, with a further 60 sites identified across the state. <u>Coffs Harbour Boat Ramp Upgrade</u> Coffs Harbour City Council was awarded a special grant of \$1 million in January 2014 to upgrade and improve Coffs Harbour Boat Ramp. Construction is set to commence in October 2014. <u>Palm Beach Ferry Wharf Upgrade</u> Pittwater Council was allocated a special grant of \$1.5 million to upgrade the Palm Beach commuter ferry wharf in January 2014. Works will be completed by December 2014. <u>Review of Boat Ramp Guidelines</u> Expert coastal and civil engineering consultants have been engaged to update the boat ramp and related facility design guidelines. The new guidelines will inform Council led boat ramp and related facility projects funded under 'NSW Boating Now'. <u>Service NSW implementation</u> Service NSW was launched in July 2013 as the central interaction point for customers to access the NSW Government. Customers will be able to complete their boat driver licensing, vessel registration or mooring licence renewal transactions at www.service.nsw.gov.au or at a service centre.
9.2	RMS Update on Marine Rescue (tabled) was discussed at Item 7.2.
9.3	Waterways Fund Financial Statements (tabled) Angus Mitchell tabled a high level Waterways Fund Financial Summary. The complete Waterways Fund Financial Summary 2013-14 is currently being developed for inclusion in the 2013/14 Roads and Maritime Services Annual Report. A longer term revenue and expenditure budgeting and financial model is being developed for the Waterways Fund in the form of five year rolling strategic investment plan. The Investment Plan is intended to support decision making, including the investment of surplus and efficiency savings and ensure delivery of a sustainable infrastructure and service delivery program.

	<p>NOTE: Further discussions between MMC, RMS and the MAC are required on this issue. Darren Vaux queried the detail of the tabled statement and requested a further briefing on Waterways Fund expenditure at the next MAC.</p> <p>ACTION: Financial Controller Maritime to attend the next MAC meeting to provide further advice to the Council on Waterways Fund expenditure.</p>
9.4	<p>Actions in Response to Bridge 2 Bridge Ski Race Boating Fatality</p> <p>Jan Thurgar declared a conflict of interest in this matter due to her presidency of the NSW Water Ski Federation and role as Chief Judge of the 2014 Bridge 2 Bridge event. The Chair acknowledged the declaration but requested the Member remain in session due to her knowledge of the incident. RMS has completed an investigation into the incident and identified several safety issues and recommendations which are currently being implemented. These include reviewing the appropriateness of vessel speed restrictions applicable to persons under 18 years of age, engaging an independent risk analysis of the Bridge 2 Bridge event and engaging a biomechanical expert to provide a report on relevant safety equipment.</p> <p>RMS is assisting Police investigations into the fatal incident and is likely to be a party to a Coronial Inquest, should it be initiated.</p>
10.	Technical and Standing Items
10.1	<p>Boating Incident Statistics</p> <p>Ian Ford noted the high level of close quarter incidents in the Circular Quay / Sydney Cove area. There is increasing congestion in these locations and current timetabling arrangements are leading to conflict between operators.</p> <p>Angus Mitchell acknowledged that congestion in the area is increasing but noted that part of the rise in the statistics relates to improved capture of boating incidents enabled by the Sydney Ports Automatic Identification System and Vessel Traffic Service, which has improved the capacity of RMS to investigate complaints and incidents in the area.</p>
11.	<p>Next Meeting – The next meeting of the MAC will be held in early December 2014, at a date and location determined in consultation with the Minister and the Chair.</p>
END - The meeting closed at 14:53pm	