

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 12 May 2015, 1700 hours
Venue:	Quarterdeck Room, RMS Maritime Division, James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Neil Patchett (NP), Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, 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
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Andrew Mathers (AM)	PaddleNSW
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
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW
Apologies:	
Alan Barrett (AB)	Boating Industry Association
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
David Lyall (DL)	Marine Rescue NSW
Michael Drake (MD)	Maritime Management Centre
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Andrew Cribb (AC)	Yachting NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 14 July 2015
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1 Welcome and apologies

1.1 NP welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted the apologies.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

2.1 On review of the previous meeting minutes it was resolved that action item 6 be carried forward into this meeting's actions.

2.2 NP said action item 1 to provide former RVAG representatives with meeting papers, could be resolved by publishing the minutes online through the MMC website. MP agreed and said RVAG should follow the MAC model and have a space online for

minutes summary. DH cautioned about the need for more oversight and sensitivity to confidential issues in particular where representatives have not endorsed a position or comment attributed to them.

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	July 2015

2.3 NP reminded the group to provide feedback on AMSA Communications Plan regarding phase out of EPIRB registration stickers tabled at the last meeting.

2.4 NP stated there had been no new developments to report regarding 'boat trailer parking' issues. JR said there is some misinformation going around on this issue.

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

2.5 It was moved by NP and seconded by GB, that the minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2015 were a true and accurate record.

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- The boating incident reports for February and March 2015 were received and NP said there had been 19 fatalities for 2014-15 to date (one occurred in April 2015).
- MP asked if there was going to be a review of the advertising campaign in light of the number of fatalities. NP responded that it's worth noting some of the fatalities may turn out to be unrelated to boating once investigations are concluded and that a number of fatalities were due to impact trauma, however an evaluation of all the advertising and awareness programs including an analysis of incidents statistics is underway.
- NP added that so far there has been an unusual number of deaths related to prop strike and subsequently 'prop strike' awareness will receive a greater focus in future campaigns.
- AM said there was an error with the tally of serious injuries in the March 2015 report. The front page summary showed two serious injuries whilst the detailed brief had seven.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
3. Check the incident data for March 2015 to confirm the correct number of serious injuries.	DC	ASAP

- DH said RMS delivers two kinds of campaign streams which are the broader state-wide campaigns and the more targeted local campaigns such as the one conducted on Lake Eucumbene a few weeks back. He added that RMS look at all incidents and identify then target the high risk areas.
- DH tabled a compliance paper 'April 2015 state-wide compliance statistics' and asked that representatives review and provide comment on whether or not some campaigns were still relevant and any new ideas for future campaigns.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
4. Review the compliance paper 'April 2015 State-wide compliance statistics' attached and provide feedback to David Hunter.	RVAG	ASAP

- GD stated that perhaps the figures are reflecting that more incidents are being reported and recorded.
- DH pointed out that whilst more incidents are being reported and RVAG has access the incident summary reports, more should be done to show the outcomes particularly in incidents leading to prosecution.
- DH advised that whilst RVAG is presented with the summary reports there is a large amount of work involved behind the scenes with most incidents being investigated by a dedicated branch from NSW Maritime.
- MP remarked that while it's encouraging to note lifejackets are being worn more often, as evident in the reports, however people continue to drown. He also said there are still too many 'unknown' factors recorded in the reports.
- NP acknowledged the need to capture lifejacket wear details across all incidents where appropriate.
- JR questioned whether the wearing of lifejackets was encouraging risky behaviour and if there was any evidence to suggest boaters were simply wearing lifejackets and not taking any other safe boating measures.
- NP said there was some merit to see if other high risk factors were emerging in the incidents data being captured.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- NP presented the licence and registrations report in a new format designed to highlight more long term trends. RVAG noted the report in the new format.

3.3 Expired flares:

- DH tabled the expired flares report.
- NP asked the group if the information contained was still relevant to RVAG.
- MP said maybe a rethink is required because the reporting was set up to keep track on quantities of flares being returned.
- CG said the big issue is about the ambiguity amongst boaters on what to do with expired flares. JR agreed and said the more difficult it was for boaters to dispose of flares the more likely they were to hang onto the expired flares.
- NP advised that the responsibility to dispose of flares appropriately lies with the skipper and that Maritime had initially set up collection points as a courtesy service.
- NP said the report had inconsistent descriptions for example some figures were in actual units of flares, others related to buckets, and this made it difficult to compare actual results.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
5. Request RMS to provide clear and consistent information on the quantity of flares being returned.	DC	July 2015

- JR questioned whether flare use was prevalent in recent incident rescues. CG said Marine Rescue had not been involved in any rescues where flares had been used lately.

4 Remake of Marine Safety (General) Regulation

- 4.1 NP tabled a paper on the remake of the Marine Safety (General) Regulation and advised that there would be another round of consultation proposed for end of May or early June 2015.
- 4.2 JR mentioned concerns from within his organisation on the unintended consequences of the previously published review such as the skipper's responsibility as master of a vessel whether at the helm or not. He said following further discussions with MMC he was now confident those issues had now been resolved.
- 4.3 JR insisted that an adequate time frame needed to be provided for representatives to bring forward their concerns and input to the remake of the regulation.
- 4.4 DH said JR's paper was a good summary and suggested that RVAG should host a special meeting to coincide with the consultation period for representatives to present their positions and concerns to the group.
- 4.5 NP supported the concept of a special meeting for the RVAG to be hosted by MMC..

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
6. Propose a date for RVAG to meet for a special session regarding comments on the proposed remake of the Marine Safety (General) Regulation.	DC	ASAP

5 Lifejacket wear initiative - update

- 5.1 NP provided a summary on a range of activity underway in preparation for next boating season's campaigns and educational awareness programs. He also said there would be some opportunity to feature 'testimonials' from survivors to highlight how wearing a lifejacket can help save lives.
- 5.2 NP mentioned that there were some new education and promotional opportunities in particular at the recent Marine15 International Conference a product called '[Life Cell](#)' which is a flotation device that stores all your essential safety gear was on exhibit. In the event of a capsize it's designed to float to the surface and survives can cling to it whilst awaiting rescue.
- 5.3 MP said there needs to be a stronger presence of Maritime authorities at cultural events such as the recent Korean and Chinese Day community events, due to the large number of boating related questions raised. NP encouraged RVAG to consider requesting educational assistance for such events that have broader state-wide impact through the Water Safety Advisory Council in the first instance or seek MMC advice.

6 Boating Now - update

- 6.1 NP advised that an update on Boating Now would be provided at the next RVAG meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
7. Present a status update on Boating Now.	Chair	July 2015

- 6.2 DH provided a quick summary mentioning that 192 projects had been identified and a map based tool was being developed to show the location of each project as well as funding and a timeline to completion.

7 General Business

- 7.1 NP said he would be meeting soon with Lynne Parker who has a strong background in paddle craft safety to discuss and share ideas for more educational safety awareness opportunities for paddle craft.

- 7.2 MP raised concerns about providing funding for paddle craft safety initiatives as they are not regulated and do not pay registration or licence fees. NP added that there is some cross over when it comes to safety on the water for both the boater and paddler with paddle craft increasingly showing up in boating incidents statistics.
- 7.3 GD asked when the BOM would present on new technologies to RVAG. DC responded that they had did not have capacity to attend the last RVAG but have committed to attend a meeting, possibly the next one in July 2015. AK added that BOM needs to provide more specific information particularly with the dangerous surf warnings rather than providing blanket warnings over a very large area.
- 7.4 At the meeting in February 2015, PH pointed out an error in the online boating handbook regarding the type of lifejacket to be worn offshore when riding a PWC. The error has been fixed to reflect only the correct types of lifejackets which are Level 100+ or 50.

Fish traps and floats (JR)

- 7.5 JR tabled a paper on a meeting with Fisheries regarding the issue of fish traps and floats. He said Fisheries did not regard the safety of boaters as their concern on this matter. JR noted that a Commercial Fisherman representative at this meeting offered to support measures to help navigation safety in areas where there was heavy boat traffic.
- 7.6 MP said you may see larger white buoys in the future which are much larger than is mandated by regulation as fisherman become aware of the risk to boaters posed by less visual buoys.
- 7.7 JR also provided the Fisheries Hotline reporting number which is 1800 043 536 or online at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance/report-illegal-activity> to report dangers/concerns posed to boaters from any illegal fishing activity.

Transportation of oversize boats

- 7.8 NP tabled a factsheet prepared by RMS (Heavy Vehicles) regarding the Transportation of over width boats in NSW. RVAG was advised to note the information and in particular the Ministerial Order which can be accessed on the RMS website at: <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/using-roads/road-access/light-vehicle-road-access.html>.
- 7.9 The meeting closed at 18:55hrs.

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	July 2015
2.	Provide the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding 'boat trailer parking' issues out of session.	Chair	ASAP
3.	Check the incident data for March 2015 to confirm the correct number of serious injuries.	DC	ASAP
4.	Review the compliance paper 'April 2015 State-wide compliance statistics' attached and provide feedback to David Hunter.	RVAG	ASAP
5.	Request RMS to provide clear and consistent information on the quantity of flares being returned.	DC	July 2015
6.	Propose a date for RVAG to meet for a special session regarding comments on the proposed remake of the Marine Safety (General) Regulation.	DC	ASAP
7.	Present a status update on Boating Now.	Chair	July 2015