

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 10 August 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
Declan Brennan (DB)	Australian Sailing (formerly Yachting NSW)
Michael Jarvin (MJ)	Boating Industry Association
Jeff Richards (JR)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
David Lyall (DL)	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
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Apologies:	
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Chris Gillett (CG)	Marine Rescue NSW
Andrew Mathers (AM)	Paddle NSW
Phil Newman (PN)	Paddle NSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW

Date of next meeting	Tuesday 8 November 2016
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1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 LT welcomed attendees to the meeting, members introduce themselves around the table and not in attendance were Tony Andrews, Chris Gillett, Andrew Mathers, Phil Newman, Peter Hunter, Greg Blackburne and Andy Kent.
- 1.2 DB introduced himself replacing David Edwards as the new representative to the group for Australian Sailing formerly Yachting NSW.
- 1.3 LT also advised the group of the establishment of the Centre for Maritime Safety (CMS) formerly known as the Port and Maritime Policy branch that as announced at the Sydney International Boat Show.
- 1.4 LT said CMS alignment with the Centre for Road Safety would yield benefits including increased efficiency through sharing skills, research and data system noting that CMS would retain its own identity and Maritime agenda.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 **Action 1** review: It was discussed and agreed that the MRNSW audit report would be discussed at the next MAC meeting from which advice would be given to RVAG in an out of session communication.
- 2.2 **Action 4** review: Some members mentioned that there are current User Groups that function very well and would not want to be absorbed or replaced by RBAG. DH agreed and stated that RBAG would fill in potential gaps that had been identified or in cases where User Groups have been operating out of scope.
- 2.3 DH also said that RBAG are being generally set up according to the Regional Boating Plans except for the Murray for practical reasons.
- 2.4 DL stated he was worried about User Groups eventually being overrun by Estuary Management Groups which should not be allowed to happen. He said that Sydney Harbour User Groups (East, West and Middle Harbour) had met recently and advice to RVAG would be given in due course.
- 2.5 DH added that one of the benefits of RBAG is that issues raised at RVAG could be filtered through to these groups.
- 2.6 No other actions warranted review and it was moved by MD and seconded by DC, that the minutes of the meeting of 10 May 2016 were a true and accurate record.

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- LT stated that in the last financial year 2015-16, 11 people died, which is down on last year's total of 15. All but one fatality occurred on a recreational vessel.
- LT said it was worth noting that in 2015-16 serious injuries were down although minor injuries were slightly higher than previous financial year.
- DB asked if there was confidence that the incidents reporting reflected actual events on the water and that no data was being missed e.g hospital admissions.
- MP said he was concerned that since the roll out of the lifejacket initiative including the Old4New there was still not enough data to really measure the success of the program noting also the increase in paddlers on the water.
- MJ said he was confident that reporting had improved over time noting as evidence the information RVAG was being provided in stats and reports.
- DH said there some issues around privacy concerns when considering data from hospitals but he said a recent meeting with the Cross Border Commissioner could hopefully lead to more coordination between jurisdictions especially in data sharing for examples for incidents along the Murray River.
- LT agreed and said there was an effort at TfNSW to help establish a process for collecting hospital admissions data on a more regular and reliable basis.
- DH encouraged the group to share any suggestions on how other statistics could be measured particularly around lifejacket wear.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
1. Investigate if more can be done on incident data collection.	DH and LT	ASAP

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- LT advised that registrations and license data showed continued growth and that PWC registrations were increasing at a larger rate.

4 New Marine Safety (General) Regulation – TfNSW update

- 4.1 LT mentioned that the New Regulation was published on 1 July 2016 and that the new Marine Safety Act would likely be in place from 1 October 2016.

- 4.2 DB asked if there was an educational period at all for the new Regulation. DH said this was the case and an educational period was in place up to 1 December 2016.
- 4.3 MC asked if there was a record kept when a warning is issued and DH responded that verbal and formal warnings are recorded as well as a penalty notice.
- 4.4 DH stated that Marine Area Command (Water Police) were made aware of RMS approach to an educational period to 1 Dec 2016 for the new Regulation.

5 Lifejacket Wear Initiative – TfNSW update

- 5.1 LT advised that lifejacket wear initiative is continuing noting the good reach of the lifejacket advertising campaign achieved so far across digital channels and through the Old4New program.
- 5.2 LT said the lifejacket observation study launched in 2013-14 was showing good results so far noting increases of 34%, 41% and 45% to 2015-16 whilst acknowledging more work still needed to be done.

6 Sydney International Boat Show

- 6.1 LT advised members that this year's boat show had been largely called a success and saw just under 50,000 visitors across the two locations. LT noted that RMS ran a 'navigation aide' competition which saw some 300 entrants and also provided RMS with useful client contact data for educational outreach.
- 6.2 JR said the Boating Safety Zone was set up quite well and he particularly thought the BSO lifejacket demonstrations and RMS competition were great.
- 6.3 DH said the Environmental Services (ES) flagship vessel was in attendance at the show and proved to be a popular feature. MP enquired if it were possible to expand ES beyond cleaning up just Sydney Harbour noting Georges River as an example. DH said this was currently not the scope of ES but rather the relevant Councils noting that because of Sydney Harbour's iconic status there was a need for ES and it would remain the case.

7 Summer Compliance Campaigns – RMS update

- 7.1 DH said the period for the Flare Collection program had been moved to the latter part of summer for strategic reasons and he noted that last summer some 3800 expired flares were collected. DH also said the program would not necessarily run alongside the Old4New program except in some few cases.

8 Boating Now - update

- 8.1 DH distributed images and presented a slideshow which highlighted some of the key Boating Now projects underway or recently completed.
- 8.2 DL said the project planned for Lake Jindabyne in particular was very important as it would fix a number of existing issues regarding accessing the ramp which could be problematic in high water periods.
- 8.3 MJ added that from the meetings he's attended and what he's witnessed on the ground it was clear that Councils were not meeting their obligations in terms of maintain the newly built boat ramps and facilities.
- 8.4 There was strong discussion on what the role of RMS and Council should be post-delivery of a boat ramp project in regards to the service and maintenance of the facility. It was agreed to seek input from Boating Now project team and MAC if some funding could be released for boat ramp maintenance purposes.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
2. Seek input from Boating Now and MAC on the possibility to provide funding for boat ramp service and	Chair	ASAP

maintenance.		
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- 8.5 Members were also encouraged to use the established communication methods provided on signage at boat ramps as well as online to appropriately contact and report any infrastructure maintenance issues or boating incidents.

9 General Business

- 9.1 DB advised members that there was a manufacturer possibly from Brazil making Nob lifejackets which carried an AS logo but he didn't believe the product met the standard.
- 9.2 DH said there preliminary work under way around the issue of holding tanks on vessels with more discussion to occur in due course with the primary goal to phase in holding tanks on moored vessels.
- 9.3 JR said with advances in technology these days, any discussion around this needs to allow for alternatives such as electronic toilets.
- 9.4 MP asked if there had been any update on the Moorings review process, JT responded he would seek an update that will be distributed out of session when available

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
3. Provide an update on the Moorings Review process.	Chair	ASAP

- 9.5 JR reminded members that Boat Trailer parking trials were underway from two Councils but he was concerned that the Office of Local Government had not provided adequate guidelines on the rules.
- 9.6 GD said some time back there was due to be a presentation by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) on new technologies for boaters and asked if there would be an outcome. DC said personnel changes at BoM had made it difficult to find the appropriate representative but assured members he would make enquires and provide members with a brief on the subject.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
4. Provide a summary on the BoM new technologies for boaters.	DC	ASAP

- 9.7 LT stated that current MRNSW funding arrangements are set to expire in February 2017 and that the new arrangements will be discussed at the next MAC meeting. LT also mentioned that work with the Marine Estate Management Authority (MEMA) is about to move to the next stage in consultations and members would be provided more information as it becomes available.
- 9.8 LT informed member's that RVAG's Terms of Reference (ToR) are due for review and that information would be circulated for members comment and feedback.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
5. Circulate RVAG ToR for members review and feedback.	Chair	ASAP

- 9.9 MJ requested that members be advised when the new RMS CEO has been appointed and he encouraged the Chair to highlight Maritime issues where appropriate. LT agreed and noted.
- 9.10 JR reminded members that Boat Trailer parking trials were underway from two Councils but he was concerned that the Office of Local Government had not provided adequate guidelines on the rules.

Summary of Actions

#	Action Items	Person	Due
1.	Investigate if more can be done on incident data collection.	DH and Chair	ASAP
2.	Seek input from Boating Now and MAC on the possibility to provide funding for boat ramp service and maintenance.	Chair	ASAP
3.	Provide an update on the Moorings Review process.	Chair	ASAP
4.	Provide a summary on the BoM new technologies for boaters.	DC	ASAP
5.	Circulate RVAG ToF for members review and feedback.	Chair	ASAP