

12 March 2024  
 2:30pm-4:00pm  
 MS Teams

# Minutes

## Recreational Vessel Advisory Group (RVAG)

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Chair     | Sian Nivison, SN, Director Insights & Operations Maritime  |
| Attendees | Adam Smith, AS, Association of Maritime Trainers<br>Peter Tate, PT, Paddle NSW<br>Peter Freeman, PF, ABC Boat Training<br>Dan Duemmer, Marine Rescue NSW<br>John Price, Sailability NSW<br>Neil Patchett, NP, Boating Industry Association<br>Geoff Duvall, GD, Australian Power Boat Association<br>Keith Clark, KC, Seaplane Pilots Association Australia<br>Suzanne Jones, SJ, Rowing NSW<br>Matthew Jones, MJ, Senior Manager Strategy & Policy Transport for NSW<br>Daniel Cini, Senior Project Manager MIDO, Maritime<br>Marcus Cahill, MC, A/Statewide Coordinator, Maritime<br>Liljana Bridge, LB, Engagement & Education, Maritime<br>Angela Porritt, AP, Manager Intelligence & Insights, Maritime<br>Nick Dinham, ND, Manager Waterways Operations GS, Maritime<br>Jen Robinson, JR, Stakeholder Engagement Manager (Governance)<br>Sandra Ricklefs, SR, Coordinator Insights & Operations (Governance) |
| Apologies | John Douglas, JD, Australian Sailing<br>Gordon Peterson, GP, Boatsafe QLD Inc.<br>Ken Cameron, KC, Boat Owners Association<br>Markus Meier-Lindner, Surf Live Saving NSW<br>Rosemary Donley, RD, Strategy & Policy Transport for NSW<br>Damian Logue, DL, Statewide Coordinator, Maritime<br>Doug Walker, DW, Senior Project Manager MIDO, Maritime  |
| Guests    | Mike McKiernan, MM, Deckee   |

### Welcome

- New members: Suzanne Jones (Rowing NSW), Peter Freeman (ABC Boat Training), John Douglas (Australian Sailing)

### Conflict of Interest Declarations

- Nil Conflict raised by any member

### Items for Discussion

Item 1: Safety Campaigns: trends and outcomes      MC

- 6-7 January: State-wide campaign – PWC compliance
- 17-18 February: Local joint agency Operation PWC compliance Georges River/ Botany Bay
- 2 x State-wide DCV targeted campaigns (Fire & Pollution Prevention)

## Total 19957 Vessel Safety Checks conducted

- 3577 Formal actions
- 29% (1055) relate to Lifejacket offences
- 13% (491) relate to Safety Equipment
- 21% (758) Behaviour related - poor Master Under-way Decision-Making (Speeding, Irregular Riding, Distance-Off, No Wash, Noise)
  
- Formal Actions: Georges River **333**, Port Jackson and tributaries **206**, Port Hacking **199**, Botany Bay **177**
  
- Focus on young offenders and strategies to address this.

### Item 2: Policy and Legislation update

MJ

- Amendments to the Marine Pollution Regulation have been approved by ExCo and the new regulation is expected to be remade later this month.
- **Marine Safety Regulation 2016 remake:** We are working on proposed amendments to the regulation following consultation which closed in early 2023. [Marine Safety Regulation 2016 - NSW Legislation](#)
- **Maritime Infrastructure Plan:** Ends 2024. Review underway. [NSW Maritime Infrastructure Plan | Transport for NSW](#)
- **Marine Advisory Council (MAC):** Meeting 10 April. [Centre for Maritime Safety Partners | Transport for NSW](#)

### Item 3: Education Update

LB

- **Youth Waterway Boating Campaign:** Educate on key safety messaging around lifejacket wear, PWCs, safe speed, and the associated risks when engaging in boating activities.
- **Lifejacket Online Learning Initiative:** Launched public facing interactive mini-lessons to boost safety on our waterways by increasing education about lifejacket and safety equipment. Link here: [Lifejackets and safety equipment - Overview \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- **Coastal Bar Crossing Safety Campaign:** Messaging focused on crossing a bar safely, directing people to our resources for further information around coastal bar dangers, checking conditions, preparing your vessel, checking safety equipment and crossing safely.

### Item 4: Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office

DC

- **Kamay Ferry Wharves (Botany Bay)** – Construction of multi-user wharves at La Perouse and Kurnell to accommodate passenger ferries and other vessels. Due for completion late 2024.
- **Coffs Harbour Boat Ramp** – New boat ramp, car park and amenities. Open to the public December 2024.
- **Coffs Harbour Vessel Refuelling Facility** – On water fuel facility to service agency, commercial and public vessels. Due for completion March 2024.
- **Crowdy Head Jetty Replacement Project** – Replacement of dilapidated jetties with new and dredging of harbour and boat ramp area. Environmental approvals and tender design completed. Awaiting final approval and funding.

- **Snug Cove Maritime Precinct** – Application for Federal Grant to construct a 79 berth marina, administration building, ancillaries services which integrates with the tourism precinct. Draft REF proposal description chapter prepared and draft REF and Marine Ecology Assessment in progress.
- **Swansea Channel Dredging** – Scheduled for completion 2024.

#### Item 5: Insights Update

AP

Recreational Vessel Driving License summary:

- Boat Driver licences – 550,364
- General Boat Driving Licence + Personal Watercraft (PWC) – overall increase of 2.8%
- General Boat Driving Licences Steady – up 0.2% ≈900
- Personal Watercraft Licences Increasing – up 21.2% ≈15k

Recreational Vessel Registration summary:

- Recreational Vessel registrations – 236,463
- General Boat Driving Licence + Personal Watercraft (PWC) – overall decrease of 0.7%
- General Recreational Vessels Registered Decreasing - 2.96%
- Personal Watercraft Registered Increasing - 13.1% ≈2.3k

### Member Submissions

#### Item 6: Maintenance Service Repair Facilities

*Submitted by Neil Patchett*

- The Maritime Infrastructure Plan recognises the importance of vessel maintenance facilities to ensure the NSW recreational and commercial vessel fleet remains safe and operational.
- Since the plan was announced in December 2018 Transport has invested in a number of facilities which most recently include Coffs Harbour, Tea Gardens, Tweed Heads, Tuncurry.
- The Boating Now program has always been open to fund upgrades to these facilities and this is expected to continue in the future subject to the program being funded.
- It is recognised that any investment through the Boating Now program relies on a delivery partner seeking grant funding.

#### Item 7: Vessel Waste Collection

*Submitted by Neil Patchett*

- The Maritime Infrastructure Plan (MIP) also recognises the importance of sewage pump-outs to minimise environmental impacts of recreational and commercial vessels with a toilet on board. Pump outs were also identified as a priority infrastructure outcome at a number of locations.
- While the Boating Now program is available to fund sewage pump-out projects, it is recognised that only a small number of these facilities have been constructed since Boating Now and the MIP were announced. As part of the review of the MaritimeIP consideration may be given to whether an alternative approach is required to support delivery of sewage

pump-outs across NSW subject to funding being provided for these programs.

**Item 8: Boating Industry Data Service**

NP/MM

*Submitted by Neil Patchett*

BIA has partnered with app developer Deckee to provide access to data relating to real-time boating activity. Deckee representative gave an overview of their business and app functionality.

**Any other business**

Chair

5 min

Next meeting at International Boat Show at ICC Darling Harbour. Details tbc.

**Actions**

**Maritime Greater Sydney, to meet Rowing NSW to address recreational vessel berths at Sydney Fish Market / Blackwattle Bay. By August 2024 - Manager Waterway Operations - GS.**

Suggestions welcome on how to broaden reach to young adults. **By August 2024 - All RVAG members - please send through to Lil Bridge (add email)**

Boating Now update to be provided at the next meeting. **By August 2024. CMS to present.**

Update RVAG on current and planned activities to install new and/or improved vessel waste pump-out facilities across NSW to support recreational and light commercial vessels. **Date TBC - input as part of Maritime Infrastructure Plan process. Action: CMS**

Update RVAG on current and planned activities to support an appropriate network of facilities to support vessel maintenance, service and repair. **Date TBC - input as part of Maritime Infrastructure Plan process. Action: CMS**

Review the Maritime Safety Plan and options for aligned focus areas that RVAG can address in the coming two years. **Date August 2024. Action: Stakeholder Engagement Manager.**

Member updates (via template) to be provided by all RVAG members prior to each meeting. Members all to submit updates 2 weeks prior to next meeting. **Date August 2024 Action: Coordinator and all RVAG members.**

**Next meeting**

All

August 2024 tbc