

Maritime Advisory Council

The Council is constituted under Section 34 of the *Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995*,
in accordance with Part 6 of the *Ports and Maritime Administration Regulation 2012*

Date	Monday 9 November 2020		Time	12 – 2pm	
Venue	Via Microsoft Teams (link provided with meeting invitation)				
Attendees	The Hon. Andrew Constance, MP, Minister for Transport and Roads				
	Members		Invited advisors		
	Darren Vaux (Chair)	DV	Asher Miners, Office of the Minister		AM
	Adam Smith	AS	Isabella McDougall, Office of Minister		IM
	Anthony Haworth	AH	Toole		
	Ian Dawson	ID	Tara McCarthy, TfNSW		TM
	Janice Thurgar	JT	Bernard Carlon		BC
	John Barbouttis	JB	Peter Harvey, TfNSW		PH
	Philip Pitt (apology)	PP	Andrew Mogg, TfNSW		AMo
	Ryan Carmichael	RC	Rosemary Donley, TfNSW		RD
	Shannon O’Brien	SO	Alex Byrne, TfNSW		Aby
Absent					
Members		Advisors			
Phillip Pitt		Isabella McDougall, Office of Minister Toole			
1.				Lead	Paper
2. Welcome				Minister & Chair	Verbal
2.1	Apologies			Chair	Verbal
2.2	Minutes from the meeting of 7 April 2020			Chair	Paper
2.3	Action list items			Chair	Paper
2.4	Update from the Minister			Minister	Verbal
2.5	Declaration of Conflict of Interest			Chair	Verbal
2.6	Member introductions			Chair / All	Verbal
3. Matters for strategic discussion					
3.1	Maritime Infrastructure Investment			BC	Paper
3.2	Maritime Safety Program Plan 2020-21 Boating Season			BC	Paper
3.3	End of Life Vessels			BC	Paper
4. Matters for noting				All	
4.1	Centre for Maritime Safety Update			BC	Paper
4.2	NSW Maritime Update			AMo	Paper
5. Member Items on Notice					
4.1	Maritime Property Strategic Plan			Chair	Paper
4.2	Boat Ownership and Storage			AS	Paper
4.3	National Safe Boating Week			AS	Paper
6. General Business				Chair	
7. Next meeting – April 2021				Chair	Verbal

ITEM 1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.05am and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

The Minister then welcomed all members and addressed the following;

- The Minister expressed concern that 25 lives were lost last financial year, noting not wearing lifejackets was a factor in many of these deaths.
- The Minister indicated that the NSW Government will do everything it can to address this issue. A zero tolerance approach is important as it is a strong message that makes people aware of their legal obligations and we need people to change their behaviours.
- On 8 October 2020, the Minister announced a \$205 million package for investments in maritime infrastructure to improve facilities and help stimulate the NSW economy by driving jobs and delivering local amenities for communities.
- Covid-19 has created a challenge, and the NSW Government will continue to err on the side of caution whilst seeking to strike a balance.
- The Minister noted that as a community we have started to see the easing of restrictions and noted that in the transport space everything seems fairly settled. The NSW Government will continue to look at ways to improve opportunities for economic development, and the boating sector is no different. At the same time it is important to make sure there is no further waves of the virus.
- The Minister concluded his update by saying that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) will continue to work closely with Dr Kerry Chant and public health officials in managing the on-going impact of Covid-19.

The Chair noted that during this period there had been a lot more activity in the boating sector, specifically for recreational pursuits. There has been a significant increase in the rate of participation including those boat owners boating a lot more often. It is important that these new participants or those participating more frequently are engaged with, particularly regarding safety messaging.

The Minister agreed and provided that there had been a 50 per cent increase in boating licences and this increase is expected to continue.

Item 1.1 Apologies

The Chair advised that Phillip Pitt was a late apology

Item 1.2 Minutes from the Meeting of 7 April 2020

The Chair called for the minutes of 7 April 2020 to be accepted and confirmed as true and accurate record of that meeting.

MOTION		
M191029—1		
That the Minutes of the 7 April 2020 be accepted and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.		
Moved: Anthony Haworth	Seconded: John Barbouttis	Unanimously carried

Item 1.3 Action List Items

The actions from previous meetings were reviewed, and members confirmed that a number of items could now be closed. Actions closed are summarised in Attachment A to these minutes.

Item 1.4 Update from the Minister

The item had been dealt with at the outset of the meeting.

Item 1.5 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chair called for members to declare any conflict of interests they might have with any item on the agenda, noting that he had an interest in discussions around infrastructure and National Parks, as National Parks were his Landlord for his commercial premises. No other conflicts were identified.

Item 1.6 Member introductions

This item had been dealt with at the outset of the meeting.

ITEM 2 MATTERS OF STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

Item 2.1 Maritime Infrastructure Investment

Mr Bernard Carlon, Executive Director Centres for Road Safety and Maritime Safety, introduced this item and spoke to the paper, briefly outlining the projects in the Maritime property works program. Mr Carlon invited members' to comment on the potential projects.

The Chair spoke about the Manly Wharf project, noting the importance of land water interface and utilizing access as much as possible. An example would be building lower free boards at wharves as they provide easier access for paddle craft to tie up to locations.

Andrew Mogg, Director Maritime Infrastructure Delivery Office (MIDO) indicated that under the Boating Now program, funding had been allocated to Waterway Access Improvements at Manly Boatshed, which included a larger destination vessel berthing area and a publicly accessible paddle craft destination pontoon for visiting paddle craft users.

Members were supportive of the projects proposed noting they had merit, however there was concern that these projects may not be shovel ready. The Chair noted that there were likely other projects where infrastructure could be implemented almost immediately, and while they had a lower cost, delivering infrastructure would stimulate spending faster, and help the economy and industry to continue moving.

Members discussed the condition of a number of wharves on Sydney Harbour, such as Clark Island, Shark Island and Fort Denison that were suffering degradation and were becoming inaccessible to vessels.

The Chair asked if there were any other groups or agencies that TfNSW was cooperating or coordinating with that would enable investment in these assets. The Chair asked if this was something that could be arranged, for example if there were opportunities for Sydney Harbour and NSW Government agencies to coordinate projects to keep infrastructure moving in these challenging times.

The Minister thanked members for their comments, and noted that the government must engage with the community and balance community needs and commercial / tourism needs. The Minister cited plans for the wharf at Kurnell which was an example of multiple agencies working together including the Federal Government. He asked if there were a list of strategic options which could guide investment. Mr Mogg explained that TfNSW often gets approached for funding assistance from other agencies, however no formal TfNSW funding program exists that would cater for types of tourist infrastructure for which other agencies have responsibility.

The Minister suggested TfNSW engage with relevant government agencies to explain TfNSW's infrastructure priorities and funding programs.

ACTIONS
A201109 - 1 TfNSW to engage with relevant government agencies to explain TfNSW's infrastructure priorities and funding programs. Members invited to provide feedback on projects for consideration by 7 December 2020.

Item 2.2 Maritime Safety Program Plan 2020-21 Boating Season

Mr Carlon spoke to this paper outlining the new safety campaigns that have been launched in response to the increase in boating fatalities. Members were supportive of the Safety Plan and noted that the focus should be on getting the safety message out through as many channels as possible. The Chair also referred to the increase in boating participation and reiterated that the need to get the safety message out was imperative, particularly to new boaters and infrequent boaters. The Chair suggested that this could be achieved by displaying key safety messaging at main boating access points.

Members discussed current lifejacket regulations, and it was generally agreed that they were overly-complex and that there was a need to simplify the regulatory framework. The Minister agreed and indicated that TfNSW was currently looking into this.

Discussion was also had around safety messaging for paddle craft. Mr Shannon O'Brien suggested that the focus needs to be on balancing the needs of boaters and paddlers and educating all waterway users about share user zones. Mr O'Brien believed that there was a lack of data regarding paddle craft, including number of users, and this was because it was hard to get sales figures from retailers. Mr Carlon resolved to take this as an action, to find ways of how data can be collected regarding paddle craft usage in collaboration with industry.

The Minister thanked members for their support and left the meeting at 1.10pm.

ACTIONS
A201109—2 Centre for Maritime Safety (CMS) to review the regulatory framework for Lifejackets in pursuit of simpler and safer outcomes.
A201109 – 3 CMS to investigate ways of collecting data on paddle craft usage

Item 2.3 End of Life Vessels Issues Paper

Mr Carlon spoke briefly to this paper. It was noted that early indications suggest there is no easy solution to manage end of life vessels (ELVs), and that several measures are likely to be needed which involve industry, users and Government. Members were invited to provide out of session feedback by 7 December 2020, and Mr Carlon offered that CMS were happy to provide one-on-one discussions with members should they wish.

Members were supportive of the findings of the paper and agreed that ELVs were a significant problem for waterway users, industry and government. Members discussed a number of issues including the definition of ELV, the costs of salvage, possible disposal pathways and the administrative burden on TfNSW (Maritime) in dealing with this issue. The Chair noted that the registration data used in the paper was insightful and believed that it would be interesting to compare this data to current registration data as Covid-19 may have seen people re-register their vessels, and that it would be important to investigate what this meant for the current fleet. Mr Peter Harvey, Director Centre for Maritime Safety, said that CMS would look at 2020 registration data and come back to the Council.

The Chair suggested that ELVs become a standing item to ensure that the issue is progressed. Mr Harvey noted the alignment between ELVs and the Department of Planning Industry and Environment's (DPIE) 20 year waste strategy and that this would provide an opportunity to keep momentum going in this space.

ACTIONS

A201109 - 4

ELV become a standing item for MAC. Next meeting CMS to report on 2020 vessel registration data.
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ITEM 3 MATTERS FOR NOTING

Item 3.1 Centre for Maritime Safety Update

Mr Carlon spoke briefly to this paper, noting that there had been a total of seven boating fatalities on the State's waterways up until 9am 2 November 2020 and that this was tracking above the current year-to-day target for a 30 per cent reduction in fatalities. Mr Carlon indicated that TfNSW will continue to monitor fatality and serious injury rates and modify and optimise initiatives from the Maritime Safety Program Plan.

Mr Carlon then spoke to the Aboriginal Maritime Safety Plan 2020-22, which was being launched during NAIDOC week. He outlined that it was important that TfNSW develop a boating strategy with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to promote boating safety in NSW Aboriginal communities.

Mr Carlon then spoke to the Marine Pollution Review, conducted by the TfNSW (Freight Branch). He provided that the primary purpose of the review was to consider whether the policy objectives of the Act remained valid, and whether the terms of the Act remained appropriate for securing those objectives. Members were advised that a number of amendments were proposed to the Marine Pollution Act 2012 and that these were currently being debated in Parliament.

Mr Carlon then provided an update on the strategic planning approach for Sydney Harbour. He indicated that TfNSW was working with DPIE and the Greater Sydney Commission to progress this as a priority, recognising the need for a cross-government solution.

The Chair was supportive of this approach and asked that the Sydney Harbour Working Study be circulated to members, noting that many new members would not have seen this document.

ACTIONS
A201109 - 5
MAC Secretariat circulate Sydney Harbour Working Study to members

Item 3.2 NSW Maritime Update

Mr Mogg spoke to this paper and indicated that the Executive Director of Maritime, Mr Mark Hutchings was working with the operations team to ensure they remain agile and responsive to the predicted busy summer period. Mr Mogg noted that an example of this was the zero tolerance campaign that the Minister had mentioned earlier.

Mr Mogg advised members that Maritime had been developing a Sewage Pollution Prevention Scheme which reactivates a NSW system for inspecting vessels and issuing Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificates in accordance with the requirements of the Marine Pollution Act 2012.

ITEM 4 OTHER BUSINESS

Item 4.1 Maritime Property Strategic Plan

The Chair spoke to this paper and indicated that he had been involved with Crown Land in developing their strategic plan. He suggested that there was need to develop a Maritime Property Strategic Plan for NSW that would focus on the land water interface. The Chair suggested that there needs to be a long term strategy and a protective interface with all controllers of land, including National Parks and Crown Land.

Mr Carlon indicated that there was merit in exploring this further, however acknowledged that this was a complex matter and it would require additional resourcing.

Item 4.2 Boat Ownership and Storage

Mr Adam Smith spoke to this paper and indicated that an increase in boating participation highlights the need to ensure future boat storage capacity accommodates forecast demand.

Mr Carlon outlined that TfNSW analysis had revealed that the forecast boat numbers hadn't been realised, however that this would be fact checked in light of Covid-19 environment. He also noted that capacity to do further analysis was another resourcing issue. The Chair agreed that it would be interesting to see whether Covid-19 had an impact on numbers. He suggested that TfNSW should continue to monitor this pace to ensure we are keeping up with massive shifts in the trend.

Item 4.3 National Safe Boating Week

Mr Smith spoke to this paper and provided that National Safe Boating Week had been a great success, with AMSA taking on the role of coordination. Mr Smith believed that having a number of stakeholder groups involved allowed important safety messages to get across to a variety of groups. Mr Smith proposed that ARBSC be thanked for their efforts organising the week and suggested that this be made into an annual event.

Mr O'Brien agreed with Mr Smith and provided that in the paddle craft space there was a lot of positive reaction to the week, particularly on social media. Mr Harvey is the current chair of ARBSC and provided that he would pass the message on to ARBSC when they met on Friday 13 November. Mr Harvey said it is was pleasing to hear about the positive engagement and experience with the various boating sectors. He outlined the collective social media numbers for National Safe Boating Week were as follows;

- Total reach: 422,315
- Total video plays: 290,686
- Total engagement 59,729

Mr Harvey finished by saying it was important to work with other jurisdictions to get a consistent safety message across to a larger audience.

ACTIONS
A201109 - 6 Mr Harvey to thank and commend ARBSC for their efforts during National Boat Safety Week and propose it become an annual fixture aligned to the start of the boating season.

ITEM 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chair asked members if there were any final matters for discussion. No additional matters were raised.

The Chair concluded the meeting at 1.50pm.