



MARINE INDUSTRIES ACTION AGENDA

newsletter

ISSUE 3



Cockle Bay Marina at the Sydney International Boat Show



Warren Yachts



More of the Sydney International Boat Show

Over the last two months each of the four Working Groups and the Strategic Industry Leaders Group itself have met. Brief reports on the outcomes of each of those meetings follow.

STRATEGIC INDUSTRY LEADERS GROUP

The Strategic Industry Leaders Group met in Brisbane on 2 September 2004 at the Brisbane Boat and Fishing Show. This was their second meeting. The Leaders Group heard reports from the Chairs of each of the four Working Groups on progress to date. While progress among the different Working Groups varied slightly, the Leaders Group expressed overall satisfaction with how the Action Agenda was proceeding.

There was also discussion of the issue of industry data and statistics, which covered the respective roles of both Government and industry in the collection and analysis of data. The Leaders Group noted the industry survey currently being coordinated by AMIF which was seen as a useful step towards obtaining better and more timely industry statistical data.

The Leaders Group reviewed the progress of the Action Agenda against the timelines agreed at its first meeting and agreed that Working Groups needed to make every effort to finalise Issues Papers so that these could be brought together for consideration by the Leaders Group at its next meeting in early December.

INNOVATION WORKING GROUP

The first meeting of the Innovation Working Group was held on Friday 30 July 2004 at the Sydney International Boat Show. The Working Group is chaired by Ms Liz Hay of the Australian Shipbuilders Association and Australian Ship Repairers Group with Mr Peter Clarke of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources as Deputy Chair. The other participants in the meeting were Dr Tony Armstrong, Austal Ships; Mr Michael Berry, proposed Cooperative Research Centre for Marine Technology; Mr Bob Conrad, Super Yacht Base Australia; Mr Geoff Cooke, Queensland Department of State Development and Innovation; Dr Ian Crouch, Cooperative Research Centre for Advanced Composite Structures; Mr Rob Gehling, Australian Maritime Safety Authority; Mr Kim Klaka, Curtin University of Technology; Mr Ian McAndrew, Boating Industry Association of NSW; Dr Alan Theobald, Defence Science and Technology Organisation; and Mr Karl Baigent, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (secretariat).

The working group analysed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Australian marine innovation. The proposal for a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Marine Technology was discussed and the working group considered projects to improve innovation in the marine industry, such as developing a guide to government assistance programs. Dr Crouch indicated the CRC for Advanced Composite Structures wants to work with the marine industry and has resources to assist industry driven R&D. The working group is developing an Issues Paper with the aim of circulating it among stakeholders in the next couple of weeks.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS WORKING GROUP

The Education and Skills Working Group held its second meeting at the Sydney International Boat Show on Friday 30 July 2004.

The meeting was very well attended. In the morning prior to the meeting a presentation was given by the New Zealand Boating Industry Training Organisation on their training system and package. That presentation was timely and led to a very worthwhile and wide ranging discussion at the Working Group on the merits and differences between the NZ and Australian systems.

A number of observers attended the meeting including from the commercial sector (shipbuilding), the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) and Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Industry Training Advisory Board (MERSITAB).

The meeting achieved two major outcomes. The development of an Issues Paper has progressed to a stage where it is about to be released to industry stakeholders for their comments. The other major outcome was a discussion on conducting an audit of available training resources for this industry. The Issues Paper is expected to be released for comment within the next few weeks. After feedback has been incorporated, it will be utilised to develop a draft Discussion Paper for consideration by the Leaders Group.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Each of the four Working Groups is developing an Issues Paper which identifies what members of those groups believe to be the key issues facing the marine industry. Maybe you have some views as to how those issues can be addressed? Maybe you feel there are other issues needing to be dealt with? Maybe you're aware of things being done already?

Shortly, you'll have the chance to put your views forward. We'll be going out soon to ask you what you think and to have direct input into the Action Agenda process.



The Innovation Working Group

REGULATION AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

The second meeting of the Regulation and Environment working group was held on Monday 2 August 2004 at the Sydney International Boat Show. Discussion centred on the issues that had been identified from the SWOT analysis.

Issues raised for the Issues Paper include

- Industry's inadequate knowledge of regulations across commonwealth, state and local governments;
- Regulation of leases and attendant issues including tenure, difficulties in creating or modernising facilities and dredging; and
- Harmonisation of regulations across local, state and commonwealth governments including regulations/standards on certification, and environment and tenure.

The Issues Paper for this Working Group is to be finalised for inclusion into the overall draft Discussion Paper prior to the next SILG meeting.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The second meeting of the Market Development Working Group took place on 4 September 2004, at the Brisbane Boat and Fishing Show. The Working Group welcomed Mr Robert Falzon (FMCA) to his first meeting. Mr Falzon brings a wealth of experience in the manufacture of furniture for fitting out of luxury super yachts. The Working Group revisited the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis, and the identification of issues undertaken at its first meeting, and made significant progress towards developing a draft Issues Paper for presentation at the next meeting of the SILG.

The Issues that are being developed further are:

- Relationship with Government.
- Lack of industry intelligence/data.
- Lack of cohesion of industry sectors/cross promotion of industry sector opportunities.
- Formation of peak national industry body.
- Shortfall of boating facilities, infrastructure and access.
- International market access and trade barriers.

For more information, email: marine@industry.gov.au or telephone Jeff Beeston, Manager, Shipbuilding and Light Engineering Section, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources on 02 6213 7088.

Details on the Marine Industries Action Agenda can be found at www.industry.gov.au/marine