

Rowing Australia || Position on Sustainability

Purpose

Our impact on our planet, and our social responsibility to the communities we operate in is now integral to how businesses and organisations operate. Governments, investors, and communities are changing their expectations of businesses, pushing for greater social cohesion and environmental responsibility to protect future generations. The sporting community is not exempt. Rowing is a sport for all Australians, requiring strong communities, clean water and clean air. Rowing Australia is embedding principles of sustainability and pursuing initiatives that are important and relevant to the rowing community into its operations and practices.

Rowing Australia acknowledges the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action Framework. Under these frameworks, Rowing Australia commits to working with our partners to achieve a clear trajectory for the global sports community and use sports as a unifying tool to drive climate awareness and action. In 2019, World Rowing became a signatory to the UNFCCC, with the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) also becoming a signatory in 2020. As a member organisation of World Rowing and the AOC, Rowing Australia acknowledges that it has an active role to play in helping deliver sustainable operations. While Rowing Australia is under no obligation to measure or report against our social and environmental goals, we are committed to leading by example by being accountable for our impact and reporting transparently on our progress.

Mission

Rowing Australia is committed to growing the sport nationwide with sustainability embedded in everything we do, inspiring action across our rowing communities to create a better future for generations to come. We will support initiatives that matter to our community; accelerating efforts to protect clean waterways, preserve natural environments, and foster connected, safe, and environmentally conscious communities, while recognising that sustainability goes beyond environmental responsibility. It also requires collective, intergenerational action to foster inclusion, embrace diverse cultures, and build equitable frameworks that ensure genuine equality and safety for all, helping our sport and its people thrive well into the future.

Scope

The Position on Sustainability applies to all activities carried out by Rowing Australia. This includes:

- Rowing Australia sanctioned events,
- Rowing Australia owned and managed infrastructure and facilities,
- Equipment procurement and maintenance,
- All managed operations of senior and underage teams,
- Activities associated with international representation,
- Activities associated with current commercial partners, sponsors, and donors,
- Rowing Australia internal operations and procurement.

Rowing Australia's focus is to manage direct impacts; however Rowing Australia acknowledges that leading by example and establishing a basis for sustainability across all aspects of the sport of rowing in Australia is crucial to ensuring our Sustainability Mission is achieved. Sustainability objectives and targets will also be embedded into existing Rowing Australia policies where relevant.