

# 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 clean water and clean air. Rowers are mindful of protecting and respecting the environment on which they must rely to participate in their sport. 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 Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action Framework. Under this framework, Rowing Australia commits to working with our partners to achieve a clear trajectory for the global sports community to combat climate change, and use sports as a unifying tool to drive climate awareness and action. In 2020, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) became a signatory to this framework, and as a member organisation of the AOC, Rowing Australia acknowledges that it has an active role to play in helping deliver sustainable operations for the benefit of the environment. In order to align to both the UNFCCC Climate Action Framework and the AOC Climate Action Plan, Rowing Australia is supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement and committing to taking positive and practical action for sustainability. 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

To grow the sport of rowing across Australia with sustainability embedded in everything we do, inspiring action amongst our rowing communities to create a sustainable future for generations to come. We will pursue initiatives that are important and relevant to the rowing community - accelerating, promoting, and championing a growing contribution to building clean waterways, protected environments, and communities that are connected to, and care about the environment around them.

Rowing Australia recognises that sustainability is more than just protecting our environment. A sustainable future for all Australians requires collective intergenerational action - increasing inclusion, supporting diverse cultures, and establishing frameworks for genuine equity and equality for all.

## Definition

Our connection to water, land, and nature is intrinsic to rowing in Australia. Protecting waterways and the broader environment in which we operate is key to promoting the longevity and viability of our sport in a thriving environment for current, and future generations.

We will work to ensure the impacts of Rowing Australia's operations are not detrimental to future generations, and any actions we take now should wherever possible 'leave no trace'. Rowing Australia will work to restore any impacted and surrounding environments from Rowing Australia operations to a better condition than found. As a sustainable future for all Australians is broader than environmental sustainability, Rowing Australia will also champion accessibility and equity across all disciplines of rowing in Australia.

## 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 elite 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.

# Sustainability Objectives and Initiatives

## Organisation Objectives

The five drivers of success identified in the [Rowing in Australia \(RiA\) Strategic Plan](#) provides the foundation upon which Rowing Australia's sustainability action plan is built. In addition to a the RiA Strategic Plan, a materiality assessment was conducted to understand Rowing Australia's sphere of influence and ability to impact, underpinning our approach to lead through collaboration - responding to our community, industry, science, and best practice to ensure our sustainability objectives enable Rowing Australia to embed sustainability in rowing in Australia:

1. Encourage our stakeholders through collaboration and communication to grow and embed sustainable practices across Rowing Australia's operations and activities.
2. Measure, report, and disclose our sustainability progress so we are operating transparently and responsibly, and ensuring we are accountable for reducing our impact on the environment.
3. Promote sustainable and responsible behaviours leading by example, providing opportunities for education and awareness, and advocacy for sustainable initiatives through communication.

Rowing Australia's sustainability objectives and targets have been set in the context of the [UN Sports for Climate Action Framework](#) (UNCAF) principles, and targets have been aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Organisation Objectives and Initiatives

### SUMMARY | Rowing Australia Sustainability Action Plan (2024 - 2030) - Objectives and Initiatives

#### OBJECTIVE ONE

Encourage our stakeholders through collaboration and communication to grow and embed sustainable practices across Rowing Australia’s operations and activities.

INITIATIVE ONE | Develop a Sustainability Governance Framework for Rowing Australia

INITIATIVE TWO | Embed sustainability into Rowing Australia policies

INITIATIVE THREE | Embed sustainability into Rowing Australia operational guidelines



#### OBJECTIVE TWO

Measure, report, and disclose our sustainability progress so we are operating transparently and responsibly, and ensuring we are accountable for reducing our impact on the environment.

INITIATIVE ONE | Determine a methodology to measure, report, and disclose Rowing Australia’s total emissions

INITIATIVE TWO | Measure, report, and disclose Rowing Australia’s total emissions

INITIATIVE THREE | Identify opportunities for Rowing Australia to implement positive sustainability initiatives



#### OBJECTIVE THREE

Promote sustainable and responsible behaviours leading by example, providing opportunities for education and awareness, and advocacy for sustainable initiatives through communication.

INITIATIVE ONE | Identify Rowing Australia’s key stakeholders and spheres of influence

INITIATIVE TWO | Develop and share resources for stakeholders on Rowing Australia’s Sustainability Action Plan

INITIATIVE THREE | Promote and provide opportunities for advocacy and acknowledgement of sustainability across rowing in Australia

