



## MARCH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rowing Australia Board Room  
Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2026, 6pm

### Attendees

Board: Kent Peters, Tobias Wehr Candler, Hugo Ellwood (Director of Finance), Catherine Garrington, Peter Wright,

Staff: Sarah Davoren (Executive Officer)

Apologies: Kathryn Ross, Virginia Hayward, Jaime Fernandez

Meeting opened 6:04pm with an acknowledgement of country.

### 1. Register of Interests

No updates to the register of interests were noted.

The board noted that due to Tobias Wehr-Candler moving to a new position at Deloitte, he had stepped back as acting Councillor due to a conflict of interest with Deloitte acting as the auditors for Rowing Australia. Kent Peters has stepped into the councillor role for the interim until the board has the opportunity to vote on a new councillor.

### 2. Acceptance of Minutes

#### *a. Minutes from the February Meeting*

Moved Kent Peters, All in Favour. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### *b. Out of Session Decisions*

The board endorsed the changes to the ACT Interstate Squad by Circular Resolution on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

#### *c. Outstanding Actions*

The EO noted updates to the outstanding action items including:

- The EO is working with the Lead Coach and board members to develop a singular Asset Management Plan for Rowing ACT equipment to ensure all items are listed in one location which will help the board with forward planning
- Changes to the Course Traffic Flow have been approved with the EO to work with the NCA on finalising updated maps and communications for a changeover
- The first draft of the Reconciliation Action Plan has been submitted to Reconciliation Australia following the feedback from the November Board Meeting as well as discussions with Reconciliation Australia.

The board noted outstanding items from the February meeting

- Brendan Lynch has agreed to be the Chair of the special purpose working group.

**ACTION:** EO to circulate a survey for potential dates

**ACTION:** EO to reach out to the previous chair to confirm work already achieved through the group.

All other items are outstanding or addressed during the meeting.

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### **3. Director of Finance Report** (Hugo Ellwood)

A loss for the Month of February was noted, with a current loss for the year to date, however this is ahead of budget projections. Income remains consistent against previous years, with expenditure increased, inclusive of the purchase of new Assets. High Performance Program noted a loss for the month, but remains ahead of budget, particularly noted invoices for the lease boats have not been raised. A small loss overall is forecasted for the year. Cash position remains strong.

Kent Peters noted he is following up on the most outstanding invoice.

Moved Peter Wright, all in favour. Report accepted.

### **4. Operations Report** (Sarah Davoren)

Report taken as read. The board noted the strong performances of ACT PPP Athletes at NSW Championships as well as all ACT crews in recent interstate regattas and wishes all athletes competing at the upcoming National Championships good luck, particularly the ACT Interstate Crews, with the board updated on changes that had occurred to the crews since the last board meeting.

The board noted the conclusion of the regatta session, with positive feedback from visiting clubs for the ACT Championships the previous weekend, inclusive of the National Training Centre. The board also acknowledged and thank the efforts of the commentators throughout the session – Stuart John, Leigh Gordon, David Bagnall, Renae Domaschencz and Emily Brissenden – who provide valuable additions to regattas. Stuart John's ongoing efforts to highlight and showcase ACT regattas interstate were also noted and appreciated. The board also noted that it would be prudent to work with Rowing NSW on identifying regatta dates early to try to deconflict the ACT Championship from the Heads of the River regattas.

The EO noted the new umpire boats were approaching the conclusion of the build and that she was arranging for delivery.

The EO noted she has completed an application for a Sustainability Grant to support the purchase of Solar Generators.

Tobias Wehr-Candler queried issues he had been experiencing on the Rowing ACT website, with the EO noting she was looking into potential solutions.

### **5. Safety Sub-Committee Report** (Catherine Garrington)

Taken as read.

02/03 – Complaint from club double rowing to the start in lane 1 on Yarramundi Reach receiving tinnie wash from an unidentified tinnie, bow light was reported to be knocked off.

02/03 – Club four reported near miss 100m past Museum Point heading west, with club single exiting ANU Bay.

04/03 – Collision reported between a school quad and a school double from different schools, one exiting Yarralumla Bay. Double reported to have sustained a hole 5cmx3cm mid section, quad reported to have minor bow damage. Reports received from both schools.

05/03 – Near miss reported by club single with quad from same club along Weston Park towards the White Poles. Quad reported to have not given way and single took evasive action.

Catherine Garrington noted that several reports in the past 2 months have come from one individual and expressed concern around one person being involved in multiple incidents. The board agreed it would be prudent to discuss with the club safety officer.

**ACTION:** EO to reach out to the club's safety officer to discuss the incident reports and check on the individual involved.

Catherine Garrington and the EO noted a concern had been emailed from a club around the safety risks when a balloon touches down on the water during the Balloon Spectacular, particularly considering a video of a kayaker capsizing. The Board noted that the actions of balloons were outside the remit of Rowing ACT and that concerns should be forwarded to the NCA.

Peter Wright queried the process the safety sub-committee goes through when a report is received. Tobias Wehr-Candler, Sarah Davoren and Catherine Garrington noted that when a report is received, it is discussed by the SSC to identify any issues that RACT can address, and actions that can be taken. Any issues identified are included in subsequent communications to members, with de-identified incidents being noted on a public map. Where there is a trend which can be addressed by additional resources such as a buoy or advocacy, RACT will discuss with the NCA on appropriate actions.

## **6. Items for Decision**

### *a. 2026/27 ACT Fees*

Noting the upcoming increase to the National Affiliation Fee from Rowing Australia for 2026/27, the Rowing ACT Board considered the fees for the 2026 / 27 season. A CPI increase for all fees has been applied, with the ACT Affiliation Fee to absorb the increased National Affiliation fee from Rowing Australia.

The board noted the inclusion of the temporary member category in the Membership Fees and agreed on the fee and definition for temporary members.

Moved Kent Peters, all in favour.

**DECISION:** The Board endorsed increases to the Membership and Affiliation Fees for 2026 / 27 in line with CPI increases and the increases to the NSOAF.

The board considered increases to seat fees for the 2026 / 27 season and determined an increase in line with CPI would be appropriate. In addition, the Col Panton Memorial Marathon has been changed from a standard regatta fee to a championship regatta fee, inline with its increasing prevalence as a marquee event in the ACT.

Moved Kent Peters, all in favour.

**DECISION:** The board endorsed the increase to Seat Fees for 2026 / 27

### *b. Change of Uniform Request – Canberra Rowing Club*

In line with the Rowing ACT By-Laws, Canberra Rowing Club has requested a change in approved racing uniform. The board noted the new uniform was similar in design to ACT State Team uniforms, however determined that the new design was not too similar to cause concern.

Moved Kent Peters, all in favour

**DECISION:** The board endorsed the change in racing uniform as presented.

## **7. Items for Discussion**

### *a. Club Affiliation*

An interstate school has queried whether it would be possible to affiliate with the ACT over their current state body for the upcoming membership year. The board considered whether this would be practical and what

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benefit and support would Rowing ACT need to provide to an interstate club should the request be accepted by ACT Members. Discussion with Rowing Australia indicated that this would be a discussion between states and they do not have a position on where clubs should be affiliated.

The board determined more information would be required to decide on whether they would accept an application for affiliation to go to the member clubs for decision.

**ACTION:** The EO is asked to prepare a report on the number of entries in regattas from local and interstate clubs over the past couple of seasons to help understand how interstate and local clubs participate in ACT events.

*b. Industry Partnership Purchases (Catherine Garrington and Sarah Davoren)*

With significant funding allocated to Rowing ACT for digital upgrades to our regatta systems the board considered several options and plans for upgrades which will be endorsed at an upcoming board meeting. The current plan for upgrades includes:

- Mobile regatta office, of which a quote has been procured and feedback sourced from senior umpires.

**ACTION:** EO to circulate the quote to the board for consideration.

- Fixed Cameras for Live Streaming Regattas
- Upgrades to the timing system.

Noting our current timing system has been the work of two dedicated umpires over many years, the board considered several options presented, with a final decision on an appropriate system to be made at a future board meeting. The board was asked to provide guidance to the EO and umpires on which systems to recommend to the board, inclusive of whether a replacement system could be built by volunteer umpires or if a system should be sourced from an external company.

Noting her conflict of interest as Chief BRO, Catherine Garrington abstained from all decisions made regarding the purchase of regatta upgrades.

**DECISION:** The board determined considered all long terms risks and determined that the EO and Catherine Garrington should prioritise systems built and managed by external companies.

The board also noted that to make an informed decision, full upfront and ongoing costs, service costs, advice from external parties, risks and potential limitations of systems and lead time for procurement should be presented to the board.

**ACTION:** The EO and Catherine Garrington will continue to source quotes and information from appropriate companies.

Noting the efforts of several umpires to support the management of our current system, the board felt it would be appropriate to both update the community on plans to upgrade the timing system and also acknowledge the work that previous umpires have done.

**ACTION:** EO and Kent Peters to draft an end-of-season message for the community.

## **8. Items for Noting**

NA

## 9. Other Business

### a. Club Volunteers for Regattas

The board was updated on an issue which occurred during the ACT Championships with volunteers from the host club. The board agreed that a review of volunteer roles and hosting requirements should be made prior to the 2026 / 27 commencing, especially for Championship regattas.

### b. Interstate Boat Travel Contribution

The EO and President noted a request had been made from ANU Boat Club to assist in the transport of boats for the interstate regatta to Tasmania. The president noted that it would be prudent to support with the transport of boats specifically required for the interstate regatta, though final costings were still to be determined.

### c. Black Mountain Sprint Course

Kent Peters updated the board on a request for the Black Mountain Sprint Course to remain permanently. Noting the clubs on the Black Mountain Peninsula are in support of the course remaining, Kent Peters advised the board that RACT would extend limited level of support for the course remaining.

Catherine Garrington requested that as part of Rowing ACT's support, a request for safety communications and plans need to be developed by the Red Shed and communicated to the broader community.

### d. 1000m start platform

The board noted that the buoyancy of the 1000m start was continuing to decrease and a remedy for the buoyancy and stability of the platforms should be sourced.

**ACTION:** EO to source and provide quotes to upgrade the buoyancy on start platforms.

## 10. In camera session

Required

8:15pm meeting closed