



2025

# AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC'S #1 SPORT



#1 MOST WATCHED SPORT IN AUS + NZ

## 224.2M

CUMULATIVE AVERAGE VIEWERS  
(+9.5% YOY)



RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE

## 4.98M

ATTENDEES ACROSS 2025  
(+3.6% YOY)



DOUBLE-DIGIT FAN GROWTH

## 12.1M

NRL FANS  
(+10.0% YOY)



INCREASED PARTICIPATION

## 1.12M

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS  
(+7.5% YOY)



#1 TV PROGRAM IN AUS 2025

## 4.55M

AVERAGE VIEWERS TUNED INTO  
THE NRL GRAND FINAL  
(+34.7% YOY)



MOST ENGAGED FANS

## 9.6M

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS  
(+13.0% YOY)



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**It gives me great pleasure to report that 2025 represented another record-breaking year in our great game's history. The season delivered extraordinary performance outcomes for Rugby League, cementing our now established position as Australia's – and the Pacific's – number one sport.**

## KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- » Record revenue: Total revenue was a new record of \$845.6 million having increased by \$100.7 million compared to the prior year. Revenue has now increased by \$454.2 million or 116% since 2016.
- » Record Distributions to clubs, players, states and development: Distributions were \$562.3 million, having increased by \$85.2m compared to the prior year. Since 2016 distributions have increased by \$358.2 million or 175%.
- » Record operating surplus: The Commission is pleased to announce a record surplus of \$64.8 million in 2025. This is the 5th consecutive year of a positive surplus, with cumulative surpluses over that period totalling \$291.3 million.

» Record financial position: The ARLC's financial position continues to improve considerably, with net assets now \$387.3 million, up 20 per cent on the prior year and up \$329.8 million or 573% since 2016.

## BUILDING THE NRL PREMIERSHIP OF THE FUTURE

May's announcement that the Perth Bears will enter the NRL in 2027 represents the very best of our modern game: boldly entering new potential heartlands whilst simultaneously honouring our heritage.

The Papua New Guinea Chiefs will enter the Premiership from 2028 – a truly historic moment for our game and the Pacific region. These expansions are not merely about adding teams. They are about building lasting connections with communities, growing the grassroots, giving kids the best start in life through the transformative power of sport and creating pathways from participation through to the elite level.

The women's game continues its remarkable rise and is now firmly established as a key pillar of Rugby League's future. The NRLW expanded to twelve teams with the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs entering the competition and foundation Club, the New Zealand Warriors returning to the elite level. The introduction of the inaugural NRLW Magic Round in Newcastle was a celebration of elite women's sport that showcased the extraordinary talent, fierce competition

and genuine community connection that defines our women's game.

## THE NUMBER ONE SPORT IN AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

Rugby League is the most watched sport in Australia and the Pacific. In 2025, cumulative average viewership reached 224 million, up 9.5% on the prior year and up by 87 million or 64% compared to 2019. The NRLW Premiership drew 12.5 million viewers across the season, maintaining strong audience engagement and showcasing the rapid growth of women's Rugby League.

## A FLOURISHING INTERNATIONAL SPORT

Returning the iconic Kangaroo Tour to England to contest the Rugby League Ashes after more than two decades was a particularly proud and historic moment. This highlights the Commission's commitment to growing the game in the northern hemisphere as part of the ongoing globalisation strategy. The Pacific Championships, demonstrated incredibly exciting growth, including:

- » Record attendance at Suncorp Stadium for Tonga v Samoa.
- » Record viewership for an international fixture not featuring the Kangaroos.

Whether it is new fans in the US and UK following the NRL Premiership, or young participants in the Pacific playing rugby league for the first time, we continue to see rapid expansion at every level of the

game. Building to a World Cup in 2026, international rugby league has never been more compelling or competitive. The demand for world-class Rugby League is growing and we will continue to invest wisely to ensure we capitalise on our momentum as we take our great game to the world. With elite Rugby League now being played across the US, UK, Europe and the entire Pacific there has never been a better time to be a global fan of the Greatest Game for All.

## A TEAM EFFORT

None of the NRL's successes in 2025 would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of all of our players, clubs, coaches, referees, volunteers, stakeholders, and passionate fans. The success of our game is built on your tireless contributions and none of our collective success is possible without you.

Thank you also to our partners, broadcasters and sponsors for your ongoing loyalty and investment.

Thank you to the NRL Clubs, State Leagues, RLPA and hard-working NRL team members. And thank you to the Australian Rugby League Commission and to all Commissioners for your wise guidance, strong governance and willingness to roll your sleeves up to achieve success.

As we head into 2026, our game has never been in better shape.

**Peter V'landys AM**  
Chairman,  
Australian Rugby League Commission

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

**After another record-breaking year, Rugby League is strong, healthy and vibrant. More people are watching Rugby League than ever before. More people are playing Rugby League than ever before. As we celebrate an incredible 2025 season, we also have so much to look forward to in the coming seasons.**

## THE BEST ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE

Rugby League broke viewership records once again in 2025, with a notable highlight being the NRL Grand Final becoming the most-watched Australian program of the year, with an average audience of 4.55 million viewers. Our streaming audience smashed previous records, with 1.37 million average viewers tuning in for what was an absolute classic decider.

The excitement of the Finals Series delivered a 32.6% increase in viewership, with a remarkable 51% surge in the critical growth demographic of viewers aged 16-39.

With the highest-ever live ball-in-play percentage and record-breaking average ball-in-play time, fans enjoyed more action per minute than ever before. More than one-third of all matches were decided by six points or less; the most since 2018.

Meanwhile, the NRLW Grand Final drew a record-breaking average audience of 1.33 million, up 42.7% on 2024, while 12.5 million people tuned into NRLW across the season. These numbers reflect the growing strength and popularity of the women's game, which is connecting the sport with a brand new, previously untapped audience. The inaugural NRLW Magic Round in Newcastle was a landmark celebration of elite women's sport.

## ENGAGING WITH FANS

Rugby League is the game people want to talk about and interact with, and the explosion in NRL digital engagement is testament to this. No other sport in Australia comes close to matching our online audience engagement, with our market leading content and platforms capturing a new generation of fans.

Video views on NRL.com and the NRL App increased by an extraordinary 128%, while NRL social media engagement increased by 63% year on year. In 2025, the NRL became the first domestic Australian sports league to reach 1.5 million followers on TikTok, with an incredible 110% growth rate.

## GROWING PARTICIPATION

Rugby League is more than just a thrilling spectacle – it's also Australia and the Pacific's largest and most connected sports participation community. Total participation reached 1.12 million in 2025, up seven per cent, while female participation increased by 10 per cent after reaching the milestone of 50,000 registered female participants. Club participation reached a record 207,744 registered participants. The inclusive nature of our Club and School programs across touch, tag and tackle formats continues to welcome new participants into Rugby League.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The platform is set and the future looks bright for Rugby League.

We will return to Las Vegas in 2026 with an even bigger opening week, Magic Round will again bring together all teams for a celebration of the game, and the historic Rugby League World Cup, with games in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, promises to be the most competitive and compelling international tournament ever.

I acknowledge and thank the leadership of the game, Australian Rugby League Chairman Peter V'landys and all Commissioners for their bold and strong leadership, dedication to the game and tireless drive to take the game to new heights.

I thank all Clubs, States and Players for their support and contribution to what was a truly remarkable and now historic 2025 NRL season.

I thank the NRL staff for their commitment and hard work. Importantly I thank the thousands of volunteers and participants who with unlimited energy and enthusiasm have made our game what it is.

We look forward to continuing to work together to grow and celebrate the game that brings us all together.

**Andrew Abdo**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
National Rugby League

As set out in the below 10 year financial history of the NRL – The strategies of the Commission and strong financial management has enabled funding for Players, Clubs, States and grassroots to continually grow, while also increasing our capacity to invest further into new revenue generating assets.

Ten Year History (\$'000)	Consolidated Group									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS</b>										
<b>Total Revenue</b>	391,368	400,091	523,562	555,915	419,673	575,080	593,798	701,145	744,864	845,574
<b>Expenses</b>	(195,842)	(198,768)	(177,208)	(208,907)	(142,815)	(187,004)	(169,907)	(190,001)	(205,414)	(218,383)
<b>Funds Available for Distribution</b>	195,526	201,323	346,354	347,008	276,858	388,076	423,891	511,144	539,450	627,191
<b>Distributions</b>	(204,175)	(207,744)	(296,104)	(318,025)	(301,600)	(345,019)	(360,988)	(452,961)	(477,123)	(562,331)
Clubs and Players	(143,835)	(140,922)	(221,616)	(228,132)	(245,625)	(278,224)	(282,544)	(366,463)	(383,204)	(466,390)
States, Affiliates and International	(29,603)	(31,838)	(37,239)	(46,640)	(25,078)	(34,847)	(35,367)	(44,601)	(52,868)	(56,350)
Development	(30,737)	(34,984)	(37,249)	(43,253)	(30,897)	(31,948)	(43,077)	(41,897)	(41,051)	(39,591)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(8,649)</b>	<b>(6,421)</b>	<b>50,250</b>	<b>28,983</b>	<b>(24,742)</b>	<b>43,057</b>	<b>62,903</b>	<b>58,183</b>	<b>62,327</b>	<b>64,860</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>										
Total Assets	248,667	226,786	250,927	271,833	242,325	264,524	285,760	348,432	402,531	525,847
Total Liabilities	191,168	175,708	159,248	151,171	146,405	125,547	83,880	88,369	80,141	138,597
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>57,499</b>	<b>51,078</b>	<b>91,679</b>	<b>120,662</b>	<b>95,920</b>	<b>138,977</b>	<b>201,880</b>	<b>260,063</b>	<b>322,390</b>	<b>387,250</b>

# AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE COMMISSION



## PETER V'LANDYS AM (CHAIRMAN)

Mr V'landys was appointed Chairman of the Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) on 30th October 2019 having served on the Commission from 22nd March 2018. In 2022, he also became a Director of the International Rugby League Board (IRL). Mr V'landys is also the Chief Executive and a board member of Racing NSW, and serves on several boards within the thoroughbred racing industry. In addition to his roles in sport and racing, Mr V'landys is Chairman of the Fairy Godfather Foundation, which supports Australians in necessitous circumstances ensuring that 100 percent of all donations to the Foundation go directly to people in need and a Director of the Tropfest Foundation which conducts the Tropfest film festival. In recognition of his significant contributions to the racing industry, Mr V'landys was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2014.



## THE HON. PETER BEATTIE AC

Mr Beattie is the Chairman and a Director of the Investment Fund Brandon BioCatalyst, the largest life science investment fund in Australia. He is also an Ambassador for Life Sciences Queensland, joint adjunct professor at the University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology and Institute for Molecular Bioscience.



## TONY MCGRATH

Mr McGrath is a former partner at KPMG and is a co-founder of McGrath Nicol. He is a Director of the National Foundation for Medical Research and a Non-Executive Director for Servcorp Limited and 360 Capital Limited.



## SCIENTIA PROFESSOR DR MEGAN DAVIS AC

Professor Davis is a Scientia Professor, Pro Vice Chancellor and the Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law, UNSW and is the Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University and Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School. She is an Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court. Professor Davis is one of Australia's leading constitutional lawyers, and a co-recipient of the 2022 Sydney Peace Prize.

The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) is the single controlling body and administrator of Rugby League in Australia, and is made up of high-profile business and sporting leaders who act as trustees of the game.

Together, they work with the ARLC's administrative executive to foster, develop, and grow the game and provide adequate funding for Rugby League at all levels. The ARLC also liaises with and delegates appropriate functions to the governing bodies in the States and Territories of Australia, including the NSWRL and QRL.



## WAYNE PEARCE OAM

Mr Pearce is a former Kangaroos representative who also captained and coached the NSW State of Origin side. He is Chair of both the ARLC Innovation Committee and the ARLC Player Safety Committee. He is a business consultant and Director of Wayne Pearce Advantage and The Leadership Advantage and holds an Order of Australia medal for services to Rugby League and the community.



## THE HON KATE JONES LL.M (ANU) GAICD

Ms Jones has more than 20 years' experience in senior leadership position in the commercial and public sectors including as a Queensland Government Minister. Kate serves on numerous national boards including as an Independent Commissioner on the ARLC, Chair of the ARLC Participation Australia Committee and Vice-President of Paralympics Australia. Kate was also recently appointed Chairperson of Australia's leading advocacy group for women in the technology sector, Women in Digital.



## DR GARY WEISS AM

Dr Weiss is Executive Director of Ariadne Australia Ltd, and Chairman of Coast Entertainment Holdings Limited and Cromwell Property Group. He is Deputy Chairman of Myer Holdings Limited, Non-Executive Director of Hearts & Minds Investments Limited, Thorney Opportunities Limited, the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and The Centre for Independent Studies and Director of Invest Gold Coast Pty Limited. Dr Weiss was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2019 for significant services to business and to the community.



## ALAN SULLIVAN KC

Mr Sullivan is one of Australia's leading barristers. Mr Sullivan is currently Senior Commissioner, Cricket Australia Code of Conduct and President of the Football Federation of Australia Appeals Committee. Mr Sullivan is also a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and a Commissioner of the International Cricket Council Code of Conduct Commission.

# THE **ULTIMATE** SPORTS EXPERIENCE

The 2025 NRL season left no doubt that Rugby League remains the premier sporting entertainment spectacle in Australia and the Pacific.

With its fierce rivalries, incredible skill and electrifying live action, Season 2025 smashed all-time viewership records and packed stadiums like never before. From the roar of the crowd to the excitement of fans, the passion and intensity on display showcased sports entertainment at its most thrilling.



**181.7M**

VIEWERS ACROSS THE REGULAR SEASON AND FINALS

NRL Premiership viewership was up 7.8% on 2024.



**4.55M**

THE LARGEST AUDIENCE FOR AN NRL MATCH OF ALL TIME

The NRL Grand Final was the most-watched program on Australian television in 2025.



**328,000+**

FANS ATTENDED FINALS MATCHES

With seven games selling out, highlighting the unmatched excitement and appeal of the Finals Series.



**2.47B**

VIEWS ON NRL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS ACROSS THE PREMIERSHIP SEASON

Fans consumed Finals content like never before, with Grand Final Week views up 80% from 2024.



## NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP

The 2025 NRL Telstra Premiership season delivered non-stop action, thanks to the highest-ever live ball-in-play percentage and record-breaking average ball-in-play time, giving fans more action per minute than ever before. And with 73 games decided by six points or less – the most since 2018 – more than one-third of all contests went down to the wire, keeping fans on the edge of their seats right to the final whistle.

The game's future is looking bright. A landmark deal with the Australian Government announced in December 2024 has confirmed investment into the NRL's Pacific Strategy and Papua New Guinea's entry into the NRL Premiership from 2028. Further expansion was announced in May 2025, when it was confirmed the Perth Bears would enter the competition in 2027.



## THEME ROUNDS

### WOMEN IN LEAGUE ROUND

Since its launch in 2007, Women In League Round has evolved into an initiative that actively supports women's career development across all levels of the game. Highlights of 2025 include the Women in League Mentorship Program and Internship Program.

### BEANIE FOR BRAIN CANCER ROUND

The ninth Beanie for Brain Cancer Round saw more than 130,000 beanies sold and \$3.5 million raised for the Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) to support brain cancer research. Since opening in 2022, the MHF Centre for Brain Cancer Research has become a national research hub, focusing on brain imaging and childhood brain cancer.

### MULTICULTURAL ROUND

In 2025, Multicultural Round celebrated the 65 ethnicities across the NRL and NRLW player squads, the highest number since records began. Another successful year saw the NRL community celebrate its unique heritage.

### NRL MAGIC ROUND

Brisbane hosted its biggest Magic Round yet at Suncorp Stadium. For the first time, fans enjoyed a four-day pass, starting Thursday night with Women's State of Origin Game 1, followed by eight NRL blockbusters across the weekend. Off the field, Caxton Street transformed into a buzzing fan zone with live entertainment and partner activations.



Rugby League Las Vegas 2025 was a landmark event, drawing record crowds and global attention. Fans experienced a historic quadruple-header featuring elite talent from Australia and the UK, and activations like the Resorts World Fan Hub, Rugby League Las Vegas Fan Fest and the Vegas 9s Tournament.

### ALL STARS

The Harvey Norman All Stars returned to CommBank Stadium at Parramatta in 2025. In a close-fought Women's fixture, the Indigenous team secured a 20-18 victory over the Maori team. In the men's match, the Maori team hung on stubbornly to defeat the Indigenous team 10-6. Jesse Arthars won the Preston Campbell medal for men's player of the match, and Keilee Joseph was awarded the Trish Hina medal in the women's game.





1.33M

AUSTRALIAN GRAND FINAL AVERAGE AUDIENCE



12.5M

TUNED IN TO THE NRLW ACROSS THE SEASON



1<sup>ST</sup>

THE BRONCOS BECAME THE FIRST CLUB TO COMPLETE A MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DOUBLE



## NRLW TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP

The 2025 NRLW Telstra Premiership raised the bar for Women's Rugby League yet again, combining high-intensity matchups with breathtaking moments that captured the growing strength and popularity of the women's game.

With ball-in-play reaching its highest level ever, fans were treated to nonstop action and unforgettable drama throughout the season – culminating in a record-breaking Grand Final, the most-watched women's match of all time, with an average audience of 1.33M, up 42.7% on 2024. In total, 12.5 million people tuned in to the NRLW across the season.

- » NRLW expanded again in 2025, with the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs entering the competition and the Warriors returning to the great excitement of New Zealand fans.
- » For the first time, the minor premiers were awarded the Nellie Doherty Shield – named after one of the original pioneers of women's Rugby League.
- » The season also marked the introduction of an expanded Finals Series, a reflection of the league's growth and increasing competitiveness.
- » The Broncos defeated the Sydney Roosters 22-18 in the Grand Final in one of the best deciders the competition has seen.



## THEME ROUNDS

Continuing the theme of growth in the NRLW, 2025 saw the introduction of two themed rounds within the women's competition.



### INDIGENOUS ROUND

For the first time, Indigenous Round was integrated across the Men's and Women's Premierships over two weeks, featuring 28 matches in 14 communities. In total, 29 Indigenous jersey designs featured across Rounds 23 and 24 of the NRL and Rounds 6 and 7 of the NRLW.

This expanded format allowed the clubs to engage more meaningfully with their local communities, showcase their Indigenous culture, and honour the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on their own turf.

### NRLW MAGIC ROUND

The inaugural NRLW Magic Round lit up Newcastle's McDonald Jones Stadium, bringing all 12 teams together for six thrilling matches in one epic weekend. Fans enjoyed more than footy, with Bluey & Bingo live shows and precinct fun, creating a festival atmosphere. More than 10,000 fans braved torrential rain and lightning for this landmark celebration of elite women's sport.



# THE BEST OF THE BEST

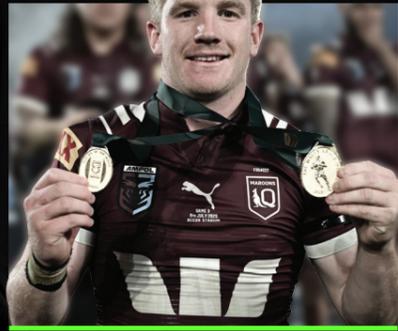
Representative football exploded in 2025 with outstanding performances across State of Origin and the Pacific Championships. This year also saw the return of the Kangaroo Tour, with fans enjoying three blockbuster games between Australia and England.



## KANGAROO TOUR RETURNS

Australia and England faced off in the Rugby League Ashes at Wembley Stadium, the new Hill Dickinson Stadium in Liverpool and Headingley Stadium in Leeds.

- » Reece Walsh had an impressive Test debut in the opening fixture, scoring two tries for the Kangaroos and winning Player of the Match.
- » Australia sealed a series victory in the second Test with a hard-fought 14-4 win, and confirmed a clean sweep with a 30-8 win in Leeds.
- » Outstanding performances by Cameron Munster saw him awarded Player of the Match in the second test as well as Player of the Series.



## MEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

- » In total, over 189,000 people attended the three gripping State of Origin matches, which saw Queensland come back from 1-0 down to claim a series victory with a 24-12 win in Sydney in the Game 3 decider.
- » Rugby League returned to Perth for Game 2. The crowd of over 57,000 fans was the second-highest attendance for an NRL event in Perth.
- » With an average margin of 8.7 points – the lowest in seven years – the series was among the most competitive in recent history, with all games decided by 12 points or fewer.
- » In a tight race of show-stopping stars, Maroons' half Tom Dearden was awarded the Wally Lewis medal for Player of the Series.



## WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

- » New South Wales took out the series with wins in Game 1 and 2 but couldn't complete a sweep in Game 3 in Newcastle, which saw Queensland prevail 18-14.
- » The series rewrote history books, delivering the most tries ever scored in a Women's State of Origin and attracting an average of 1.03 million viewers.
- » Olivia Kernick continued her 2024 form, taking out the Nellie Doherty Medal for Player of the Series.



## MEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

- » With the Kangaroos on the Ashes Tour in England, the 2025 Pacific Championships saw New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Cook Islands battle it out.
- » The tournament was again split into the Pacific Cup and Pacific Bowl, contested between higher and lower-ranked teams.
- » The Tonga v Samoa match set a new attendance record for the Pacific Championships, with 44,000 turning out to Suncorp Stadium, while the Kiwis v Samoa match was the most-watched international fixture that didn't feature the Kangaroos in history, with over 977,000 viewers.



## WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

- » In the women's tournament, Samoa played a tough opening match against the Kiwi Ferns, going down 22-20 following a last-minute try to New Zealand's Mele Hufanga.
- » The Cook Islands flexed their muscle in the Bowl, with wins over PNG and Tonga during the pool stage.
- » Meanwhile, the Jillaroos continued their strong form from Las Vegas, opening their campaign with a 60-0 victory over Samoa. This was followed by a convincing 40-8 victory over rivals New Zealand in the Final, capped by a two-try showcase from a flying Julia Robinson.



**24%**

year-on-year increase in Grand Final Day users, from 1.12 million to 1.39 million, the highest number ever.

**37%**

growth in WA users across the NRL App and NRL.com.

**11%**

growth in user engagement on the NRL App in 2025.

**10M**

hours of gameplay in Rugby League 26.

**90M**

video views on NRL.com and NRL App in 2025, largely supported by the integration of vertical video story-style content on the NRL App.

**128%**

increase in video views on NRL.com and the NRL App since 2024.

**10%**

growth in traffic to the wider NRL Network year-on-year.

**507M**

visits to NRL, Fantasy, Tipping, and NRL Shop digital products.

**23%**

increase in average active Fantasy users per week since 2024.

## #1 IN DIGITAL

From live stadium energy to dynamic digital moments, the NRL brought fans closer to the game than ever before. Record audiences tuned in, shared, streamed and engaged, driven by innovative digital offerings, premium content and world-class entertainment. Across every screen, platform and fan interaction, Rugby League proved its unmatched power to unite and excite.

The 2025 season saw explosive increases in engagement across the NRL's suite of digital products. Grand Final Day users reached 1.39 million, a new record, while the integration of vertical video story-style content on the NRL App helped drive a 128% increase in video views on NRL owned digital platforms.

A new Apple Watch companion app offered fans access to live ladder, match data, and the draw, while the launch of Rugby League 26 in July saw more than 160,000 copies sold.

The 2025 season saw a continued increase in the consumption of NRL digital content, reflecting fans' growing appetite for engaging, high-quality coverage and the league's ability to deliver premium content across multiple platforms.

Social media was again at the forefront, with the NRL becoming the first domestic Australian sports league to reach 1.5 million followers on TikTok, matched by strong growth in video and article consumption. These results demonstrate the impact of the NRL's digital content strategy aligning with the evolving viewing preferences of NRL fans.

**110%**

increase in TikTok views

**350%**

increase in Instagram views

**9M+**

total followers across all NRL social media accounts, an increase of 13% since 2024

**63%**

increase in social media consumption since 2024

**4M**

NRL ID Accounts in 2025





**32.6%**

VIEWERSHIP INCREASE  
ACROSS THE NRL  
FINALS SERIES



**42.7%**

VIEWERSHIP INCREASE  
FOR THE NRLW  
GRAND FINAL



**1.37M**

AVERAGE STREAMING  
VIEWERS FOR THE  
NRL GRAND FINAL



**51%**

INCREASE IN 16-39  
VIEWERSHIP OF THE  
NRL FINALS SERIES



**12.9%**

INCREASE IN STATE OF  
ORIGIN TV VIEWERSHIP



**21.2K**

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE  
PER MATCH FOR THE  
NRL PREMIERSHIP

## UNPRECEDENTED ENGAGEMENT

Season 2025 delivered the highest aggregate and average viewership and attendance in NRL history, with fans turning out in record numbers from Round 1 through to the Grand Final. The Telstra Premiership campaign, 'Let's Go' and the new Finals Series and Grand Final campaign, 'Every Moment Matters', set new benchmarks for attendance, viewership and digital reach, and leveraged unmissable moments and compelling narratives to drive unprecedented engagement across all channels.



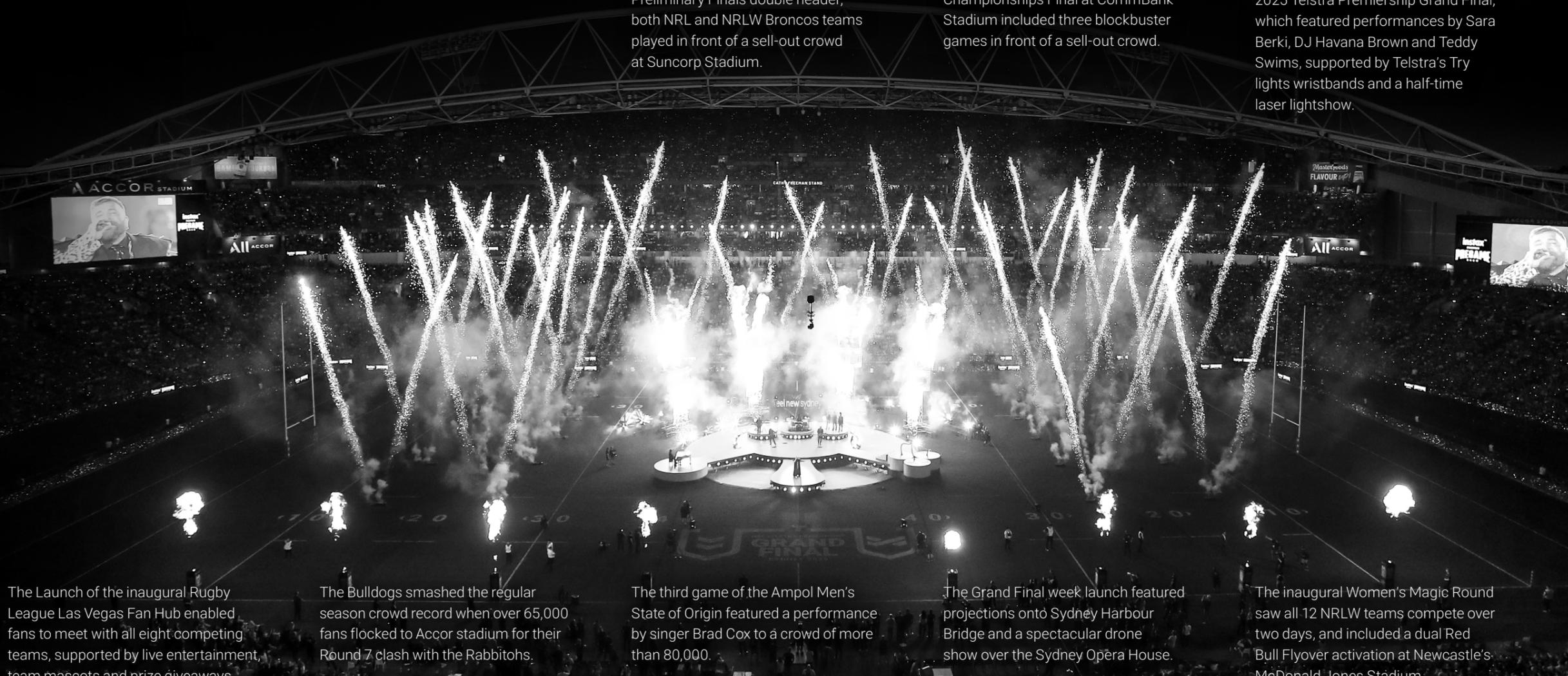
In a return of the Sunday afternoon Preliminary Finals double header, both NRL and NRLW Broncos teams played in front of a sell-out crowd at Suncorp Stadium.



Highlights of the Pacific Championships Final at CommBank Stadium included three blockbuster games in front of a sell-out crowd.



More than 80,000 fans flocked to the 2025 Telstra Premiership Grand Final, which featured performances by Sara Berki, DJ Havana Brown and Teddy Swims, supported by Telstra's Try lights wristbands and a half-time laser lightshow.



The Launch of the inaugural Rugby League Las Vegas Fan Hub enabled fans to meet with all eight competing teams, supported by live entertainment, team mascots and prize giveaways.



The Bulldogs smashed the regular season crowd record when over 65,000 fans flocked to Accor stadium for their Round 7 clash with the Rabbitohs.



The third game of the Ampol Men's State of Origin featured a performance by singer Brad Cox to a crowd of more than 80,000.



The Grand Final week launch featured projections onto Sydney Harbour Bridge and a spectacular drone show over the Sydney Opera House.



The inaugural Women's Magic Round saw all 12 NRLW teams compete over two days, and included a dual Red Bull Flyover activation at Newcastle's McDonald Jones Stadium.



# GROWING AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC'S LARGEST COMMUNITY



**1.12M**

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS**

Through school programs, club competitions and recreational formats, the NRL continued to be the largest and most connected sports participation community in Australia and the Pacific. A focus on accessibility, affordability, and the participant experience, helped broaden the game's reach and bring more people into the Rugby League community.

## STRONG SEASON FOR SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

Focus on delivering K-2 Gala Days to introduce young students to Rugby League.

Achieved continued growth in Schoolboy and Schoolgirl competitions, strengthening pathways to elite football.

Developed new Primary and Secondary Sporting Schools programs to enhance participation experience.

**610,049**

**Total participants in school activations, ball-in-hand programs, school competitions and educational and teacher programs**

**At a glance**

**316,377** School Program participants (ball-in-hand)

**289,841** School Gala Day and Competition participants

**3,831** School Ambassadors



## CLUB PARTICIPATION MILESTONES

Highest national participation on record, with 3.05% growth compared to 2024.

Female participation increased by 10% and registered female participants reached a milestone of 50,000, which was celebrated at the inaugural NRLW Magic Round.

Over 50,000 registered Males aged 13 to 18 for the first time ever.

League Tag participation increased by 7.5% across both male and female demographics, driven by a higher number of participants choosing Rugby League at ages 6 and 7, where League Tag is the exclusive participation format.

Male participation in ages 3 to 7 grew by 6.5%.

Relaunch of MyLeague Mobile App to 250,000 participants and family members.

**207,744**

**Registered participants playing Club Rugby League**

**At a glance**

**92,174** Participants aged 5-12

**71,416** Participants aged 13-18

**44,154** Participants aged 19+



## CONTINUED DEDICATION FROM VOLUNTEERS

**92,934**

**Total registered volunteers across Touch, Tag and Tackle formats**

**At a glance**

**85,786** Volunteers, coaches and sport trainers in Club / Associations

**7,148** Total Match Officials

## RECREATIONAL FORMATS BOOST PARTICIPATION

Touch and tag offerings provided accessible ways for all to participate at a social level.

Local talent at the National Wheelchair Championships highlighted the growth of wheelchair participation across Australia.

Introductory 'League Stars' before and after school and holiday clinics provided a safe, inclusive, and fun way for kids aged 5-12 to learn new skills, make new friends and develop a love of the game.

**210,115**

**Registered unique participants in recreational formats**

**At a glance**

**160,717** Total registered touch football participants

**49,398** Total registered participants in social and introductory programs including Beach touch

# NRL COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAMS

Rugby league brings people together, and through our Community and Social Impact programs, the NRL channels that power into meaningful change across Australia and the Pacific. Our teams lead vital work in four key pillars: empowering Indigenous youth, strengthening health and wellbeing, building social cohesion, and promoting respect.



In 2025 there were 17,721 participants across all social impact programs:

<b>1,489</b>	Indigenous Youth Programs – School to Work, Project Pathfinder, Indigenous Youth Summit
<b>2,260</b>	Social Cohesion Programs – In League in Harmony, League Stars Inspire – Diversity and Inclusion
<b>5,468</b>	Respect Programs – Voice Against Violence (Australia and Pacific), League Stars Inspire - respect
<b>8,504</b>	Health and Wellbeing Programs – State of Mind, Community Scrums, League Stars Inspire – Health and Wellbeing

## SCHOOL TO WORK (S2W)

1,376 program participants (Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and post-secondary)

Success rates	
<b>100%</b>	Year 11 completions.
<b>93%</b>	Year 12 completions.
<b>76%</b>	Year 12 students commenced post-secondary education or employment.
Support provided	
<b>3,170</b>	1:1 Mentoring sessions.
<b>53</b>	Development workshops and events, providing students with opportunities to explore career pathways, strengthen cultural identity and build personal resilience.
<b>\$118,376</b>	In support grants, scholarships and internships provided to School to Work participants.

## INDIGENOUS YOUTH

In partnership with the NSW Police Force, the NRL delivered the Project Pathfinder program to 16 young participants from regional NSW, providing structured leadership development and mentoring, complemented by immersive experiences with NRL clubs and match officials.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The NRL Social Impact team successfully completed delivery of two major Government contracts in 2025. Over the term more than 9,000 participants attended nearly 380 workshops and community events focused on mental health literacy, physical wellbeing and community connection.

## SOCIAL COHESION

The new youth-led Peace Project Initiative empowered students to identify local issues and design community solutions along with their teachers to be submitted to the NRL. The initiative celebrates harmony and diversity in the community.

## RESPECT

The Voice Against Violence program was delivered to schools and basketball clubs in Ballarat in partnership with the Melbourne Storm.

# CHARITABLE GIVING



**\$4.2M**

RAISED FROM NRL PLATFORMS AND EVENTS SUPPORTING 13 CHARITIES



**992**

ITEMS INCLUDING TICKETS, SIGNED JERSEYS AND MERCHANDISE DONATED

# INDIGENOUS STRATEGY

## ELEVATE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The NRL is the first national sporting organisation in Australia to launch a second Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This initiative aims to align with the recommendations of Reconciliation Australia to progress the reconciliation movement from safe to brave through transformational change.

## RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

Respect – 27/27  
 Relationship – 31/31  
 Opportunities – 23/29  
 Governance – 19/19

**Total Deliverables – 100/106**



## NRL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT

The 2025 Youth Summit brought together 68 exceptional Year 11 students, nominated by all 17 NRL clubs for a journey of growth, connection, and cultural pride, facilitated by proud Gamilaroi/Dunghutti man and former NRL player Jonathan Wright.

## SUPPORTING REGIONAL AREAS

The NRL is the largest and most connected sports participation community in Australia and the Pacific. Our 1,120 community Rugby League clubs and 3,695 engaged schools reflect the extent of our reach nationwide.

## HIGHLIGHTS



### NRL COMMUNITY AWARDS

The NRL Community Awards presented by Westpac honour the individuals who work tirelessly in the community to make Rugby League Australia's favourite sport.

Young Person of the Year	Poppy O'Shea (QLD)
Volunteer of the Year	Roger Whyte (QLD)
Teacher of the Year	Jon Tucker (ACT)
Women in League Award	Danielle Spence (NSW)
Indigenous Community Award	Scott Mieni (NSW)
Community Rugby League Club of the Year	Karratha Kangaroos Junior Rugby League Club (WA)
Community Coach of the Year	Matthew Simpson (QLD)
Community Match Official of the Year	Alan Bain (QLD)



### AMPOL LITTLE ORIGIN

Through Ampol Little Origin, 120 students from 12 schools were given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play on the field during half-time at State of Origin. Each participating school also received a \$5,000 grant to support their school sport programs.



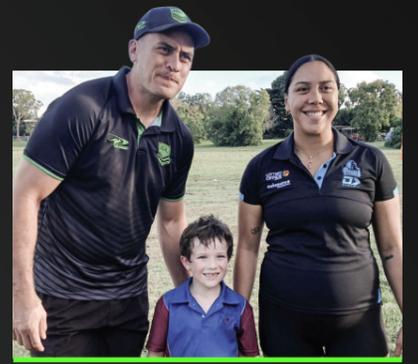
### HOGS NATIONAL TOUR

The HOGS National Tour, presented by Westpac, connected with over 5,000 participants across New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, celebrating Rugby League in more than 25 heartland communities.



### TELSTRA FOOTY COUNTRY ROUND

This round celebrated grassroots Rugby League and showcased community pride and connection, providing Telstra Footy Packs to more than 50 clubs.



### ROAD TO REGIONS

This initiative focuses on empowering Rugby League communities in regional and remote locations across Australia, growing the game and ensuring long-term success in these areas.



### YOUI COMMUNITY SCRUM

Held in Townsville, Melbourne, and Gympie, the Youi Community Scrum initiative supported regional communities affected by significant weather events. The program provided funding, replaced damaged training gear, and delivered important mental health messages to local footy fans.



### TELSTRA NOMINATE A MATE

With submissions all across the country, Telstra's Nominate a Mate campaign celebrated Junior Rugby League players. The best teammates were recognised on the big screen as ring bearers at the 2025 NRL Grand Final.

1,120

COMMUNITY RUGBY LEAGUE CLUBS

3,695

SCHOOLS ENGAGED WITH THE NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

# CELEBRATE AND HONOUR

## THE DALLY M AWARDS

### 2025 Dally M Awards – Male

Dally M Medal	James Tedesco – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Fullback of the Year	James Tedesco – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Winger of the Year	Mark Nawaqanitawase – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Winger of the Year	Xavier Coates – Melbourne Storm
Dally M Centre of the Year	Kotoni Staggs – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Centre of the Year	Stephen Crichton – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
Dally M Five-Eighth of the Year	Ethan Strange – Canberra Raiders
Dally M Halfback of the Year	Nathan Cleary – Penrith Panthers
Dally M Prop of the Year	Addin Fonua-Blake – Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
Dally M Prop of the Year	Payne Haas – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Hooker of the Year	Blayke Brailey – Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
Dally M Second-Row of the Year	Eliesa Katoa – Melbourne Storm
Dally M Second-Row of the Year	Hudson Young – Canberra Raiders
Dally M Lock of the Year	Erin Clark – New Zealand Warriors
Peter Frilingos Headline Moment	The miracle of Mudgee
Provan-Summons Medal	Zac Lomax – Parramatta Eels
Dally M Coach of the Year	Ricky Stuart – Canberra Raiders
Dally M Rookie of the Year	Robert Toia – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Captain of the Year	James Tedesco – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Try of the Year	Mark Nawaqanitawase – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Tackle of the Year	Ethan Strange – Canberra Raiders
Ken Irvine Medal	Mark Nawaqanitawase – Sydney Roosters
NRL Top Point Scorer	Jamayne Isaako – Dolphins

### 2025 Dally M Awards – Female

Dally M Medal	Tamika Upton – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Fullback of the Year	Tamika Upton – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Winger of the Year	Payton Takimoana – New Zealand Warriors
Dally M Winger of the Year	Sheridan Gallagher – Newcastle Knights
Dally M Centre of the Year	Isabelle Kelly – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Centre of the Year	Julia Robinson – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Five-Eighth of the Year	Gayle Broughton – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Halfback of the Year	Jesse Southwell – Newcastle Knights
Dally M Prop of the Year	Ellie Johnston – Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
Dally M Prop of the Year	Jessika Elliston – Gold Coast Titans
Dally M Hooker of the Year	Emma Manzelmann – North Queensland Cowboys
Dally M Second-Row of the Year	Romy Teitzel – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Second-Row of the Year	Yasmin Clydsdale – Newcastle Knights
Dally M Lock of the Year	Olivia Kernick – Sydney Roosters
Provan-Summons Medal	Isabelle Kelly on behalf of the Sydney Roosters
Dally M Coach of the Year	John Strange – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Rookie of the Year	Shalom Sauaso – Brisbane Broncos
Dally M Captain of the Year	Isabelle Kelly – Sydney Roosters
Dally M Try of the Year	Indie Bostock – St George Illawarra Dragons
Dally M Tackle of the Year	Ivana Lautititi – New Zealand Warriors
NRLW Top Try Scorer	Tamika Upton – Brisbane Bronco
NRLW Top Point Scorer	Romy Teitzel – Brisbane Broncos

## RLPA AWARDS

### The Players' Dream Team (NRL)

Fullback	James Tedesco
Wingers	Mark Nawaqanitawase, Xavier Coates
Centres	Stephen Crichton, Herbie Farnworth
Five-Eighth	Ethan Strange
Halfback	Isaiya Katoa
Props	Payne Haas, Joseph Tapine
Hooker	Harry Grant
Second Rowers	Eliesa Katoa, Hudson Young
Lock	Erin Clark
Impact	Kurt Mann

### The Players' Dream Team (NRLW)

Fullback	Tamika Upton
Wingers	Taina Naividi, Payton Takimoana
Centres	Isabelle Kelly, Julia Robinson
Five-Eighth	Patricia Maliepo
Halfback	Tarryn Aiken
Props	Rima Butler, Otesa Pule
Hooker	Emma Manzelmann
Second Rowers	Yasmin Clydsdale, Kezie Apps
Lock	Olivia Kernick
Impact	Shalom Sauaso

### The Players' Champion

James Tedesco (NRL)
Tamika Upton (NRLW)

### Rookie of the Year

Mark Nawaqanitawase (NRL)
Shalom Sauaso (NRLW)

### Dennis Tutty Award

Chad Townsend (NRL)
Madison Bartlett (NRLW)



Sydney Roosters superstar James Tedesco won the Dally M Medal for a second time in 2025, sprinting away with the crown after a spectacular year on the field.



Brisbane Broncos sensation Tamika Upton became the first woman to win two Dally M Medals, finishing on top with 35 points, three points clear of Broncos teammate Julia Robinson.



# 300 CLUB

The following players made their 300th NRL appearances during the 2025 NRL Telstra Premiership season.

- Dane Gagai
- Adam Reynolds



# MATCH OFFICIALS

## Referees Awards

Col Pearce Medal (Match Official of the Year)	Grant Atkins
Max Tomsett Award (Touch Judge of the Year)	David Munro
Kevin Roberts Award (Referees' Referee)	Chris Butler
Bill Harrigan Award (Most Improved)	Wyatt Raymond
Russell Smith Medal (Rookie of the Year)	Jarrold Cole
NRLW Officiating Award	Dillan Wells
Club Person of the Year	Lachlan Dodd

## Milestones

Gerard Sutton, Referee – 400 games	Knights v Tigers, McDonald Jones Stadium, 13 April 2025
Grant Atkins, Referee – 300 games	Sharks v Dragons, Sharks Stadium, 12 June 2025
David Munro, Touch Judge – 300 games	Storm v Broncos, Accor Stadium, 5 October 2025
Drew Oultram, Touch Judge – 200 games	Cowboys v Broncos, Queensland Country Bank Stadium, 30 August 2025
Wyatt Raymond, Touch Judge – 100 games	Cowboys v Dolphins, Queensland Country Bank Stadium, 14 June 2025

## NRL Referee Debut

Jarrold Cole	Cowboys v Knights - Queensland Country Bank Stadium, 17 August 2025
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## REFEREES ACADEMY

In 2025, a Referees Academy was launched to provide participants with elite NRL officiating experience, education, and conditioning. The inaugural program included four men and four women, all of whom debuted in NRLW, with Jarrold Cole also making his NRL Premiership debut as a main referee across three games.

# RETIRING CLASS OF 2025

The following players were recognised as the Official NRL and NRLW Retiring Class of 2025:

<b>Kieran Foran</b> Gold Coast Titans	<b>David Fusitu'a</b> New Zealand Warriors	<b>Elijah Taylor</b> Wests Tigers
<b>Jake Granville</b> North Queensland Cowboys	<b>Corey Oates</b> Brisbane Broncos	<b>Michael Chee-Kam</b> Manly Sea Eagles
<b>Paul Momirovski</b> Sydney Roosters	<b>Chad Townsend</b> Sydney Roosters	<b>Bryce Cartwright</b> Parramatta Eels
<b>Fa'amanu Brown</b> St George Illawarra Dragons	<b>Jordan McLean</b> North Queensland Cowboys	<b>Ken Maumalo</b> New Zealand Warriors
<b>Christian Welch</b> Melbourne Storm	<b>Tim Lafai</b> Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	<b>Mariah Denman</b> Brisbane Broncos
<b>Kenny Bromwich</b> Dolphins	<b>Shaun Lane</b> Parramatta Eels	<b>Vanessa Foliaki</b> Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
<b>Sione Mata'utia</b> Newcastle Knights		
<b>Ricky Leutele</b> Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks		
<b>Martin Taupau</b> Manly Sea Eagles		



# VALE

The NRL honoured the lives of numerous players, coaches, administrators, executives, and Rugby League figures whose contributions have left a lasting impact on the game.

Jeff Withers	Bruce Olive
Ed Whiley	Derek Hallas
Shaun Wendt	Dick Poole
Les Geeves	Russell Mullins
Gary Stevens	Danny Peacock
Noel Solomon	Johnny Mayes
Ed Farish	Sam Backo
Bob Hagan	Mick Tilse
Jack Jeffries	Wayne Beavis
John Farragher	Peter Ryan
Alan Gil	Johnny Dougherty
Percy Knight	Mick Alchin
Dr John Mayhew	Kevin Brasch
Ron Sigsworth	Cliff Cartwright



# BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

The 2025 NRL Telstra Premiership season delivered exceptional commercial outcomes, driven by a mix of new and long-standing partnerships and a continued focus on fans. Match-day experiences were elevated across the board, while engagement with key communities grew stronger than ever.



## COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our many commercial partners helped make 2025 another historic year for the NRL.

- » NRL and NRLW Premiership naming rights partner, Telstra, continued to inspire the next generation of Rugby League players and fans via the Telstra Footy Country Round, investing over \$500,000 in footy packs and grants for grassroots clubs across Australia.
- » Westpac extended their partnership as the NRL's official banking partner, continued to sponsor the match ball and became presenting partner of the HOGS Tour and NRL Community Awards.
- » Ampol provided 12 schools development grants and opportunities to participate in an official NRL clinic, a League Stars learning session and a half-time experience at an Origin game.
- » Sportsbet Try July donated \$5,000 to the Australian Skin Cancer Foundation and the Player Hardship Fund for every try celebration across the 53 games played in July, totalling \$460,000.
- » Kia leveraged its partnership with the NRL to launch its first ute, the Kia Tasman, in Australia. This campaign included on-field and LED signage, use of NRL ambassadors in a TV commercial, activation at major events and use of the Kia Tasman utes for the 2025 Retiring Players Parade.
- » Harvey Norman celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Harvey Norman Jillaroos, and spotlighted women playing crucial roles in Rugby League through the Harvey Norman Women in League Round.
- » Clubs NSW announced a partnership with the NRL to host official NRL Las Vegas watch parties across the state.
- » The NRL welcomed Cover-More as its Official Travel Insurance Partner, offering fans planning their Las Vegas 2026 trips with tailored offers and exclusive travel insurance discounts.
- » NRL Grand Final Fan Fest featured activations from Telstra, Harvey Norman, Chemist Warehouse, Hisense, KFC, Asahi, Red Bull and Kia.
- » NRL and NRLW Telstra Premiership Grand Final Day fan activities included the Telstra Try Lights and Half-Time Show, JD Sports Giant Duffel giveaway, Westpac Catch & Keep, and a Red Bull Aerobatic Display with Matt Hall and Kris Sieczkowski.

PREMIER PARTNER	COMMERCIAL PARTNERS	GOVERNMENT

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The NRL took its partnerships at all levels to new heights in the 2025 season.

### NEW SOUTH WALES

- » The inaugural NRLW Magic Round took place in Newcastle, supported by the NSW Government. A historic weekend for women's sport and Rugby League, the event put regional NSW in the spotlight.
- » Supported by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, the State of Origin Game 3 decider, the NRL and NRLW Grand Final and the Pacific Championships Final all sold out.
- » The NSW Government, via Destination NSW, also invested in the NRL All Stars and the Women's State of Origin fixtures in Sydney and Newcastle.

### QUEENSLAND

- » The Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council welcomed back the four-day Magic Round, with Women's State of Origin Game 1 opening the weekend for the second consecutive year. It was the fastest-selling and highest-attended Magic Round of all time, with Suncorp Stadium now holding the record for the highest Women's State of Origin game attendance.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- » With the support of Tourism WA, State of Origin returned to Perth, which hosted the sell-out Game 2.
- » Working with the WA Government, the ARLC expanded the NRL competition, which will see the Perth Bears become the NRL's 18th team in 2027.

### Other federal and state government support for Rugby League in Season 2025 included:

- » School to Work (Federal Government).
- » State of Mind (Federal Government).
- » PacificAus Sports and Team Up programs (Federal Government).
- » Tackling Violence (NSW Government).
- » COMPACT Alliance (NSW Government).
- » NRL/Police Citizens Youth Club Youth Empowerment Program (NSW Government).
- » NRL Wheelchair (QLD Government).

## DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS

NRL digital partnerships were instrumental in driving innovation and improving the fan experience across Season 2025.

- » Hisense captured team arrivals, bench celebrations and unforgettable fan moments across every major event. Exclusive to NRL social channels, the behind-the-scenes series went viral, driving over 25 million organic views and 1.2 million engagements.
- » Telstra's Footy Country Round celebrated the heart of junior Rugby League across every touchpoint. Telstra owned the moment, delivering 85 million+ impressions across the week.
- » VB turned up the Origin rivalry with its cheeky 'Very Bitter Tissues' campaign, giving over 7,000 fans the chance to send tissues (and a reminder of who won) to their mates across the border. The campaign reached 5.6 million fans across NRL channels and generated an additional 43 million in earned reach.



# FORGING TOMORROW'S CHAMPIONS

The Pathways team creates world-class development programs across every facet of Rugby League, fostering an environment that supports peak performance and creates meaningful impact for everyone involved.



## PRIME MINISTER'S XIII AND AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS

- » Both the Australian men's and women's PM's XIII teams travelled to Port Moresby the week after the Grand Final to take on Papua New Guinea.
- » The Australian men prevailed in a tight 28-10 victory, while the women came away with a 50-0 win against Papua New Guinea.
- » Notable performances were also seen when the Australian Schoolboys and girls took on the Junior Kumuls and Orchids respectively.

## SCHOOLBOY AND SCHOOLGIRL CUPS

- » The Schoolboy Cup celebrated its 50th year in 2025, a significant achievement for one of the game's most important player pathways. The event is no longer only a pathway for boys, with the Schoolgirl Cup now an annual fixture.
- » The Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Cups has produced some incredible stars, including:
  - » Payne Haas (Keebra Park).
  - » Nathan Cleary (St Dominic's).
  - » Indie Bostock (Warilla High School).
  - » Phoenix Raine Hippi (Ballina Coach High School).
- » This year, the Schoolboy Cup saw Keebra Park defeat Patrician Brothers Blacktown, while Marsden State High took out the win against Central Coast Sports School in the Schoolgirl Cup.



## RISE PROGRAM

- » The RISE Program provides Junior Rugby League players and coaches with specialised training and education through a holistic development experience.
- » It provides aspiring Rugby League players between the ages of 13 and 16 with a pathway to elite competition, while also supporting ongoing participation in community rugby league.
- » In 2025, all participation rates across the RISE program increased by at least 25%, with over 6,000 players and more than 650 coaches accredited. Participants include male and female players as well as those with Indigenous, Maori and Pasifika heritage.

## NRLW RISING TALENT INVITATIONAL

- » The Harvey Norman NRLW Rising Talent Invitational was held at NRLW Magic Round in Newcastle.
- » The event has evolved to better reflect club and player pathways into the NRLW Premiership. The new format saw four players sign and debut in the NRLW and five progress to the Prime Minister's XIII or Pacific Championships.
- » The program featured participants from state leagues across Australia and members of Pacific RISE Rookie Academies in PNG, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

# OUR PEOPLE

## LEAGUE AHEAD

Established between the National Rugby League and the Rugby League Players Association, League Ahead is a stand-alone, player-first entity that oversees and delivers support services to every contracted NRL and NRLW player through practical, insight-led programs delivered in partnership with Wellbeing and Education Managers embedded at every NRL club.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The club-aligned psychologist and mental health referral network continued to be well utilised during 2025.

## PLAYER EDUCATION

In total, 63% of players were engaged in some form of education during the 2025 Season.

NRL	NRLW	
81	76	players graduated from or continued studying for an Undergraduate or Master's Degree in 2025
51	13	players completed or were engaged in an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2025
142	49	players completed or engaged in a Diploma
1,141	512	total enrolments in short courses and certificates, including public speaking, real estate, heavy vehicle, barbering, and youth work

## NRL WORKFORCE – GENDER EQUITY

Rugby League should be accessible and welcoming to everyone, regardless of background, and the NRL is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated. As part of our commitment to gender equality, we are continuing to implement strategic initiatives aimed at achieving gender targets of 40/40/20 (40% female, 40% male staff, with 20% open) across all levels of our business. Initiatives include internship and mentoring programs, learning and development opportunities and Workplace Gender Equality Agency annual compliance and reporting.

Category	Female Workforce
Total Workforce	40.7%
Key Management	30.8%
General Manager	26.1%
Senior manager	39.1%
Other manager	32.0%
Non-Manager	42.1%



# LEADING THROUGH INNOVATION

The NRL continues to lead the way in technological innovation across Australian sport. From pioneering applications of AI to advanced player health monitoring, the NRL is setting new benchmarks in performance, fan engagement, and operational excellence.



## DRAW TECHNOLOGY

- » The NRL implemented a new software program to assist with the construction of NRL and NRLW season draws, marking a significant step forward in the competition's scheduling process.
- » The system enables the NRL to rapidly generate, test, and refine potential draw options through advanced modelling and data analysis, and has substantially improved the efficiency and quality of the draw development process.
- » Ongoing improvements ensures that each season's draw is more balanced, data-informed, and aligned with the strategic priorities of the NRL and its stakeholders.



## NRL INJURY SURVEILLANCE BUNKER

- » The NRL Injury Surveillance Bunker (ISB) continues to provide support to all NRL and NRL-affiliated matches.
- » The ISB uses Hawkeye technology to provide instant video replay to team medics during matches, with head injury spotters in the NRL Bunker communicating immediately to team doctors on the sideline to review incidents and decide what action to take.
- » An independent doctor with the authority to remove players for assessment has been involved since 2022. This role has halved the time it takes for a player to be taken from the field for assessment.



## PAST PLAYER HEALTH SCREENING SERVICE

- » A project team was formed in March to design and deliver the inaugural NRL Past Player Health Screening and Referral Service.
- » This service will provide retired players with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive health screening to assess their overall health and provide recommendations to the players and their GPs for ongoing management and support.
- » The screening tool, developed with input from the NRL Chief Medical Officer and clinical advisors, assesses factors such as medical history, lifestyle, physical examinations, pathology tests and cognition.



## NRL-IQ

- » In collaboration with Telstra, the NRL has developed advanced capabilities using large language models to enhance the fan experience.
- » Phase one of the initiative is now complete, with future phases set to introduce an AI-powered, chat-based interface that helps fans better understand game statistics and insights.
- » By translating complex data into everyday language, NRL-IQ aims to deepen engagement and make the game more accessible and enjoyable for all fans.



## INTERNATIONAL COLLISION SPORTS CONFERENCE

- » The NRL Medical team hosted the 2025 International Collision Sports Group Meeting in Sydney. This annual meeting is attended by leading medical personnel from eight national sporting bodies, including the NFL, NHL, AFL and Rugby Union.
- » The three-day event included lectures and discussions, providing a valuable opportunity to share experiences and advances in all areas of player safety.



## TRAINING LOADS RESEARCH AND RULES

- » The NRL is working with clubs and the Australian Catholic University to gather and analyse match and training data with a view to provide cutting edge insights and recommendations on training loads.
- » Insights assist Clubs to deliver best practice training load management during pre-season and in-season, aiming to balance injury mitigation with physical preparation.



# SUPPORTING PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

NRL programs and partnerships across the Pacific reinforce our commitment to building safer, stronger and more connected Pacific communities. In 2025, Rugby League once again proved to be a powerful platform for education, inclusion, talent development and long-lasting social impact across Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga.



## EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

The League for Life program expanded in 2025 to deliver 111 programs, each involving a minimum of six weeks of structured engagement, reaching a total of 23,394 school students. Through lessons centred on Rugby League, students developed life skills including teamwork, leadership, resilience and healthy habits. Demand for the program continues to grow, demonstrating its value to schools and youth development agencies.

## VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE

The Voice Against Violence program remained one of the NRL's most influential community platforms in the Pacific in 2025, reaching 3,785 participants through 86 workshops, delivered across 28 schools, 36 clubs, and 22 community groups. The program continued to challenge the drivers of gender-based violence and promote respectful relationships, equipping participants with practical tools to foster safer and more inclusive communities. Engagement with educators, community leaders and local organisations ensured strong cultural alignment and long-term impact.

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the NRL delivered a number of major initiatives through the Pacific AusSport program. These included the RISE Development Programs in Fiji and Papua New Guinea, which provided high-performance pathways for emerging women's players. In addition, we supported the Australian Schoolboys and Schoolgirls tour to PNG as part of the Prime Minister's XIII, strengthening competitive opportunities and cultural exchange between young athletes.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 October 2025

Australian Rugby League Commission

ABN 94 003 107 293

## 2025 AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE COMMISSION FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### RECORD AND DIVERSIFIED REVENUES

Revenue has grown by \$100.7m to \$845.6m, up 14 per cent on the prior year. Revenue includes record levels and growth across multiple sources including new events.

Revenue from investments also continued to grow steadily and provide a diversification of revenue streams.

Since 2019 revenues have grown by 52 per cent and are 2.2 times the revenues generated in 2016.

### MAINTAINED OPERATING EFFICIENCY

Operating margin, or operating expenses ratio to revenue was maintained at the record low 22 per cent. In a period of expansion into new regions (WA and Pacific) there was continued focus on cost management and improving operational efficiency.

Since 2019 the operating margin has decreased from 34 per cent.

### RECORD DISTRIBUTIONS AND INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Distributions to clubs, players, states and development increased by \$85.2m or 18 per cent compared to the prior year. This included additional distributions to Clubs as part of the expansion of the competition.

Since 2019 distributions have increased by 77 per cent.

### CONTINUED GROWTH OF SECURE INVESTMENTS

The ARLC continued its strategy to develop a strong, stable balance sheet to provide financial security and steady passive income with multiple hotels and investment properties and active management of secure term deposits.

### STRONG BALANCE SHEET

The net assets of the ARLC have grown to \$387.2m, a 20 per cent increase on the prior year. Net assets include \$322.2m in cash assets invested in at call and fixed term deposits.

Net assets as at 31 October 2025 (\$387.2m) were 3.2 times the net assets at 31 October 2019 (\$120.7m) and 6.7 times the net assets at 31 October 2016 (\$57.5m).

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## PROFIT AND LOSS

Ten Year History (\$'000)	Consolidated Group									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Total Revenue</b>	391,368	400,091	523,562	555,915	419,673	575,080	593,798	701,145	744,864	845,574
<b>Expenses</b>	(195,842)	(198,768)	(177,208)	(208,907)	(142,815)	(187,004)	(169,907)	(190,001)	(205,414)	(218,383)
<b>Funds Available for Distribution</b>	195,526	201,323	346,354	347,008	276,858	388,076	423,891	511,144	539,450	627,191
<b>Distributions</b>	(204,175)	(207,744)	(296,104)	(318,025)	(301,600)	(345,019)	(360,988)	(452,961)	(477,123)	(562,331)
Clubs and Players	(143,835)	(140,922)	(221,616)	(228,132)	(245,625)	(278,224)	(282,544)	(366,463)	(383,204)	(466,390)
States, Affiliates and International	(29,603)	(31,838)	(37,239)	(46,640)	(25,078)	(34,847)	(35,367)	(44,601)	(52,868)	(56,350)
Development	(30,737)	(34,984)	(37,249)	(43,253)	(30,897)	(31,948)	(43,077)	(41,897)	(41,051)	(39,591)
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>	<b>(8,649)</b>	<b>(6,421)</b>	<b>50,250</b>	<b>28,983</b>	<b>(24,742)</b>	<b>43,057</b>	<b>62,903</b>	<b>58,183</b>	<b>62,327</b>	<b>64,860</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

Total Assets	248,667	226,786	250,927	271,833	242,325	264,524	285,760	348,432	402,531	525,847
Total Liabilities	191,168	175,708	159,248	151,171	146,405	125,547	83,880	88,369	80,141	138,597
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>57,499</b>	<b>51,078</b>	<b>91,679</b>	<b>120,662</b>	<b>95,920</b>	<b>138,977</b>	<b>201,880</b>	<b>260,063</b>	<b>322,390</b>	<b>387,250</b>

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Directors present their report for the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and its subsidiaries and controlled entities (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 October 2025.

## DIRECTORS

The Company's Directors in office during the financial year and until the date of this report as well as their Board meeting attendance are as follows:

		Date Appointed	Board Meetings	
			Eligible	Attended
1.	Peter V'landys AM (Chairman)	20 March 2018	13	13
2.	The Hon. Peter Beattie AC	25 July 2017	13	13
3.	Professor Megan Davis	25 July 2017	13	12
4.	The Hon. Kate Jones	10 November 2020	13	13
5.	Tony McGrath	8 July 2014	13	12
6.	Wayne Pearce OAM	10 February 2012	13	13
7.	Alan Sullivan KC	7 February 2022	13	12
8.	Dr Gary Weiss AM	30 August 2016	13	13

## COMPANY SECRETARY

	Date Appointed
Daniel Dressler	12 January 2022

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Group is the fostering and propagation of the game of Rugby League Football throughout the States and Territories of Australia as well as internationally.

The short and long term objectives of the Group are to:

- » foster, develop, extend and adequately fund the game from grassroots to elite level;
- » conduct State of Origin and Australian representative matches;
- » organise, conduct and foster the National Rugby League ("NRL") competition;
- » liaise with the Rugby League International Federation on the international game; and
- » promote and encourage sport, recreation and the general welfare of young people in the community.

The success of the Group's achievement of its objectives is indicated by growing awareness and participation in Rugby League.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND KEY FINANCIAL METRICS

In December 2024 the Company acquired the Ibis Styles Port Macquarie Hotel for \$15.6m and the Mantra Terraces Hotel in Brisbane for \$24.2m.

On 5 February 2025 the Group entered a series of agreements with the Commonwealth of Australia in relation to the expansion of Rugby League in the Pacific over 10 years.

On 6 May 2025 the Group established a new entity Perth Bears Limited to expand the competition to Western Australia. On 5 September 2025, Perth Bears Limited and ARLC Ltd signed a five year agreement with the WA Government to provide direct funding to the WA Club to assist with the development of rugby league in Western Australia.

There were no other significant changes in the Group's operations during the year.

	2025	2024
Key Financial Metrics	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue	845,574	744,864
Net Operating Result	64,860	62,327

## LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE RESULTS

There are no foreseen changes to Company operations which will materially impact future year results.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END

There have been no events since the date of this report that, in the opinion of the Directors, are likely to significantly impact the operations or finances of the Group in future years.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Group operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## DIRECTORS' INTERESTS AND BENEFITS

Since the end of the previous financial year, no Director of the Company has received or become entitled to receive any benefit because of a contract made by the Company or a related body corporate with a Director or with a firm of which the Director is a member, or with an entity in which the Director has a substantial interest.

## INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS

The Directors and Executive Officers of the Company are indemnified by an insurance contract against liabilities and expenses arising from the performance of their official duties, to the extent permitted by law and up to insurance policy limits.

## INDEMNIFICATION OF AUDITORS

To the extent permitted by law, the Company has agreed to indemnify the auditors (Ernst & Young) as part of the terms of its audit engagement agreement, against claims by third parties arising from the audit (for an unspecified amount). No payment has been made to indemnify Ernst & Young during or since the financial year.

## MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. The Company Constitution requires each member to contribute a maximum of \$10 towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company if the Company is wound up.

	2025	2024
Number of members at year end	27	27

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Peter V'landys

Chairman



Tony McGrath

Director

10th February 2026

Sydney, NSW.

# AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION



Shape the future  
with confidence

Ernst & Young  
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Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
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## Auditor's Independence Declaration to the Directors of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited

As lead auditor for the audit of the financial report of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited for the financial year ended 31 October 2025, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit;
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit; and
- No non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and the entities it controlled during the financial year.



Ernst & Young



Siobhan Drury  
Partner  
10 February 2026

A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited  
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

## STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>	3a	845,574	744,864
<b>Expenses</b>			
Event, game and sponsorship		(91,597)	(86,442)
Media contra		(36,005)	(35,072)
Football		(23,149)	(21,093)
Community and player welfare		(6,190)	(6,216)
Administration, integrity and salary cap		(29,387)	(28,191)
Clubs and Players		(466,390)	(383,204)
States, affiliates and international		(56,350)	(52,868)
Development		(39,591)	(41,051)
Depreciation and amortisation	3b	(11,376)	(10,715)
Insurance and finance costs	3c	(6,688)	(6,625)
Investment servicing costs		(13,991)	(11,060)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(780,714)</b>	<b>(682,537)</b>
<b>Net operating result</b>		<b>64,860</b>	<b>62,327</b>
Income tax expense	2d	-	-
<b>Net surplus after tax</b>		<b>64,860</b>	<b>62,327</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive surplus</b>		<b>64,860</b>	<b>62,327</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Consolidated Comprehensive Income.

## STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

	Notes	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	322,256	227,872
Trade and other receivables	6	56,040	62,652
Prepayments and other assets	7	5,180	4,311
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>383,476</b>	<b>294,835</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	102,882	66,131
Investment properties	9	21,229	21,729
Intangible assets	10	9,159	9,219
Right-of-use lease assets	11	7,869	8,004
Other receivables	6	1,232	2,613
<b>Total non current assets</b>		<b>142,371</b>	<b>107,696</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>525,847</b>	<b>402,531</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade payables	12	44,392	40,458
Other payables	13	45,952	16,988
Lease liabilities	14	810	3,039
Employee entitlements	15	6,889	6,824
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>98,043</b>	<b>67,309</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities	14	7,840	6,599
Other payables	13	31,176	4,689
Employee entitlements	15	1,538	1,544
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>		<b>40,554</b>	<b>12,832</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>138,597</b>	<b>80,141</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>387,250</b>	<b>322,390</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Reserves		2,228	2,228
Retained surplus		385,022	320,162
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>387,250</b>	<b>322,390</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Consolidated Financial Position.

## STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CHANGES IN EQUITY

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Reserves</b>		
Balance at beginning of year	2,228	2,228
Total comprehensive surplus	-	-
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>2,228</b>
<b>Retained surplus</b>		
Balance at beginning of year	320,162	257,835
Total comprehensive surplus	64,860	62,327
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>385,022</b>	<b>320,162</b>
<b>Total</b>		
Balance at beginning of year	322,390	260,063
Total comprehensive surplus	64,860	62,327
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>387,250</b>	<b>322,390</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Consolidated Changes in Equity.

## STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from ordinary operations		897,471	764,247
Payments to suppliers and employees		(345,901)	(334,735)
Payments to NRL clubs and players		(417,061)	(366,857)
Interest received		8,761	8,460
Interest paid		(563)	(607)
<b>Net operating cash in-flow</b>		<b>142,707</b>	<b>70,508</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payments for land and buildings		(35,908)	(22,584)
Payments for leasehold additions and plant and equipment		(5,618)	(3,213)
Payments for intangible assets		(3,595)	(3,988)
Payments for investment property		-	(19,836)
<b>Net investing cash out-flow</b>		<b>(45,121)</b>	<b>(49,621)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Lease payments (principal component)		(3,202)	(3,617)
<b>Net financing cash out-flow</b>		<b>(3,202)</b>	<b>(3,617)</b>
<b>Cash and equivalents net increase</b>		<b>94,384</b>	<b>17,270</b>
<b>Cash and equivalents at beginning of the year</b>		<b>227,872</b>	<b>210,602</b>
<b>Cash and equivalents at end of the year</b>	5	<b>322,256</b>	<b>227,872</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this Statement of Consolidated Cash Flows.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The Australian Rugby League Commission Limited (the Company) is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Australia.

The registered office and principal place of business is Rugby League Central, Driver Avenue, Moore Park, NSW Australia 2021.

The nature of the operations and principal activities of the Company are described in the Directors' report.

## 2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

The consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries and controlled entities (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 October 2025 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 10th February 2026.

### A. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Group is a not-for-profit, private sector entity which is not publicly accountable.

This financial report is a General Purpose financial report, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001, AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report has been prepared on an historical cost basis except where otherwise stated.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars (AUD) which is the functional currency of the Company.

All values are rounded to the nearest thousand (\$'000), except where otherwise indicated under the option available to the company under ASIC Corporations Instrument 2016/191 (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports).

Comparative information has been reclassified where necessary to achieve disclosure consistent with the current reporting year.

## B. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

In the opinion of the Directors, having regard to the not-for-profit nature of the Group's business, the terms used in the prescribed format of the Statement of Comprehensive Income have been updated to align with the Group's not-for-profit status. 'Profit or Loss' in the prescribed format of the Statement of Comprehensive Income has been substituted by 'Surplus or Deficit'.

There are no new Accounting Standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that apply to the Group.

## C. FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Transactions in foreign currencies are converted to local currency at the rate of exchange on transaction dates.

Foreign currencies outstanding at the reporting date are translated using the spot rate at the end of the financial year.

## D. INCOME TAX

The Group is a not-for-profit organisation in accordance with section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act of 1997.

## E. GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- » when the GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item as applicable; and
- » receivables and payables, which are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Consolidated Cash Flows on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## F. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities and accompanying disclosures.

The inherent uncertainty in these judgements, estimates and assumptions could result in outcomes that require material adjustments to the carrying amount of assets or liabilities in future periods.

## 3. INCOME STATEMENT DISCLOSURES

### A. REVENUE

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Licencing	519,996	509,656
Operations and Events	286,741	202,980
<b>Other income</b>		
Interest income	8,761	8,460
Sundry income	30,076	23,768
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>845,574</b>	<b>744,864</b>

### (i) Licencing

#### Media

The Group grants media organisations the right to broadcast rugby league matches on television, radio or online in exchange for consideration that includes both cash amounts and contra (which are rights the Group is granted to use advertising slots provided by the media partner). The broadcasting rights provide the media partner with a right to access the Group's intellectual property as it exists as the games are played.

The method of measuring progress for the transfer of broadcasting rights is costs incurred associated with the competition for the broadcasting period. The costs incurred are reflective of club grants that are paid to the Clubs over the 5 year performance period necessary to

Impairments of financial assets applied in the financial statements involve judgements, estimates and assumptions which are based on information available at the time of preparation of the financial statements. Actual outcomes may be different due to circumstantial and market changes beyond the control of the Group.

## G. GOING CONCERN

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes continuity of normal business activities and realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

fund and support each NRL Club's participation in the National Rugby League competition and where applicable, the State of Origin grants paid to the respective State Leagues. The pattern of revenue recognition in each reporting period follows the movement in the cost profile.

Cash received is recorded as deferred revenue and recognised as revenue as and when ARLC carries out its obligation.

### Wagering Product Fees

The Group grants sports betting operators a licence being a promise to provide rights to the sports betting operators to access the Group's intellectual property. In exchange, the Group will receive royalties from the Sports Betting operators as the sales relating to each bet occurs or is settled.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Merchandise Royalties

The Group grants licences to merchandisers to manufacture and sell Club and Player merchandising containing NRL branding. Revenue is recognised when it becomes probable that the Group will collect the consideration to which it will be entitled in exchange for the services transferred to customers.

## (ii) Operations and events

### Sponsorship

The Group grants sponsors the right to operate as a sponsor of the National Rugby League and its rugby league matches in exchange for consideration. Sponsors are also granted access to the intellectual property of the Group which they are able to access throughout the contract term and so benefits are received and consumed simultaneously as the Group is performing its obligation. Sponsorship income is therefore to be recognised over time and measured as time elapses over the contract term. Other obligations under the contract are recognised once the performance obligations are satisfied.

### Game Receipts

The performance obligation for game receipt revenue is defined as the operation and management of each match. The measure of progress for revenue recognition is the completion of each rugby league match where the Group is entitled to the game receipts revenue relating to tickets purchased by event attendees.

### Government Income

Government funding is received by the Group to deliver rugby league based programs and games. Revenue is recognised when contracted obligations are fulfilled. Payments received in advance of contracted rugby league events are recorded as deferred revenue and revenue is recognised on completion of each event.

## (iii) Other income

### Interest Income

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method.

### Sundry Income

This includes sales revenue from the five hotels, Beetson Hotel in Brisbane, Kawana Hotel in the Sunshine Coast, Quest Woolooware Bay, Ibis Hotel in Port Macquarie and Mantra Hotel in Brisbane. Also included are player registration fees, digital services and shared services income.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## B. DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Land and buildings	1,846	1,351
Leasehold additions and plant and equipment	2,929	2,133
Investment properties	500	292
Intangible assets	3,655	3,977
Right-of-use lease assets	2,446	2,962
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>11,376</b>	<b>10,715</b>

## C. INSURANCE AND FINANCE COSTS

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Interest charges - AASB 16: Lease liabilities	563	607
Insurance	5,881	5,873
Bad Debts	(56)	93
Bank fees and charges	171	83
Foreign exchange loss / (gain)	129	(31)
<b>Total insurance and finance costs</b>	<b>6,688</b>	<b>6,625</b>

## D. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Salary and wages	71,828	65,295
Annual leave	8	176
Long service leave	117	528
<b>Total employee benefits expense</b>	<b>71,953</b>	<b>65,999</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 4. SUBSIDIARIES

The consolidated financial statements of the Group include:

Entity Name	Country of incorporation	% equity interest	
		2025	2024
Australian Rugby League Commission Limited (ARLC Ltd)*	Australia	100	100
National Rugby League Limited (NRL Ltd)*	Australia	100	100
ARLC WA Limited*	Australia	100	100
ARLC SA Limited*	Australia	100	100
ARLC Vic Limited*	Australia	100	100
ARLC NT Limited*	Australia	100	100
NRL Foundation Limited	Australia	100	100
NRL Foundation Trust	Australia	100	100
Australian Rugby League Development Limited	Australia	100	100
League Ahead Limited	Australia	50	50
Perth Bears Limited	Australia	100	-
PNG Chiefs Limited	PNG	100	-
ARLC (PNG) Limited	PNG	100	-
NRL Impact Limited	Australia	100	-
Rugby League Benevolent Fund	Australia	100	-

\* Pursuant to ASIC Corporations (Wholly owned Companies) Instrument 2016/785, relief has been granted to Australian Rugby League Commission Limited from the Corporations Act 2001 requirements for the preparation, audit and lodgement of financial reports for these entities (see Note 19).

## 5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	96,831	57,872
Short term cash deposits	225,425	170,000
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>322,256</b>	<b>227,872</b>

Cash at bank earns interest at variable business deposit rates.

Short-term cash deposits are on fixed interest rates and terms.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

CURRENT TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Trade receivables	24,684	28,678
Provision for expected credit losses	(1,816)	(1,958)
<b>Net trade receivables</b>	<b>22,868</b>	<b>26,720</b>
Other receivables	9,186	11,878
Contract assets (accrued income)	23,986	24,054
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<b>56,040</b>	<b>62,652</b>
Total non-current other receivables	1,232	2,613
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<b>57,272</b>	<b>65,265</b>

### MOVEMENT IN PROVISION FOR EXPECTED CREDIT LOSSES

Balance at beginning of year	(1,958)	(2,666)
Provision utilisation	86	801
Provision released	56	(93)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>(1,816)</b>	<b>(1,958)</b>

### Accounting policy for trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at historical cost inclusive of a lifetime expected credit loss allowance.

### Expected Credit Losses (ECLs)

The Group applies the simplified approach for calculating and recognising ECLs based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date.

A provision matrix is utilised based on historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

## 7. PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Prepayments	5,180	4,311
<b>Total prepayments and other assets</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>4,311</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
a. Land and buildings	82,242	48,180
b. Leasehold additions and plant and equipment	20,640	17,951
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>102,882</b>	<b>66,131</b>

	2025 \$'000		2024 \$'000		2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
	Land	Buildings	Land	Buildings		
<b>a. Land and buildings</b>					<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cost	12,405	73,640	5,465	44,647	86,045	50,112
Accumulated Depreciation	-	(3,803)	-	(1,932)	(3,803)	(1,932)
<b>Carrying value</b>	<b>12,405</b>	<b>69,837</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>42,715</b>	<b>82,242</b>	<b>48,180</b>

### MOVEMENT IN CARRYING VALUE

Balance at beginning of year	5,465	42,715	3,815	23,132	48,180	26,947
Additions	6,940	28,968	1,650	20,934	35,908	22,584
Depreciation	-	(1,846)	-	(1,351)	(1,846)	(1,351)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>12,405</b>	<b>69,837</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>42,715</b>	<b>82,242</b>	<b>48,180</b>

	2025 \$'000		2024 \$'000		2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
	Leasehold additions	Plant and equipment	Leasehold additions	Plant and equipment		
<b>b. Leasehold additions and plant and equipment</b>					<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cost	21,745	13,442	21,663	7,468	35,187	29,131
Accumulated Depreciation	(8,524)	(6,023)	(7,944)	(3,236)	(14,547)	(11,180)
<b>Carrying value</b>	<b>13,221</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>13,719</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>20,640</b>	<b>17,951</b>

### MOVEMENT IN CARRYING VALUE

Balance at beginning of year	13,719	4,232	13,737	3,134	17,951	16,871
Additions	82	5,536	519	2,694	5,618	3,213
Depreciation	(580)	(2,349)	(537)	(1,596)	(2,929)	(2,133)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>13,221</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>13,719</b>	<b>4,232</b>	<b>20,640</b>	<b>17,951</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Accounting policy for land and buildings

Land and buildings comprise the Beetsons Hotel, Kawana Hotel, Ibis Port Macquarie and Mantra Brisbane (both acquired December 2024). These are accounted for as property, plant and equipment.

The properties are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation which is applied to the buildings on a straight line basis over 40 years (2.5% per annum).

## Accounting policy for leasehold additions and plant and equipment

Leasehold additions and plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Eligible parts replacements and major works are capitalised when incurred. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses when incurred.

Leasehold additions and plant and equipment are depreciated on a straight line basis as follows:

- » Leasehold additions: 10-20 years
- » Plant and equipment: 3-10 years

Residual values, useful lives and amortisation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each financial year end.

Assets are derecognised on disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from continued utilisation. Gains or losses (calculated as the difference between net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount) are recognised on derecognition.

## 9. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	2025 \$'000		2024 \$'000		2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
	Land	Buildings	Land	Buildings		
Gross carrying amount	2,006	20,015	2,006	20,015	22,021	22,021
Accumulated depreciation	-	(792)	-	(292)	(792)	(292)
<b>Carrying value</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>19,223</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>19,723</b>	<b>21,229</b>	<b>21,729</b>

### MOVEMENT IN CARRYING VALUE

Balance at beginning of year	2,006	19,723	-	-	21,729	-
Additions	-	-	2,006	20,015	-	22,021
Depreciation	-	(500)	-	(292)	(500)	(292)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>19,223</b>	<b>2,006</b>	<b>19,723</b>	<b>21,229</b>	<b>21,729</b>

## Accounting policy for investment Properties

Investment property assets comprise of the Quest Woollooware Bay.

The investment properties are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation which is applied to the buildings on a straight line basis over 40 years (2.5% per annum).

As at the 31st October 2025, the fair value of the investment property is \$22.0m.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2025 \$'000		2024 \$'000		2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
	Digital asset	Software development and legal trademarks	Digital asset	Software development and legal trademarks	Total	Total
Gross carrying amount	19,622	2,365	16,815	4,338	21,987	21,153
Accumulated amortisation	(11,316)	(1,512)	(8,908)	(3,026)	(12,828)	(11,934)
<b>Carrying value</b>	<b>8,306</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>7,907</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>9,159</b>	<b>9,219</b>

### MOVEMENT IN CARRYING VALUE

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Balance at beginning of year	7,907	1,312	9,108	100
Additions	3,451	144	2,392	1,596
Amortisation	(3,052)	(603)	(3,593)	(384)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>8,306</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>7,907</b>	<b>1,312</b>

### Accounting policy for intangible assets

Intangible assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the useful lives of the assets which are estimated to be between 3 and 10 years.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 11. RIGHT-OF-USE LEASE ASSETS

	2025 \$'000		2024 \$'000		2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
	Premises	Motor vehicles	Premises	Motor vehicles	Total	Total
Cost	18,186	519	15,891	519	18,705	16,410
Accumulated depreciation	(10,522)	(314)	(8,222)	(184)	(10,836)	(8,406)
<b>Carrying value</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>7,869</b>	<b>8,004</b>

### MOVEMENT IN CARRYING VALUE

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Balance at beginning of year	7,669	335	9,349	1,194
Renewals / Additions	2,311	-	423	-
Amortisation	(2,316)	(130)	(2,103)	(859)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>7,664</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>335</b>

### Accounting policy for right-of-use lease assets

The Group recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of leases (the date leased assets are available for use).

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities.

The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

- » Plant and equipment: 25%
- » Computer equipment: 25%
- » Buildings: 3.33%
- » Motor vehicles: 25%

If ownership of a leased asset transfers to the Group at the end of a lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 12. TRADE PAYABLES

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Trade payables and accruals</b>	<b>44,392</b>	<b>40,458</b>

#### Accounting policy for trade payables

Trade payables represent unpaid liabilities for goods and services received prior to financial year-end, are carried at historical cost and generally expected to be settled within two months.

### 13. OTHER PAYABLES

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Current other payables</b>		
Other payables	20,136	4,020
Taxes payable	1,041	-
Deferred revenue	24,775	12,968
<b>Total current other payables</b>	<b>45,952</b>	<b>16,988</b>
Total non current other payables	31,176	4,689
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>77,128</b>	<b>21,677</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 14. LEASE LIABILITIES

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Current liabilities	810	3,039
Non-current liabilities	7,840	6,599
<b>Total lease liabilities</b>	<b>8,650</b>	<b>9,638</b>

#### MOVEMENT IN CARRYING VALUE

Balance at beginning of year	9,638	12,832
Renewals / Additions	2,214	423
Interest expense	562	607
Payments	(3,764)	(4,224)
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>8,650</b>	<b>9,638</b>

#### AMOUNTS RECOGNISED IN STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Interest revenue from sub-lease receivable	24	53
Depreciation expense on right-of-use assets	(2,446)	(2,962)
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(562)	(607)
<b>Consolidated comprehensive income impact</b>	<b>(2,984)</b>	<b>(3,516)</b>

#### MATURITY PROFILE OF UNDISCOUNTED LEASE PAYMENTS

Within a year	1,257	3,483
Between 1 and 5 years	2,197	2,264
After 5 years	14,724	11,639
<b>Total lease payments</b>	<b>18,178</b>	<b>17,386</b>

#### Lessee leases overview

The Group leases various premises and motor vehicles.

Premises leases are generally for durations of up to 5 years, some with options to extend.

The headquarters premises lease has a duration of 41 years with a natural conclusion in 2060.

Motor vehicle leases are generally for durations of up to 4 years.

Lease terms are renegotiated upon renewal.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Accounting policy for lease liabilities

Lease liabilities are recognised for contracts where the Group has a right to control and use an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

The Group applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.

The Group has several lease contracts that include extension and termination options. These options are negotiated by management to provide flexibility in managing the leased-asset portfolio and align with the Group's business needs. Management exercises significant judgement in determining whether these extension and termination options are reasonably certain to be exercised.

The Group recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term at lease commencement date.

Lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees.

Lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Group and payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising the option to terminate.

Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as expenses in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

The Group uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date if the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable.

The carrying value of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accrual of interest and reduced for the lease payments made.

The carrying value of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (e.g., changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

## 15. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Employee entitlements (including on-costs) Current	6,889	6,824
Non-current	1,538	1,544
<b>Total employee entitlements</b>	<b>8,427</b>	<b>8,368</b>

## Accounting policy for employee entitlements

Provision is made for employee entitlements accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave.

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and any other employee benefits due to be settled within twelve months of the reporting date are measured at their nominal amounts based on rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 16. EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

### A. CONTRACTED GRANTS (EXCLUDING REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER PAYMENTS) PAYABLE TO:

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>NRL clubs (incl. salary cap other player benefits)</b>	<b>690,642</b>	<b>1,030,411</b>
Not later than one year	343,329	339,769
Later than one year but not later than five years	347,312	690,642
<b>Rugby League Players Association</b>	<b>42,820</b>	<b>64,230</b>
Not later than one year	21,410	21,410
Later than one year but not later than five years	21,410	42,820
<b>Total contracted grants</b>	<b>733,462</b>	<b>1,094,641</b>

### B. GRANTS TO STATE LEAGUES

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>ARLC Funding provided to New South Wales Rugby League Limited and Queensland Rugby League Limited to administer the game in respective states</b>	<b>120,475</b>	<b>178,359</b>
Not later than one year	59,432	57,884
Later than one year but not later than five years	61,042	120,475

### C. OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS PAYABLE:

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Not later than one year	9,768	7,478
Later than one year but not later than five years	1,652	592
<b>Total operating expenditure commitments</b>	<b>11,420</b>	<b>8,070</b>

Operating expenditure commitments includes Event and Information Technology contracts.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 17. AUDITORS REMUNERATION

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Ernst &amp; Young (Australia)</b>		
Group statutory audit fees	263	272
Other assurance and compliance services	84	25
<b>Ernst &amp; Young (International)</b>		
Tax advisory services	26	75
<b>Total auditors remuneration</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>372</b>

## 18. PARENT ENTITY DISCLOSURE

Australian Rugby League Commission Limited

### A. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Net operating surplus	61,217	62,391
<b>Total comprehensive surplus</b>	<b>61,217</b>	<b>62,391</b>

### B. FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>571,501</b>	<b>344,334</b>
Current assets	459,416	269,843
Non-current assets	112,085	74,491
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>191,063</b>	<b>25,113</b>
Current liabilities	159,917	24,651
Non-current liabilities	31,146	462
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>380,438</b>	<b>319,221</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>380,438</b>	<b>319,221</b>
Reserves	2,228	2,228
Retained surplus	378,210	316,993

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 19. CLOSED GROUP DISCLOSURES

Pursuant to ASIC Corporations (Wholly-owned Companies) Instrument 2016/785, relief has been granted to Australian Rugby League Commission Limited from the Corporations Act 2001 requirements for the preparation, audit and lodgement of their financial report.

As a condition of the Corporations Instrument, Australian Rugby League Commission Limited, National Rugby League Limited, ARLC WA Limited, ARLC SA Limited, ARLC Vic Limited and ARLC NT Limited (representing the closed group), entered into a deed of cross guarantee on 30 September 2025. The effect of the deed is that Australian Rugby League Commission Limited has guaranteed to pay any deficiency in the event of winding up of National Rugby League Limited, ARLC WA Limited, ARLC SA Limited, ARLC

Vic Limited and ARLC NT Limited or if it does not meet its obligations under the terms of overdrafts, loans, leases or other liabilities subject to the guarantee. National Rugby League Limited, ARLC WA Limited, ARLC SA Limited, ARLC Vic Limited and ARLC NT Limited have also given a similar guarantee in the event that Australian Rugby League Commission Limited is wound up or if it does not meet its obligations under the terms of overdrafts, loans, leases or other liabilities subject to the guarantee.

The consolidated statement of profit or loss, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, summary of movements in consolidated retained earnings and consolidated statement of financial position of the entities that are members of the Closed Group are as follows:

### Closed group consolidated statement of profit or loss

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>840,420</b>	<b>744,853</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Event, game and sponsorship	(91,597)	(86,442)
Media contra	(36,005)	(35,072)
Football	(23,149)	(21,093)
Community and player welfare	(6,190)	(6,266)
Administration, integrity and salary cap	(29,364)	(28,090)
Clubs and Players	(464,886)	(383,204)
States, affiliates and international	(56,350)	(52,818)
Development	(39,591)	(41,051)
Depreciation and amortisation	(11,375)	(10,715)
Insurance and finance costs	(6,649)	(6,625)
Investment servicing costs	(13,991)	(11,060)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(779,147)</b>	<b>(682,436)</b>
<b>Net operating result</b>	<b>61,273</b>	<b>62,417</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Net surplus after tax</b>	<b>61,273</b>	<b>62,417</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive surplus</b>	<b>61,273</b>	<b>62,417</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Closed group consolidated statement of financial position

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2025 \$'000</b>	<b>2024 \$'000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	316,891	227,687
Trade and other receivables	56,040	62,652
Prepayments and other assets	4,961	4,311
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>377,892</b>	<b>294,650</b>
<b>Non current assets</b>		
Land and buildings	82,242	48,180
Leasehold additions and plant and equipment	20,588	17,951
Property, plant and equipment	102,830	66,131
Investment properties	21,229	21,729
Intangible assets	9,159	9,219
Right-of-use lease assets	7,869	8,004
Other receivables	1,232	2,613
<b>Total non current assets</b>	<b>142,319</b>	<b>107,696</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>520,211</b>	<b>402,346</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade payables	43,616	23,645
Other payables	45,056	38,424
Lease liabilities	810	3,039
Employee entitlements	6,889	6,824
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>96,371</b>	<b>71,932</b>
<b>Non current liabilities</b>		
Lease liabilities	7,840	6,599
Other payables	31,176	-
Employee entitlements	1,280	1,544
<b>Total non current liabilities</b>	<b>40,296</b>	<b>8,143</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>136,667</b>	<b>80,075</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>383,544</b>	<b>322,271</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Reserves	2,228	2,228
Retained surplus	381,316	320,043
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>383,544</b>	<b>322,271</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

If an NRL Premiership club is unable to pay its respective player contracts as a result of the Club being insolvent, the Group will assume liability for player payments guaranteed or underwritten by the club that was a party to that player contract.

The Group has received claims made against it. The Directors have obtained external advice with respect to these matters. The Directors do not expect these matters to have a material financial impact on the results of the Group.

## 21. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There have been no events since the date of this report that, in the opinion of the Directors, are likely to significantly impact the operations or finances of the Group in future years.

## 22. RELATED PARTIES

The Australian Rugby League Commission is the ultimate parent entity of the group.

Related parties are disclosed in the Company's KMP (note 23).

## 23. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL (KMP)

KMP are those who have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group, directly or indirectly.

	<b>2025 \$'000</b>	<b>2024 \$'000</b>
<b>Aggregate KMP remuneration (in \$ including all entitlements as defined in AASB 119)</b>	<b>4,490,494</b>	<b>4,633,250</b>

## 24. MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Company is a company limited by guarantee.

The Company Constitution requires each member to contribute a maximum of \$10 towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company if the Company is wound up.

	<b>2025 \$'000</b>	<b>2024 \$'000</b>
<b>Number of members</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>

# CONSOLIDATED ENTITY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2025.

Entity Name	Entity Type	Body corporate country of incorporation	Body corporate % of share capital held	Country of tax residence
Australian Rugby League Commission Limited (ARLC Ltd)	Company	Australia	100	Australia
National Rugby League Limited (NRL Ltd)	Company	Australia	100	Australia
ARLC WA Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
ARLC SA Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
ARLC Vic Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
ARLC NT Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
NRL Foundation Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
NRL Foundation Trust	Trust	Australia	100	Australia
Australian Rugby League Development Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
League Ahead Limited	Company	Australia	50	Australia
Perth Bears Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
PNG Chiefs Limited	Company	PNG	100	PNG
ARLC (PNG) Limited	Company	PNG	100	PNG
NRL Impact Limited	Company	Australia	100	Australia
Rugby League Benevolent Fund	Trust	Australia	100	Australia

# DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited, we state that:

In the opinion of the Directors:

- a. the financial statements and notes of the consolidated Group are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including;
  - i. giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 31 October 2025 and of its performance for the period ended on that date; and
  - ii. complying with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001, AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board ; and
- b. there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable ; and
- c. as at the date of this declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company and the Subsidiaries identified in Note 19 to the financial statements, will be able to meet any obligations or liabilities to which they are or may become subject to, by virtue of the Deed of Cross Guarantee between the Company and the Subsidiaries.
- d. the consolidated entity disclosure statement required by section 295(3A) of the Corporations Act is true and correct.

On behalf of the Board


  
 Peter V'landys      Tony McGrath  
 Chairman              Director

10th February 2026  
 Sydney, NSW.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited

### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited (the Company) and its subsidiaries (collectively the Group), which comprises the statement of consolidated financial position as at 31 October 2025, the statement of consolidated comprehensive income, statement of consolidated changes in equity and statement of consolidated cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, the consolidated entity disclosure statement and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Group is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- Giving a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 October 2025 and of its consolidated financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- Complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is the directors' report accompanying the financial report, but does not include the annual report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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## Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of:

- The financial report (other than the consolidated entity disclosure statement) that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- The consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*; and

for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of:

- The financial report (other than the consolidated entity disclosure statement) that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- The consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct and is free of misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ▶ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- ▶ Plan and perform the Group audit to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business units within the Group as a basis for forming an opinion on the Group financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and review of the audit work performed for the purposes of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*Ernst & Young*

Ernst & Young

*S. Drury*

Siobhan Drury  
Partner  
Sydney  
10 February 2026

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