

➤ **NRL  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022**





# WELCOME

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# 2022 SEASON

# HIGHLIGHTS

# > A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

132.5M

CUMULATIVE TV, STREAMING AND LINEAR AUDIENCE WHO WATCHED NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP

17%

YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH IN NRL.COM ACCOUNTS

3.5M

FANS ATTENDED TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP GAMES, HIGHEST IN A DECADE

2027

TELSTRA EXTENDS ITS NAMING RIGHTS SPONSORSHIP BY FIVE YEARS TO 2027

15%

YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN NRL MERCHANDISE SALES

42,921

FANS EXPERIENCED THE NRLW GRAND FINAL, A RECORD

90%

NUMBER OF ELITE PLAYERS WHO HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL WELLBEING PLAN

36,000

STUDENTS REACHED BY NRL LEAGUE STARS INSPIRE

# › MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN PETER V'LANDYS AM

It is with pleasure that I deliver to you the 2022 season results, at the end of the toughest three years in the game's history.

#### The Year in Review

The Commission responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by developing and implementing a plan to secure the financial viability of the game. The plan included strategies to strengthen the financial viability for clubs and stabilise and restructure NRL operations to ensure the game was fit and ready to emerge from the pandemic with the financial strength to seize expected growth opportunities.

It is against this backdrop that the Commission is pleased to announce an operating surplus of \$62.9 million in 2022 compared to \$43 million in 2021, an increase of \$19.9 million. The most pleasing aspect, however, is the significant improvement in net assets which are now \$200 million. It's imperative we use these funds to purchase revenue producing assets to future proof the game.

The key financial highlights are:

- Revenue up by \$18.7 million to a record \$593.8 million;
- Operating expenditure down by \$17.1 million which includes running two NRLW competitions and an expanded international calendar (Rugby League World Cup);
- A cost-effective operation with the operating expense ratio to revenue being 25.5 per cent, the lowest of the major sports in Australia. The ratio the year before the COVID-19 pandemic was 31.2 per cent;
- Distributions to players, NRL clubs and game development up by \$16 million;
- The acquisition of Gambaro Hotel, representing the first step in the plan to strengthen the balance sheet by acquiring income producing assets. This asset will provide a strong return on investment for the game and is already performing above forecast;
- Stronger balance sheet with net assets now more than \$200 million, up by 45 per cent compared to 2021;
- Additional funding for NRL Clubs to ensure their viability during the pandemic; and
- NRL players received a total of approximately \$40 million in outperformance payments ensuring the vast majority of player salary reductions during COVID-19 were restored.



The excellent financial performance was matched with similar success on and off the field as follows:

- 132.5 million (up 5 per cent) cumulative TV, streaming and linear audience who watched the NRL Telstra Premiership;
- 17 per cent growth in fans on the digital network and a total following of 6.6 million social media fans;
- 3.5 million fans attended Telstra Premiership games which is the highest in a decade;
- 15 per cent increase in merchandise sales compared to prior year;
- A record crowd at the NRLW Grand Final of 42,921; and
- World Cup Success for both Jillaroos and Kangaroos.

At the end of 2022, NRL and NRLW naming rights partner Telstra extended its long association with rugby league to 2027. The new five-year partnership is the largest in the game's history and marks a 26-year involvement in the game by Telstra, one of the longest running partnerships in Australian sport.

While there is still much work to do, it was encouraging to see that 2022 saw an increase in the number of registered grassroots participants across Australia along with a greater penetration of schools. The future of the game relies on having an effective framework in place to produce a pathway of future players and fans at all levels. This is a major focus of the Commission going forward.

In summary, the game emerges from 2022 with a sound platform for growth:

- Strong overall financial position;
- NRL Clubs well-funded and profitable into the future;
- Record fan support for the NRL and NRLW competitions;
- Rapidly expanding NRLW competition; and
- Grassroots participation plan for schools and clubs including touch, tag and tackle.

### The Year Ahead

The Commission's focus is to maximise distributions to members and increase investment in participation. The recent massive increases in club funding to record levels, and the new record watermark salary caps for the NRL and NRLW, is evidence that the plan is working.

In 2022, the Commission was pleased to announce a record-breaking NRL and NRLW salary cap for season 2023. The 2023 NRL Premiership salary cap will increase to \$12.1 million from \$9.6 million, a 25 per cent increase. The 2023 NRL Women's Premiership's salary cap will increase to \$900,000 from \$350,000.

Clubs have been provided with significant financial support through the pandemic and are being funded at a level that ensures their financial viability.

We are looking forward to another exciting period of growth which will include:

- The addition of the Dolphins in the NRL Telstra Premiership and the North Queensland Cowboys, Canberra Raiders, Wests Tigers and Cronulla Sharks in the NRL Telstra Women's Premiership;
- The growth of the Women's State of Origin to be a two-match series;
- The creation of a dedicated international rugby league window in October and November;
- Growing the registered participants playing rugby league in schools and clubs;
- Growth of our new Beach Touch Football competitions in partnership with Surf Life Saving Australia; and
- Reducing the NRL's operating expense ratio to revenue below 25 per cent.

I also take the opportunity on behalf of the Commission to express my appreciation to all the NRL staff for their exceptional efforts and, in particular, CEO Andrew Abdo whose performance was nothing less than brilliant. There is no doubt that the great results achieved would not have happened without his immense efforts.

I also express my appreciation for the support of all the chairs and management of the clubs and state leagues, the players, the RLPA, our loyal partners and every participant.

Last but not least, thank you to all the fans without whom the game would not exist at the high level it holds.



**Peter V'landys AM**  
Chairman

# ➤ AUSTRALIAN RUGBY LEAGUE COMMISSION (ARLC)

The Australian Rugby League Commission (ARLC) is the single controlling body and administrator of the game in Australia, made up of eight independent Commissioners. The ARLC's objectives are set out in its Constitution. They are to:

- Foster, develop, extend and provide adequate funding for the game from the junior to elite levels and to act in the best interests of the game;
- Liaise with and delegate appropriate functions to governing bodies of the game in the States and Territories of Australia, including the NSWRL and QRL;
- Organise and conduct all State of Origin and Australian representative games, recognising that the selection and management of the State of Origin teams representing New South Wales and Queensland shall be undertaken in accordance with the ARLC Constitution;

- Organise and conduct the NRL Competition;
- Foster the NRL Competition;
- Liaise with the International Rugby League and organisations controlling the game in other countries in the fostering and control of the game of rugby league throughout the world;
- Promote and encourage either directly or indirectly the physical, cultural and intellectual welfare of young people in the community and, in particular, the rugby league community; and
- Promote and encourage either directly or indirectly sport and recreation, particularly rugby league football, in the interests of the social welfare of young persons.





**Peter V'landys AM  
(Chairman)**

Mr V'landys is Chief Executive and board member with Racing NSW a position he has held since February 2004. Mr V'landys holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in Accounting and serves across a number of Boards associated with the thoroughbred racing industry. Mr V'landys was appointed Chairman of the Australian Rugby League Commission in October 2019 and in 2022 was appointed a Director of the International Rugby League Board. Mr V'landys is Chairman of the Fairy Godfather Foundation which assists people in Australia in necessitous circumstances. In 2014, Mr V'landys was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to the racing industry.



**The Hon. Peter Beattie AC**

Mr Beattie is Deputy Chairman of Investment Fund Brandon BioCatalyst the largest life science investment fund in Australia and former Chairman of Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC). Mr Beattie is also an Ambassador for Life Sciences Queensland, joint adjunct professor at the University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology and Institute for Molecular Bioscience, Senior Advisor at Bondi Partners and former Chairman of GOLDOC. Mr Beattie served as the 36th Premier of Queensland and Minister for Trade from 1998 to 2007 and Leader of the Australian Labor Party in that state from 1996 to 2007 and Health Minister from 1995 to 1996.



**Tony McGrath**

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



**Alan Sullivan KC**

Mr Sullivan is one of Australia's leading barristers. Mr Sullivan joined the bar in 1978 and has specialised in Appellate, Commercial Law, Equity, Insurance, Medical & Professional Negligence, Sports Law, Intellectual Property and Public Law. 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, a Commissioner of the International Cricket Council Code of Conduct Commission and Deputy Chair of the Family of League Foundation.

**DIRECTORS**

The names and details of the Company's Directors in office during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors were in office for this entire period unless otherwise stated.



**Wayne Pearce OAM**

Mr Pearce is a former Kangaroos representative who also captained and coached the New South Wales State of Origin side. Mr Pearce is a business consultant and Director of Wayne Pearce Advantage and the Wayne Pearce Academy. Mr Pearce is also Chair of the ARLC Innovation Committee. Mr Pearce holds an Order of Australia medal for services to Rugby League and the community.



**Dr Gary Weiss AM**

Dr Weiss is Executive Director of Ariadne Australia Ltd, Chairman of Ardent Leisure Limited, Estia Health Limited, and Cromwell Property Group. He is a director of Thorney Opportunities Limited, Hearts & Minds Investments Limited, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and The Centre for Independent Studies. Dr Weiss was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2019 for significant services to business and to the community.



**Professor Megan Davis**

Professor Davis is Pro Vice Chancellor and the Balnaves Chair in Constitutional Law, UNSW. Professor Davis is an Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court and an expert member and Chair of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People in Geneva. Professor Davis is a constitutional law professor specialising in constitutional design and constitution building and one of the nation's leading public constitutional lawyers. She is a co-recipient of the 2022 Sydney Peace Prize.



**The Hon. Kate Jones**

Ms Jones has more than 20 years' experience in senior government and leadership positions. Kate is an executive director for the Tech Council of Australia and an independent director on the Paralympics Australia board. She previously served as a minister in the Queensland Government in a range of portfolios including State Development, Education, Innovation, Tourism and Major Events. Kate was also the minister responsible for the successful delivery of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018 and was part of the Olympic Candidature Leadership Group that secured the 2032 Olympic Games to Queensland. In addition to her board responsibilities, Kate currently works as a strategic advisor for various companies in the tech, tourism and sustainability industries.





# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO ANDREW ABDO

The 2022 season was a memorable one for many reasons and I would like to start by acknowledging everyone that contributed to the greatest game for all. We have incredible athletes in rugby league, vibrant clubs, excellent broadcast partners, loyal sponsors, enthusiastic volunteers and participants and the most passionate fans you could wish for.

We are striving to achieve the following ambitious goals:

- Maintaining our position as Australia's preeminent sports entertainment experience – live and at home;
- Creating the largest sports community in Australia and the Pacific – through touch football, tag and tackle formats; and
- Running the most efficient and innovative sports administration in Australia.

We have made progress in all three areas, but there is more work to do.

- The 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership was the most watched season on record with a cumulative audience of 132.5 million;
- We have seen a growth in grassroots participation, after a challenging and disruptive period, with a strong plan to grow rugby league in all formats in schools and club-based competitions; and
- We have had a strong financial performance in 2022, with revenue at all-time record levels and the lowest cost to income ratio of 25 per cent in Australian sport.

We are forecasting significant growth in the next five-year cycle through the collective strength of the game, strength of connection with our passionate fans and the strength of our relationship with our loyal partners.

## Football

The players, clubs and officials were disciplined and diligent with ongoing COVID-19 testing and protocols. It was clear the shadow from the pandemic was still visible. But the players continued to produce the best sporting entertainment in the country.

Games in 2022 were closer – game margins were two points tighter than in 2021 and games were also competitive for longer periods of play. 25 per cent of all games were decided by six points or less.

We enjoyed another thrilling Ampol State of Origin series, with Queensland taking out the men's competition and New South Wales winning the women's match.

We also launched the first official State of Origin for Under 19's, both men's and women's.

More than 500,000 people across Australia were able to see the start of a new generation of stars on live television. More than a million people experienced the brilliance of Jada Taylor's viral try via our social media accounts. The player of the match in both the men's and women's games received an educational grant from the NRL.

The year culminated in World Cup wins for both the Kangaroos and the Jillaroos. The emergence of Samoa, who reached the men's final, and the growing strength of Tonga, Fiji and PNG, ensured an extraordinary southern hemisphere showing and cemented further hope for the continued growth of the international game.

### The Women's Game

The 2022 NRLW season featured not one but two competitions – the 2022 competition and the deferred 2021 Premiership held at the start of the year.

The 2021 Premiership was the most competitive ever, with an average margin of just over 11 points a match and 44 per cent of matches being decided with a margin of less than six points. Nearly 8000 fans attended the decider in Redcliffe for an all-NSW decider, the first ever standalone NRLW Grand Final.

The 2022 season had the highest ever number of tries, line-breaks, shifts, decoys and offloads per game. Ball in play was at 58 per cent which translates into an open and entertaining spectacle. The quality of football was consistently of a very high standard, culminating in a live crowd of 42,921 supporters at Accor Stadium for the Grand Final.

The Australian Jillaroos finished off the biggest year of women's Rugby League in history by winning the Rugby League World Cup in style, their third consecutive title.

### Fans

Our fans truly showed their colours in 2022. Just as the game itself grows, so too does the passion and pride of the people who matter most.

This season saw 3.5 million fans attend Telstra Premiership games, the highest in a decade; 4.6 million fans watched or streamed every weekend; 3.5 million fans interacted every week on our digital network; and more than seven million followers engaged on social media.

The game would not be possible without our fans. Your support has powered the Premiership.

### Partners

Telstra's partnership with the NRL is the longest running naming rights association in Australian sport, and in late 2022 Telstra extended its NRL and NRLW partnerships for another five years through until 2027.

I was also thrilled to welcome two new major partnerships in 2022 in Kia and Westpac.

Westpac is the NRL's official bank and payment platform and will be the official match ball sponsor for both NRL and NRLW competitions. Kia become the naming rights sponsor for Thursday Night Football.

I'd also like to thank the New South Wales Government for the public commitments they have made for further infrastructure development, both in terms of stadiums and centres of excellence.

Thanks also to the Queensland Government for their ongoing support of the game, including Magic Round and their ongoing support at all levels of the game. It's also important to acknowledge the support of the Western Australian Government, who committed to hosting Ampol State of Origin II in 2022.

### Participation

I acknowledge and thank grassroots participants, coaches and volunteers at clubs right across Australia. You continue to ensure the spirit of our grassroots competitions remain strong and healthy. Whether it is touch football, tag or tackle format, rugby league brings us together. We have plans to invest significantly for an improved experience for participants and coaches in schools and clubs. To junior participants, you are the future of the game. To coaches and parents, continue to mentor and develop the life skills that only a team sport like rugby league can foster.

### The Future

The 2022 Grand Finals featured teams which represent modern day Australia. These are heartland areas that have more kids picking up a football for the first time than ever before.

In 2023 we will grow the competition to 17 men's teams and 10 women's teams. We welcome the Dolphins to the NRL, and the Raiders, Cowboys, Sharks and Wests Tigers to the NRLW. We also have a significant growth strategy for the Pacific focussed on strengthening relationships between Australia and the rest of the region through rugby league.

We have the best athletes in the world, the most tribal clubs you could imagine, competing in the most entertaining competition on the planet.

New teams, new stadiums, new frontiers. We have so much to look forward to.

I would like to acknowledge the enormous leadership contribution of the Australian Rugby League Commission. We have a Commission that is united and leads with integrity and professionalism. I would like to personally thank Chairman Peter V'landys AM for the extraordinary hours he has invested in the game and for his leadership and guidance.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleagues at the NRL. The NRL team works with professionalism, passion and pride. I am proud of the outcomes we have delivered together and thank them for their energy and enthusiasm to serve the rugby league community.



**Andrew Abdo**  
NRL CEO



# 01 COMPETITIONS REPORT





# SUCCESS OF THE 2022 SEASON

◀  
Mitch Kenny running  
onto the field in the  
2022 Grand Final

The first full house at a Sydney Grand Final since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions saw Penrith Panthers prevail in their first ever decider against fellow western Sydney giants Parramatta Eels.

The crescendo to the season saw the Panthers take out their second consecutive Grand Final in their third Premiership decider in a row, in front of 82,415 at Accor Stadium.

The Panthers also claimed their fourth Minor Premiership in 2022.

The NRL Telstra Premiership, including the Finals Series, was watched by a cumulative audience of 132.5 million (up 4.8%), including linear and streaming, making it the most watched season on record.

A total attendance of 321,652 (including Grand Final) was recorded for the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership Finals Series. The 2022 Finals Series featured two matches at the new Allianz Stadium.

Across the 2022 season, game margins were 1.8 points closer on average compared to 2021 and games were comparatively in the balance for longer this season. This was demonstrated by more than 25 per cent of all games being decided by six points or less (compared to 23% in 2021).

Charges and suspension weeks were significantly down compared to 2021 illustrating that the changes to the Judiciary Code worked effectively.

The 2022 season saw a significant increase in both short drop outs and kick offs – heightening game unpredictability and creating more opportunities for contested possession. The number of short line drop outs more than doubled in 2022, with the kicking team successfully regaining possession almost 30 per cent of the time.

Short kick offs were up 15 per cent this season, with the kicking team successfully regaining possession 31 per cent of the time.

The 2022 season represented the final 16-team competition before the introduction of the Dolphins to a 17-team Premiership in 2023.



# NRLW

Emmanita Paki and Simone Karpani of the Newcastle Knights

Newcastle Knights were victorious in the NRL Telstra Women's Premiership 2022 Grand Final.

The 2022 calendar year featured two competitions – the 2022 decider as well as the rescheduled 2021 Premiership.

The Knights defeated Parramatta Eels in front of 42,921 fans at Accor Stadium in the 2022 decider, while Sydney Roosters defeated St George Illawarra in front of almost 8000 at Moreton Daily Stadium in the first ever standalone NRLW Grand Final.

More than 50 new athletes were welcomed to the elite women's game through the addition of Newcastle Knights, Parramatta Eels and Gold Coast Titans to the competition.

The 2021 Premiership was the most competitive ever, with an average margin of more than 11 points a match and 44 per cent of matches featuring a margin of less than six points.

The 2022 season had the highest ever amount of tries, line-breaks, shifts, decoys and offloads per game.

The NRL also announced the addition of four new teams for the 2023 Premiership – Canberra Raiders, Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks, North Queensland Cowboys and Wests Tigers.



# ➤ HARVEY NORMAN ALL STARS

➤ The Indigenous All Stars celebrate after a Tyrell Sloan try

The Māori All Stars emerged with a 16-10 victory over the Indigenous All Stars in the first ever NRL Harvey Norman All Stars match held in Sydney.

A crowd of 26,755 at CommBank Stadium saw the Māori team prevail, with co-captain Joseph Tapine winning the Preston Campbell Medal.

In the women's match, the Indigenous All Stars won 18-8, with Jaime Chapman earning the Trish Hina Medal for player of the match.

Harvey Norman





# INDIGENOUS ROUND

>  
Ezra Mam  
celebrating a try

In Round 12, the NRL's Indigenous Round continued the *Pass Back. Move Forward* theme, highlighting that greater understanding of Indigenous history and culture is essential in creating a more united future, and encouraging fans to be part of the change.

The NRL challenged fans to learn the land and learn the history, through knowledge and respect for the traditional custodians of the land on which they live and experience the game.

Matches at each venue were preceded by traditional welcome ceremonies, performances and celebrations of Indigenous culture, while the 16 NRL clubs wore specially designed jerseys for the round, inspired by Indigenous art and storytelling.

To help fans discover more about the land and the history, the NRL hosted a range of stories and resources throughout the week on [nrl.com/indigenous](http://nrl.com/indigenous). For the first time, this included information on how fans can support Indigenous businesses.

This content also included interactive maps to help fans discover which tribes the game's Indigenous male and female stars are from, and information about Australia's traditional Indigenous nations and the land they are on.





## BEANIE FOR BRAIN CANCER ROUND



Te Maire Martin wearing a MHF Beanie prior to Brisbane's round 16 clash with the North Queensland Cowboys

More than \$4 million was raised for the Mark Hughes Foundation through the 2022 NRL Beanie For Brain Cancer Round (Round 16).

More than 170,000 MHF Beanies were sold during the Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign.

Additionally, the Big Three Trek – 45 trekkers walking from NRL Headquarters in Sydney to McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle across three days raising funds and awareness – raised more than \$177,000.

Sportsbet donated \$58,000 after 58 tries were scored in Round 16.

The result in 2022 meant more than \$15 million had been raised over five seasons of the Beanie for Brain Cancer Round.

**\$4.0M** OVER \$4 MILLION  
RAISED

**170k** OVER 170,000  
MHF BEANIES SOLD





# STATE OF ORIGIN

A total of 192,255 people attended the three matches in a gripping AMPOL State of Origin series, won by Queensland in a dramatic climax at Suncorp Stadium.

The biggest crowd for an Origin clash since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions – 80,512 at Accor Stadium – watched Queensland upset NSW in Game I. The Blues hit back with a dominant display in the second Origin match in Perth, watched by 59,358 at Optus Stadium.

The decider, watched by a capacity crowd at Suncorp, was considered one of the most physical and dramatic Origin matches in the contest's history. The Maroons prevailed to record a series win. Patrick Carrigan was awarded the Wally Lewis Medal for Player of the Series.

▶ The Maroons celebrate in front of their fans after Ben Hunt's try sealed the series

**192k** OVER 192,000 PEOPLE  
IN ATTENDANCE  
ACROSS THE SERIES

**80k** OVER 80,000 PEOPLE  
ATTENDED GAME 1





# WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN

NSW Sky Blues Centre,  
Isabelle Kelly

NSW won its third State of Origin match since the inception of the game in 2018 – in the first ever match at a neutral venue.

A record crowd of 11,321 watched the Blues win 20-14 at GIO Stadium, Canberra.

Isabelle Kelly clinched the win for the Blues with the final try and took out the Nellie Doherty Medal for Player of the Match.

The NRL announced that the 2023 State of Origin would for the first time become a two-match series.





# PRIME MINISTER'S XIII

> Daine Laurie, Full-back  
for the PM's XIII

After a two-year absence due to COVID-19, the Prime Minister's XIII match was played for the first time on Australian soil.

The Australian Men's PM's XIII triumphed 64-14 over their PNG counterparts, while in the women's match, the Australian PM's XIII team defeated the PNG Orchids 64-6 at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium.

Australia's Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP and PNG Prime Minister the Hon James Marape MP both attended the matches.





# RLWC

> The Jillaroos celebrate their RLWC win

Both Australian men's and women's teams were triumphant in the rescheduled 2021 Rugby League World Cup.

The Kangaroos defeated Samoa 30-10 in the men's final in front of 67,502 at Old Trafford, Manchester, while the Jillaroos beat New Zealand 54-4 to claim the title.

The 2021 Rugby League World Cup was the first tournament to feature both men's and women's as well as wheelchair competitions.





## MILESTONES

◀  
Craig Bellamy celebrating his 500th game as a coach

Craig Bellamy coached his 500th game when Melbourne Storm clashed with South Sydney at AAMI Park in Round 2. Only Wayne Bennett (631 games for the Broncos) has coached more games for a single club.

Bellamy became the fourth coach to reach the mark of 500 games after Bennett (890), Tim Sheens (669) and Brian Smith (601).

Brisbane halfback Adam Reynolds passed the milestone of 2000 points in the top grade in the clash with the Gold Coast at Cbus Super Stadium in Round 18.

He became only the eighth player since 1908 to top 2000 points.

South Sydney Rabbitohs winger Alex Johnston became the first player in premiership history to twice score 30 tries in a season when he scored a double in his team's elimination final win over Sydney Roosters.

Johnston equalled his own record for most tries in a season for the Rabbitohs when he touched down for his 30th try for 2022.

# THE 300 CLUB

Aiden Tolman and his family are applauded as they leave the field following his 300th appearance

Aiden Tolman, Andrew McCullough and James Tamou made their 300th NRL appearances during the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership season.

Tolman marked his 300th appearance with a rare try when the Sharks took on the Knights at PointsBet Stadium in Round 4, becoming the 43rd player in the history of the premiership to reach the mark.

McCullough became the 44th player to join the game's 300-club when he took the field for the Dragons against South Sydney at WIN Stadium in Round 15.

Tamou made his 300th NRL appearance in the clash with his former Club North Queensland Cowboys at Queensland Country Bank Stadium.





# 2022 RETIRING CLASS



The following players were recognised as the Official Retiring Class of 2022:

NAME	CLUB
<b>Aiden Tolman</b>	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
<b>Josh Morris</b>	Sydney Roosters
<b>Brett Morris</b>	Sydney Roosters
<b>Ryan James</b>	Brisbane Broncos
<b>Tyrone Roberts</b>	Brisbane Broncos
<b>Chelsea Baker</b>	Brisbane Broncos
<b>Meg Ward</b>	Brisbane Broncos

NAME	CLUB
<b>Ashley Taylor</b>	Warriors
<b>Russell Packer</b>	Wests Tigers
<b>James Roberts</b>	Wests Tigers
<b>Josh McGuire</b>	St George Illawarra Dragons
<b>Kody House</b>	St George Illawarra Dragons
<b>Corey Thompson</b>	Gold Coast Titans
<b>Paul Vaughan</b>	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

NAME	CLUB
<b>David Mead</b>	Brisbane Broncos
<b>Ben Te'o</b>	Brisbane Broncos
<b>Benji Marshall</b>	South Sydney Rabbitohs
<b>Corey Norman</b>	St George Illawarra Dragons
<b>Joseph Leilua</b>	Wests Tigers
<b>Will Chambers</b>	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks
<b>Kevin Proctor</b>	Gold Coast Titans

↑ Ryan James playing in Indigenous Round against the Newcastle Knights



# THE DALLY M AWARD



2022 Dally M winner  
Nicho Hynes



Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks halfback Nicho Hynes won the 2022 Dally M Medal – with the highest ever individual score in the history of the award.

Hynes polled 38 points, taking out the Dally M Medal ahead of Sydney Roosters fullback James Tedesco (33 points) and St George Illawarra halfback Ben Hunt (32 points), becoming the first Sharks player since 2001 to take out the award.

Sydney Roosters halfback Raecene McGregor capped a wonderful season by being crowned the 2022 Dally M Female Player of the Year.

The biggest ever Dally M Awards – with a fully integrated NRL and NRLW presence throughout the awards for the first time ever – was held at Winx Stand at Royal Randwick Racecourse.

A Dally M Female Team of the Year was named alongside a Dally M Male Team of the Year for the first time in the event's history.

Hynes was also awarded the Provan-Summons Medal for his post-match interview advocating for mental health following the passing of Paul Green.

Panthers Grand Final captain Isaah Yeo also capped a stellar night, awarded Dally M Captain of the Year and Dally M Lock of the Year. The Grand Finalists also boasted Viliame Kikau (Second rower of the Year) and Api Koroisau (Hooker of the Year) in the Team of the Year.

At just 17 years of age, Knights halfback Jesse Southwell won the Dally M Female Rookie of the Year Award.

AWARD	NAME	AWARD	NAME
<b>Dally M Male Player of the Year</b>	Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)	<b>Dally M Five-Eighth of the Year</b>	Cameron Munster (Melbourne Storm)
<b>Dally M Coach of the Year</b>	Todd Payten (North Queensland Cowboys)	<b>Dally M Halfback of the Year</b>	Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)
<b>Dally M Captain of the Year</b>	Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers)	<b>Dally M Hooker of the Year</b>	Api Koroisau (Penrith Panthers)
<b>Dally M Rookie of the Year</b>	Jeremiah Nanai (North Queensland Cowboys)	<b>Dally M Fullback of the Year</b>	James Tedesco (Sydney Roosters)
<b>Dally M Prop of the Year</b>	Payne Haas (Brisbane Broncos)	<b>Top Points Scorer</b>	Valentine Holmes (North Queensland Cowboys)
<b>Dally M Prop of the Year</b>	Joseph Tapine (Canberra Raiders)	<b>Top Try Scorer (Ken Irvine Medal)</b>	Alex Johnston (South Sydney Rabbitohs)
<b>Dally M Second Rower of the Year</b>	Viliame Kikau (Penrith Panthers)	<b>Peter Frilingos Headline Moment</b>	Jada Taylor/Queensland's State of Origin win
<b>Dally M Second Rower of the Year</b>	Jeremiah Nanai (North Queensland Cowboys)	<b>Provan-Summons Medal</b>	Nicho Hynes (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)
<b>Dally M Lock of the Year</b>	Isaah Yeo (Penrith Panthers)	<b>DrinkWise Try of the Year</b>	Scott Drinkwater (North Queensland Cowboys)
<b>Dally M Winger of the Year</b>	Joseph Sua'ali'i (Sydney Roosters)	<b>YOUI Tackle of the Year</b>	Mitchell Moses (Parramatta Eels)
<b>Dally M Winger of the Year</b>	Alex Johnston (South Sydney Rabbitohs)	<b>VB Hardest Working Player of the Year</b>	Isaiah Papali'i (Parramatta Eels)
<b>Dally M Centre of the Year</b>	Joseph Manu (Sydney Roosters)		
<b>Dally M Centre of the Year</b>	Valentine Holmes (North Queensland Cowboys)		



## › NRLW AWARDS 2021

AWARD	NAME
Dally M Female Player of the Year	Emma Tonegato (St George Illawarra Dragons) and Millie Boyle (Brisbane Broncos)
Dally M Coach of the Year	Jamie Soward (St George Illawarra Dragons)
Dally M Captain of the Year	Brittany Breayley-Nati (Gold Coast Titans)
Try of the Year	Shaniah Power (Gold Coast Titans)
Tackle of the Year	Emma Tonegato (St George Illawarra Dragons)

## › NRLW AWARDS 2022

AWARD	NAME
Dally M Female Player of the Year	Raecene McGregor (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Coach of the Year	John Strange (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Captain of the Year	Isabelle Kelly (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Rookie of the Year	Jesse Southwell (Newcastle Knights)
Dally M Prop of the Year	Caitlan Johnston (Newcastle Knights)
Dally M Prop of the Year	Millie Boyle (Newcastle Knights)
Dally M Second Rower of the Year	Keilee Joseph (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Second Rower of the Year	Olivia Kernick (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Lock of the Year	Simaima Taufa (Parramatta Eels)
Dally M Winger of the Year	Teagan Berry (St George Illawarra Dragons)
Dally M Winger of the Year	Jaime Chapman (Brisbane Broncos)
Dally M Centre of the Year	Isabelle Kelly (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Centre of the Year	Jessica Sergis (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Five-Eighth of the Year	Tarryn Aiken (Brisbane Broncos)
Dally M Halfback of the Year	Raecene McGregor (Sydney Roosters)
Dally M Hooker of the Year	Keeley Davis (St George Illawarra Dragons)
Dally M Fullback of the Year	Sam Bremner (Sydney Roosters)
Top Points Scorer	Zahara Temara (Sydney Roosters)
Top Try Scorer	Jayme Fressard (Sydney Roosters)
Provan-Summons Medal	Toni Hunt (Brisbane Broncos)
Try of the Year	Tarryn Aiken (Brisbane Broncos)
Tackle of the Year	Tarryn Aiken (Brisbane Broncos)

› 2021 Dally M Female Players of the Year, Millie Boyle and Emma Tonegato



› Raecene McGregor winning the Dally M award





# RLPA AWARDS



James Tedesco and  
Raecene McGregor at the  
2022 NRL Grand Final

AWARD	NAME
<b>The Players' Champion</b>	Raecene McGregor and James Tedesco
<b>Rookie of the Year</b>	Gayle Broughton and Jeremiah Nanai
<b>Dennis Tutty Award</b>	Wade Graham and Hannah Southwell
<b>The Players' Dream Team (NRL)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 James Tedesco</li> <li>2 Joseph Sua'ali'i</li> <li>3 Joseph Manu</li> <li>4 Justin Olam</li> <li>5 Daniel Tupou</li> <li>6 Cameron Munster</li> <li>7 Ben Hunt</li> <li>8 James Fisher-Harris</li> <li>9 Api Koroisau</li> <li>10 Joseph Tapine</li> <li>11 Jeremiah Nanai</li> <li>12 Isaiah Papali'i</li> <li>13 Cameron Murray</li> </ol>
<b>The Players' Dream Team (NRLW)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Sam Bremner</li> <li>2 Julia Robinson</li> <li>3 Isabelle Kelly</li> <li>4 Jaime Chapman</li> <li>5 Leianne Tufuga</li> <li>6 Tarryn Aiken</li> <li>7 Raecene McGregor</li> <li>8 Millie Boyle</li> <li>9 Destiny Brill</li> <li>10 Caitlan Johnston</li> <li>11 Olivia Kernick</li> <li>12 Amber Hall</li> <li>13 Keilee Joseph</li> </ol>





# 2022 ACADEMIC TEAM OF THE YEAR



Tom Eisenhuth completed a Master's in Education at Australian Catholic University

**Tom Eisenhuth – Melbourne Storm**  
Master's in Education at Australian Catholic University

**Andrew Fifita – Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks**  
Diploma of Counselling in NSW TAFE

**Emma Tonegato – St George Illawarra Dragons**  
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at Australian Catholic University

**Lachlan Croker – Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles**  
Bachelor of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Griffith University

**Adam Doueihi – Wests Tigers**  
Bachelor of Arts/Global Studies at Australian Catholic University

**Brendan Elliott – North Queensland Cowboys**  
Master of Cyber Security at Griffith University

**Georgia Page – Newcastle Knights**  
Master's in Osteopathic Medicine at University of Newcastle

**Hymel Hunt – Newcastle Knights**  
Diploma of Finance Mortgage Brokering at MYFENG

**Rhys Kennedy – Brisbane Broncos**  
Master's of Clinical Exercise Physiology at Australian Catholic University

**Clint Gutherson – Parramatta Eels**  
Certificate IV in Fitness at Australian College of Sport & Fitness

**Tyrell Fuimaono – St George Illawarra Dragons**  
Certificate IV in Building and Construction at Masters in Building and Construction Training

**Wayde Egan – Warriors**  
Bachelor of Business at Swinburne University

**Jocelyn Kelleher – Sydney Roosters**  
Bachelor of High-Performance Sport at Australian Catholic University

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**2022 Academic Male of the Year**  
Rhys Kennedy

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**2022 Academic Female of the Year**  
Emma Tonegato

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**2022 Pasifika Leadership and Excellence Award**  
James Tamou

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**2022 Indigenous Leadership and Excellence Award**  
Ryan James

---

**NRL Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Ryan James (Brisbane Broncos)

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**NRLW Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Lauren Brown (Gold Coast Titans)

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# MATCH OFFICIALS



The 2022 season saw Adam Gee notch 200 matches as an NRL referee, while Chris Butler and Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski brought up their centuries of games as referee and touch judge respectively.

Ashley Klein refereed all three AMPOL State of Origin matches, as well as the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final.

Adam Gee adjudicating  
Penit. Panthers vs  
Brisbane Broncos in  
Round 4



# MILESTONES

**500** GAMES AS VIDEO REFEREE/BUNKER OFFICIAL

**Steve Chiddy**  
Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles  
v Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks  
August 20

**100** GAMES AS REFEREE

**Chris Butler**  
Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs  
v Penrith Panthers  
CommBank Stadium, April 10

**200** GAMES AS REFEREE

**Adam Gee**  
North Queensland Cowboys  
v Brisbane Broncos  
Queensland Country Bank Stadium, July 2

**100** GAMES AS TOUCH JUDGE

**Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski**  
Newcastle Knights  
v Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles  
McDonald Jones Stadium, April 7



Chris Butler celebrated the 100 game milestone in 2022

## NRL BUNKER REVIEW OFFICIAL DEBUT

**Kasey Badger**  
Warriors v Wests Tigers, July 3

## NRL TOUCH JUDGE DEBUT

**Nick Pelgrave**  
Warriors v St George Illawarra Dragons,  
Sunshine Coast Stadium, March 12

**Ben Teague**  
Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles v Canberra Raiders,  
Glen Willow Stadium, April 2

**Cameron Paddy**  
St George Illawarra Dragons v Warriors,  
Netstrata Jubilee Stadium, May 21

## UNDER 19S WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Kara-Lee Nolan  
Touch Judges – Mitch Currie & Tori Wilkie  
Bunker Review Official – Kasey Badger

## UNDER 19S MEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Wyatt Raymond  
Touch Judges – Cameron Paddy & Darian Furner  
Bunker Review Official – Kasey Badger  
Pacific Test – Samoa v Cook Islands  
Referee – Peter Gough  
Touch Judges – Ziggy Przeklasa-Adamski & Nick Beashel  
Bunker Review Official – Chris Butler  
Pacific Test – Papua New Guinea v Fiji  
Referee – Todd Smith  
Touch Judges – Liam Kennedy & Chris Sutton  
Bunker Review Official – Matt Noyen

## NEW ZEALAND V TONGA WOMEN'S

Referee – Kasey Badger  
Touch Judges – Rochelle Tamarua & Joseph Green  
Bunker Review Official – Steve Chiddy

## NEW ZEALAND V TONGA MEN'S

Referee – Grant Atkins  
Touch Judges – Liam Kennedy & Paki Parkinson  
Bunker Review Official – Chris Butler

## AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN GAME ONE MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Ashley Klein  
Touch Judges – David Munro & Phil Henderson  
Bunker Review Official – Grant Atkins

## AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN GAME II MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Ashley Klein  
Touch Judges – Phil Henderson & Drew Oultram  
Bunker Review Official – Grant Atkins

## AMPOL STATE OF ORIGIN GAME III MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Ashley Klein  
Touch Judges – Phil Henderson & Drew Oultram  
Bunker Review Official – Grant Atkins

## AMPOL WOMEN'S STATE OF ORIGIN MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Belinda Sharpe  
Touch Judges – Kailey Beattie & Tori Wilkie  
Bunker Review Official – Adam Gee

## NRL TELSTRA PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Ashley Klein  
Touch Judges – Phil Henderson & Drew Oultram  
Bunker Review Official – Grant Atkins

## NRL TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL MATCH OFFICIALS 2021

Referee – Belinda Sharpe  
Touch Judges – Kasey Badger & Karra-Lee Nolan  
Bunker Review Official – Matt Noyen

## NRL TELSTRA WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP GRAND FINAL MATCH OFFICIALS 2022

Referee – Kasey Badger  
Touch Judges – Jordan Morel & Tori Wilkie  
Bunker Review Official – Matt Noyen

## NRL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee – Darian Furner  
Touch Judges – Cameron Paddy & Dan Munroe

## COL PEARCE MEDAL

Ashley Klein

## MAX TOMSETT MEDAL (TOUCH JUDGE OF THE YEAR)

Phil Henderson



# VALE 2022

Johnny Raper attending an Australia vs New Zealand Test in 2008

Rugby League lost one of its Immortals – John Raper MBE – in 2022, along with a distinguished array of players, coaches and administrators.

Raper represented the Kangaroos in 39 Tests, including as Captain of the 1968 World Cup winning side, and won eight Premierships with the St George Dragons.

The NRL also mourned the loss of 2015 North Queensland Cowboys Premiership coach Paul Green, Rugby League Hall of Fame member Barry Muir, New Zealand Kiwis representative Olsen Filipaina, Canberra Raiders Chairman Dr Allan Hawke AC, former Dally M Medallist Robert Laurie, former Country Rugby League Chief Executive Terry Quinn, legendary Rugby League figure Paul Broughton OAM and long-time Rugby League coach and recruiter Peter Mulholland.

John Gleeson*	Mark Shulman	Frank Curry	Bob Keyes
Brian Staunton*	John Whiteley MBE	Maurice Lindsay	Mick Plant
Noel Dolton*	Va'iaga Tuigamala	Robert Laurie	Julien Rascagneres
Peter Mulholland*	Bill Hansen	Paul Lennon	Terry Quinn
Bob Hensby*	Peter Kelly	Bill Brown	Des Milsom
Alan Cardy*	Dave Hadfield	Bill Ashurst	Liam Hampson
Tom Moylan*	Oscar Danielson	John Taunton	Ken Cowley
Bill Noonan*	Vic Querin	Philip Boge	Keith Outten
Doug Cameron*	Bob Weir	George McTaggart	Bob Ellicott
John Raper MBE	Bill Hilliard	Nick Moraitis	Wayne Merry
Olsen Filipaina	Brad Wilson	Ted Sulkowicz	Alan Catt
Tony Brown	Jack Newton OAM	John Maguire	Tim Murphy
Paul Green	Roy Moore	Robert 'Bob' McDonagh	Kevin Beardmore
Barry Muir	Kevin Pearce	Phil Jackson	John Heyward
Tu'u Maori	Dale Puren	Don Hammond	Jim Cody
Max Anderson	Geoff Waldie	Michael Purcell	Jersey Komorowski
Des Drummond	Bill Pearson	Tony Townsend	Paul Broughton
Rod Smith	John Lintmeijer	Dr Allen Hawke AC	Dennis Spagarino

\* late 2021



02

**PARTNERSHIPS  
REPORT**





# PARTNERSHIPS REPORT

>  
Selwyn Cobbo in State  
of Origin Game 2

At the end of season 2022 NRL and NRLW naming rights partner Telstra extended its long association with rugby league to 2027. The new five-year partnership is the largest in the game's history and marks a 26-year involvement in the game by Telstra, one of the longest running in Australian sport.

At the announcement ARLC Chairman Peter V'landys AM acknowledged the tremendous contribution Telstra has made to rugby league, from the grassroots to the elite, for both men and women.

NRL also welcomed new major partnerships with leading brands. Goodyear and Autocare Services came onboard as exclusive tyre and automotive shore-to-door partners.

Swyftx Crypto Exchange became NRL's inaugural crypto exchange partner.

NRL expanded their existing partnership with Asahi across their non-alcoholic beverage portfolio encompassing sports drinks, water and soft drinks. Asahi became NRL's official non-alcoholic drinks sponsor via its Solo soft drink brand.

Major car brand Kia signed a three-year commitment to sponsor primarily Thursday night games.

P&O Cruises renewed the partnership into their eighth year with an increased investment. In 2022 the successful P&O Group Holiday 'Let's Cruise' campaign was launched featuring some of the game's top players.

Major partners KFC, Chemist Warehouse, Hisense, Drinkwise, Coates and Steeden extended their partnerships with the NRL in 2022.

Once again NRL partners enhanced the fan experience in stadia and at home with innovative competitions and activations. Bundaberg Rum created Bundy Mixer NRL, the first ever mixed fantasy league, generating over 16,000 registrations and fan engagement across both NRL and NRLW.

In stadia fans enjoyed seeing popular half-time activations from Telstra Tracker races where fans raced against the fastest players in the game, and the KFC bucket catch with a chance to win a year's worth of KFC. User generated content from Solo's Outfox the Fox competition was amplified on Grand Final Day.

Ampol Little Origin returned in 2022 with the Little Blues and Little Maroons taking to the field at half time during Origin games. Eight local schools enjoyed the experiences of a 'life team' across the Ampol State of Origin series.

At the end of the NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final, Telstra Junior Club Grants totalling \$210,000 were awarded to rugby league clubs around Australia. Grants worth \$5000 were donated to the junior club of each player in the Grand Final winning teams (Penrith and Newcastle), together with \$20,000 awarded to the junior club associated with the runner up (Parramatta Eels) for both Telstra NRL and NRLW Premiership competitions.

Sportsbet continued their support of Try July, donating \$270,000 to the Red Cross supporting NSW and Queensland flood victims, and the Tonga disaster recovery.





Every NRL partner supported Magic Round Brisbane delivered by KFC, with physical, digital and retail activations. Highlights included Swiftyx Giant Claw with over \$50,000 worth of prizes, Ampol VIP Deck, Bundy Deck and DoorDash Dash Lounge.

Grand Final Fan Fest returned to Martin Place over three days featuring player appearances and major partner activations from Telstra, Ampol, Chemist Warehouse, DoorDash, Harvey Norman and Youi.

NRL and TikTok teamed up in a first ever content and digital commercial deal to launch exclusive content for NRL's TikTok account, including opportunities for partners. Following the partnership NRL's TikTok followers reached over one million through live streams at major events and organic posting. NRL partners also focused on video first content which resulted in more partners using the digital eco system.

NRL's digital branded content strategy achieved strong outcomes for partners through consideration and conversion. NRL's 'Get To It' promotion in conjunction with the National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme delivered a 40 per cent increase in screening enquiries.

Youi's Net Promoter Score (NPS) metrics increased substantially during the Youi Life Changers series which featured six stories of shared moments that transformed the lives of some NRL officials and players.

NRL also secured major new partners for the 2023 season. Westpac become a Major Partner in 2023 as the NRL's official bank and payment platform. They will become the official match ball sponsor for both NRL and NRLW competitions and play a key role in supporting community initiatives such as Road to Regions, RISE Rookie Academy and RISE Coach development programme.

### Strong partnerships with Government

NRL's ongoing partnerships with state, territory and federal Governments were once again indispensable to the success of the 2022 NRL and NRLW Telstra Premiership seasons.

NRL gratefully acknowledges the support and assistance provided by the Queensland Government and the Brisbane Economic Development Agency during Magic Round; the Western Australian Government for State of Origin 2; and the New South Wales Government for All Stars, State of Origin one and the Grand Final.

NRL also acknowledges the investment and support provided by the New South Wales and Victorian Governments for important programmes such as In League in Harmony and State of Mind.

The ongoing partnership with the Australian Government ensures the continuation and success of important programmes such as School to Work, Battlefields to Footy Fields, Vocational Education and Training Pathways, State of Mind and engagement across the Pacific region. We look forward to expanding these projects in 2023.



The Chemist Warehouse deck during Magic Round in Brisbane



Grand Final Fan Fest at Sydney's Martin Place



Capturing an Ampol Trophy moment in the Magic Round Precinct



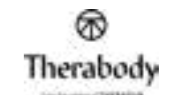
Roosters' James Tedesco  
against the South Sydney  
Rabbitohs in Finals Week

## Our Valued Partners

### Broadcast



### Commercial



03

**FAN EXPERIENCE  
REPORT**





# DIGITAL

Roosters and Rabbitohs fans at Allianz Stadium for their quarter final clash

The NRL Digital Network – which is developed and run by the NRL in partnership with Telstra, NRL Clubs, QRL and NSWRL – continued to be the digital home of Rugby League throughout 2022.

2022 represented a return to normality for fans, following the 2021 season which saw unprecedented growth in digital engagement with the pandemic continuing to impact the lives of fans and our game.

A change in content strategy, increasing focus on short-form video, and a redesigned website and app resulted in increased engagement, enabling NRL to preserve and build on this growth from pandemic years. An average of 3.4M users visited the NRL Digital Network each round in the 2022 season. Fans spent more time engaging on the network, with a five per cent increase in time spent per visit in 2022.

This year marked the fifth anniversary of NRL Account, which continues to attract more fans. A massive 2.65M fans registered for the customer account, which enables a tailored experience and benefits across the NRL Network. Since the end of season 2021, 382,000 new accounts were registered which equates to 17 per cent year-on-year growth.

In 2022 we reached a new generation of fans off-network, achieving impressive year-on-year growth across major channels, including TikTok followers (up 19%) NRLW-focused social media channels (up 27%) and YouTube subscribers (up 51%). Reaching new audience segments will continue to be a focus moving into 2023.

Throughout the year we focused on creating and elevating content that captivated fans and promoted the broader game. The clip of emerging NRLW star Jada Taylor scoring her breakaway try was viewed almost three million times across our owned and managed channels.

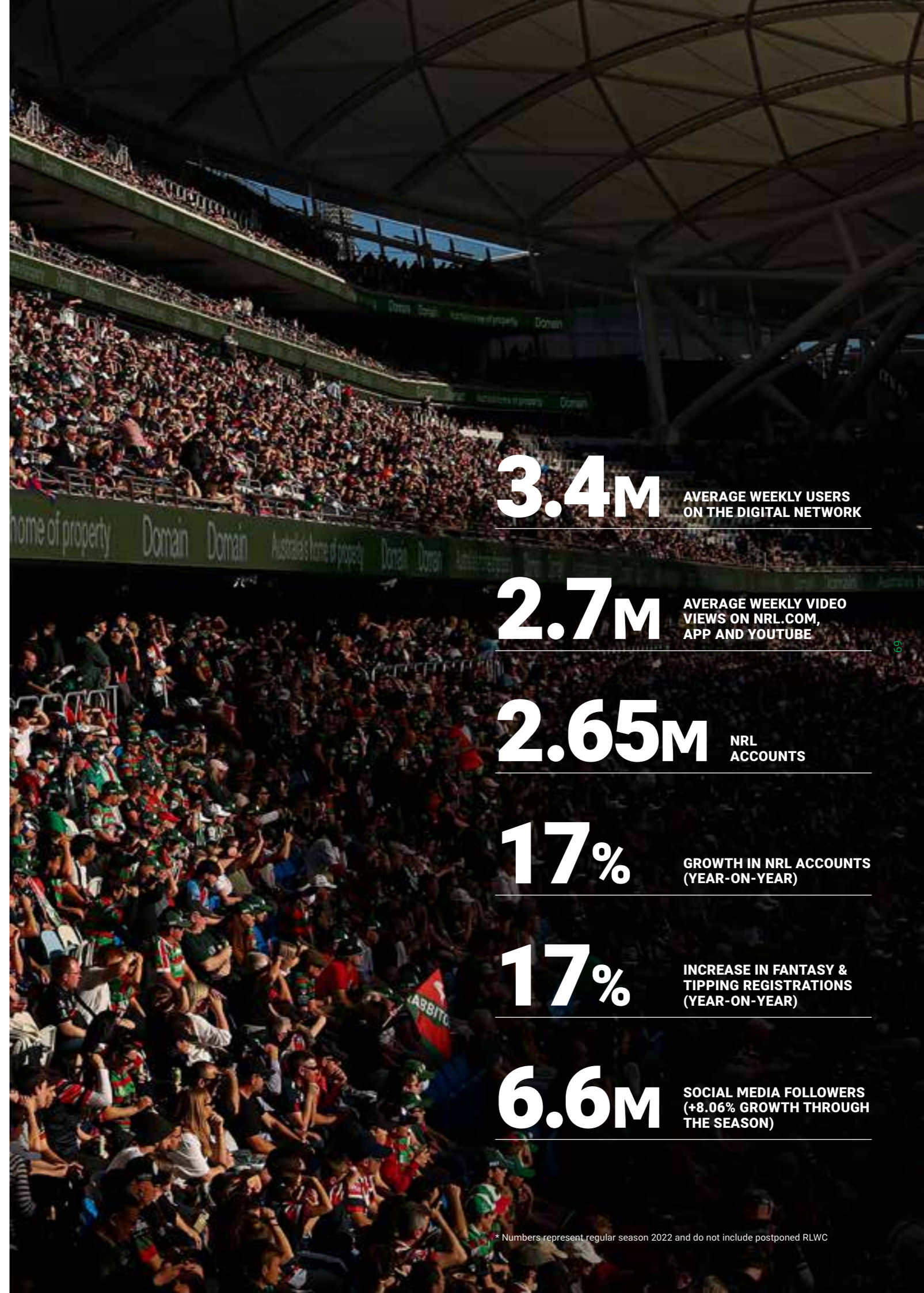
NRL worked closely with partners to strengthen the digital fan experience. In partnership with Bundy, NRL launched the world-first mixed-gender fantasy game 'Bundy Mixer' in 2022, elevating the profiles of our NRLW athletes.

Registrations for NRL Tipping and Fantasy competitions grew 17 per cent in 2022. The number of fans playing these games has almost doubled since 2019.

The postponed 2021 RLWC held at the end of 2022 drove substantial off-season fan engagement. Two million weekly video views were achieved as fans lapped up coverage across NRL.com, NRL App and YouTube, enabled with the support of Kayo.

In 2023, NRL Digital and Content will continue to focus on efficiency, innovation and optimisation of fan experience, supporting the game's expansion and continuing to deliver exceptional content, experiences and digital services for fans, the game and its stakeholders.

The 2023 season will also mark the renewal of NRL and Telstra's highly successful digital partnership, bringing even more innovation across the fan experience and through the Official NRL Mobile App.



**3.4M** AVERAGE WEEKLY USERS ON THE DIGITAL NETWORK

**2.7M** AVERAGE WEEKLY VIDEO VIEWS ON NRL.COM, APP AND YOUTUBE

**2.65M** NRL ACCOUNTS

**17%** GROWTH IN NRL ACCOUNTS (YEAR-ON-YEAR)

**17%** INCREASE IN FANTASY & TIPPING REGISTRATIONS (YEAR-ON-YEAR)

**6.6M** SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS (+8.06% GROWTH THROUGH THE SEASON)

\* Numbers represent regular season 2022 and do not include postponed RLWC

6.8M

FANS REACHED

39%

CLAIMED AWARENESS AMONGST  
GENERAL FANS (9M) & 54 PER CENT  
AMONGST CORE FANS (5M)\*

40%

OF FANS STATED THEY HAD  
A MORE POSITIVE ASSOCIATION  
WITH RUGBY LEAGUE

15%

VIEWERS THAT WOULD CONSIDER  
PLAYING RUGBY LEAGUE

18%

VIEWERS WANTED TO FIND OUT  
MORE ABOUT RUGBY LEAGUE

46%

VIEWERS WANTED TO WATCH  
RUGBY LEAGUE

\* Fan interest measured as a percentage of the Australian population 18+



# MARKETING REPORT

A young fan attending  
Magic Round at  
Suncorp Stadium

In 2022 the NRL shifted its marketing focus from multiple product-based campaigns to a single creative master brand platform designed to support key events and grassroots and community engagement.

The “It’s all the Real that Makes Rugby League so Unreal” campaign was designed to build the profile of rugby league as the most authentic, entertaining, engaging and connected sport in Australia.

The campaign successfully launched in conjunction with the 2022 premiership season opener. The new creative approach drove positive brand association and engagement during the campaign period, achieving the following results:

- 6.8 million fans reached;
- 39 per cent claimed awareness amongst general fans (9m) & 54 per cent amongst core fans (5m);\*
- 40 per cent of fans stated they had a more positive association with rugby league;
- 15 per cent of viewers would consider playing rugby league;
- 18 per cent of viewers wanted to find out more about rugby league; and
- 46 per cent of viewers wanted to watch rugby league.

During 2022 NRL achieved growth across the following key marketing performance indicators:

	CORE NRL FAN INTEREST	NPS	BRAND HEALTH
2021	27.4%	26.3pts	25.2pts
2022	27.9%	30.4pts	29.1pts



UNREAL



# GAME DAY EXPERIENCE



## Fans return in force in 2022

After two years of COVID-19 restrictions fans returned in record numbers in 2022 to watch the game and soak up all the atmosphere of NRL's game day fan experience. The 2022 finals series featured a record number of sold-out games, while the 2022 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final was played in front of a sold-out crowd of 82,415 at Accor Stadium for the first time since 2019. The NRLW Grand Final saw a record crowd of 42,921 with the Newcastle Knights victorious over the Parramatta Eels. Australian rock legend Jimmy Barnes headlined an impressive line-up of pre-game performers entertaining fans that included Diesel, Sheldon Riley, Josh Teskey and Bliss N Eso, and a first-ever all women pre-game performance by A. Girl, Mahalia Barnes and Emma Donovan.

Grand Final week featured the first ever combined Dally M Awards night for NRL and NRLW players at Royal Randwick, and Fan Fest returned to Sydney's Martin Place for the first time since 2019 featuring major partner activities.

All three games in the 2022 Ampol State of Origin series were sold out, with 80,512 fans attending Origin one in Sydney without COVID-19 restrictions. Perth fans who attended Origin two were entertained pre-game by Aussie rockers, Grinspoon. Women's Origin was played in Canberra in front of a record crowd of 11,321.

Magic Round returned to Suncorp Stadium with three days of music, food and fun around the precinct, including in-ground performances on the Telstra Live Stage with 130,122 fans attending across the weekend.

The Harvey Norman All Stars game was played in Sydney for the first time at CommBank Stadium to a crowd of 26,755 fans. Cultural performances were a highlight for the fans as well as a half-time performance by indigenous singer, Budjerah.

The inaugural Multicultural Round was staged to celebrate the diversity of the rugby league family. The Sixth NRL Beanie for Brain Cancer Round saw \$4 Million dollars raised for the Mark Hughes Foundation.

### Corporate hospitality

NRL's corporate hospitality went from strength to strength in 2022. A total of 13 new hospitality products were launched, including "The W Club" created specifically for women.

### Licensed merchandise

NRL's licensed merchandise programme rebounded from COVID-19 challenges, with strong results across major events and general retail. In 2022 total retail sales of NRL merchandise grew by 15 per cent year-on-year. This enabled the NRL to maintain its position as the largest licensed merchandise programme in Australian sport.



04

PERFORMANCE  
AND PATHWAYS





# PERFORMANCE AND PATHWAYS

Josh Addo-Carr training with the Indigenous All Stars

NRL is committed to developing and delivering programmes and opportunities to support the achievement of high performance on and off the field. The Performance and Pathways Department provides opportunities within the game to enable aspirational people to become high performers.

The department incorporates the NRL's wellbeing, diversity and performance team, women's elite and Indigenous programmes, sub-elite playing opportunities, and the administration of People and Culture team.

## Player Wellbeing and Education Programmes

2022 saw the return of many face-to-face wellbeing and support programmes. Programmes were delivered to over 5500 players and staff from almost 200 clubs across the professional, semi-professional and elite pathways covering proactive wellbeing, career development, responsibility messaging and mental health support.

In 2022 there was a correlation between those clubs that invested in wellbeing and education support and on-field performance. Penrith Panthers and Cronulla Sharks finished first and second in the NRL Telstra Minor Premiership, and in wellbeing and education performance.

In 2022 there was a 40 per cent year-on-year increase in education course completion, with over 123 courses completed by 106 NRL players. Across the more than 500 NRL players, 166 university degrees have either been completed or are underway, with over 82 per cent of players actively career engaged.

Education and career requirements for all NRL and NRLW rookie players have increased, ensuring there is a strong focus on preparing a player's alternate career starts as early as possible.

The 2022 season marked the final year of the current player wellbeing and education programme as determined by the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Key achievements included:

- Over 90 per cent of elite players have an active individual wellbeing plan, with a strong focus on career development;
- All NRL, NRLW and State Cup clubs having appropriately qualified wellbeing staff to support the playing group;
- Player feedback of wellbeing support was rated above the 80 per cent target;
- Mandatory education programs being delivered, and minimum standards of reporting and activities conducted at each club; and
- Strong expert partnerships ensuring wellbeing, education and mental ill health content and delivery remains best practice.







◀  
The New Zealand Māori  
Kiwis defeated the  
Indigenous All Stars

Several new programmes to further support the playing group were launched including:

- The inaugural NRLW Rookie Camp was attended by 30 new NRLW contracted players from six clubs;
- The commitment to supporting players in their alternate careers was highlighted with the wellbeing and education awards being recognised on Grand Final Day and in broadcast for the first time;
- Players Coaching Accreditation Pilot: provides current players with an opportunity to complete their coaching qualifications and be mentored by current coaches;
- Pilot Accelerate Programme: providing work experience, professional development and employment opportunities to help upskill and prepare players pre-retirement;
- Retired Players Business Network: four mentoring events were held with retired players and business people;
- Inaugural Māori and Samoan language classes were delivered for current and former players and staff. This may be expanded to other Pasifika languages in 2023; and
- Advisory groups covering players, wellbeing and education were launched to give a voice to Māori and Pasifika players across the NRL and NRLW.

Psychological and counselling support offered to players and staff was extended through the introduction of a club-aligned psychologist programme and mental health network. All new NRL and NRLW players completed psychological rookie screens, with recommendations being shared with club wellbeing staff to ensure the most supportive environment is offered to individual players. NRL increased its support of coaches via wellbeing and education, reviewing coaching qualifications and expanding coaching pathways for Indigenous, Pasifika and female coaches. This important work will continue during 2023.

**30** 30 NEW NRLW CONTRACTED  
PLAYERS ATTENDED THE  
INAUGURAL NRLW ROOKIE CAMP



Dally M Rookie of the Year, Jesse Southwell celebrates a try

## 2021 and 2022 NRLW

After NRLW games not being played for 14 months due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 NRLW season was the most competitive ever with an average margin of just over 11 points, and 44 per cent of matches having a margin less than six points. Game time was also increased from 60 minutes to 70 minutes in line with Women's State of Origin.

Three new clubs – Gold Coast Titans, Newcastle Knights and Parramatta Eels – entered the competition, while the New Zealand Warriors withdrew due to COVID-19 impacts and the men's team being relocated in Australia for two seasons.

The season ended with Sydney Roosters defeating St George Illawarra Dragons 16-4 in the first ever stand-alone Grand Final played at Moreton Daily Stadium in Queensland. The Brisbane Broncos had won the previous NRLW titles.

The 2022 season saw the Newcastle Knights defeat Parramatta Eels in front of a record 42,921 fans at Accor Stadium on the Telstra Premiership Grand Finals Day. In a first for premiership rugby league, both teams were led by indigenous coaches.





◀  
Jada Taylor celebrating  
NSW's win over  
Queensland with  
Chantel Tugaga

## Women's State of Origin

For the first time Women's State of Origin was played at Canberra's GIO Stadium, a neutral venue for the fifth iteration of the series and final one-off match before its expansion to two matches in 2023.

After two years of the match being played in Queensland and won by Queensland, the Sky Blues were determined to return to the top. NSW won 20-14 in another closely contested match.

Women's State of Origin continues to be the most intense contest on the women's calendar, with players proving to be fitter, faster and stronger than ever.

The increases in performance seen in the 2022 Women's Origin was assisted by the extension of game time to 70-minute matches at NRLW level.

## UNDER-19s State of Origin

The women's match moved from its traditional place as a curtain raiser to the Women's Open Origin to be played as a double-header with the men's Under-19s match at Leichhardt Oval. Played prior to the primetime kick-off of the men's match, the young women showed once again the exciting breadth of talent coming through the ranks. Player of the match Jada Taylor scored two tries as NSW won the match 22-6.

NSW won the men's under-19 match 32-4.

Centre Andie Robinson – the daughter of former Tigers first grade player Clint Robinson – ran in a hat-trick of tries on the night. Many players from both teams went on to feature heavily in the NRLW season that followed, including Losana Lutu (Eels), Monalisa Soliola (Dragons), Emmanita Paki (Knights) and Otesa Pule (Roosters).

# › SUB-ELITE PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES



↑  
Queensland defeated  
NSW/ACT 30-6 in the first  
U19s Schoolgirls match

## Female RISE Rookies Academies

RISE Rookie Academies were launched in 2022 to identify and nurture the next generation of NRLW talent. Across Australia 457 players were identified as part of high-performance programmes designed to accelerate their development to have them ready to play at the National Women's Championship in 2023.

In August 40 coaches and strength and conditioning staff attended a familiarisation conference to learn more about the academies.

## National Women's Coaching and Performance Conference

Fifty coaching staff from the Women's National Championship teams attended a performance and coaching conference on the Gold Coast which canvassed topics including team culture and values, women's health and wellbeing, injury prevention and performance and key game trends in NRLW.

## Harvey Norman Women's National Championship

The Harvey Norman Women's National Championship is the pinnacle of the women's rugby league pathway, providing a platform for the next generation of stars to perform and have an opportunity to reach the elite level.

In 2022, 280 players competed, with the Queensland Rubys winning the under-19s and NSW Country taking out the open division. The First Nations Gems finished third overall, and two players received NRLW development contracts for the 2022 NRLW season.

Prior to the tournament players and staff attended cultural awareness programmes at a two-day camp.

## Indigenous Women's Academy

Closing the research gap in performance between male and female athletes performance was the focus at the inaugural Indigenous Women's Academy camp held at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). The NRL successfully pitched to host the research camp to focus on female health and high performance as part of ensuring indigenous athletes remain on elite pathways. Twenty-six aspiring indigenous athletes went into camp, training full-time at the AIS while being monitored and supported daily by female researchers. The all-female research camp was the first of its kind for the AIS and Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Five players were selected in the Australian PM's XIII side and 11 were invited to the 2023 All Stars selection camp.

## RISE Rugby League Development Programme

The RISE programme enables players aged 13-16 and coaches to obtain specialised training and education. In 2022 the RISE programme was delivered in partnership with the state leagues and Griffith University's School of Applied Psychology at 47 locations to 2717 participants across Australia.

## Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League

The ASSRL and NRL combined to provide elite pathway opportunities for school age rugby league players. Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the ASSRL continued supporting the men's pathways via the Schoolboys National Championships held over a week. Included among the 10 under-15 teams was the First Nations Goannas featuring Indigenous players from all over Australia.

## Schoolgirls

Queensland defeated NSW/ACT 30-6 in the first Schoolgirls match played prior to State of Origin three at Suncorp Stadium. The inaugural Australian Schoolgirls team travelled to Fiji with the Australian Schoolboys, defeating Fiji 48-0. In 2023 the ASSRL and NRL will launch a Schoolgirls Championships.

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# 05 COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION REPORT



# COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION REPORT

Bluebet Stadium, Penrith

In 2022 the NRL Community department celebrated our volunteers, supported our communities and addressed social issues by providing pathways and opportunities to inspire positivity, inclusiveness and healthy living for young people.

The success of our programmes is due to the positive contributions from many partners, including NRL clubs and players, schools, state leagues, NRL community experts and funding partners, federal and state governments, and our committed NRL community staff.

## Road To Regions

In 2022 the NRL's Your Local Club Road to Regions programme reached over 25,000 participants in 12 regions, expanding to WA and the NT for the first time.

NRL continued the successful 'Your Local Club' partnership with Clubs NSW by connecting local club communities with the game.

Former players and ambassadors, including Jamal Fogarty, Luke Lewis, Talulah Tillet, Josh Morris, Gerard Beale and Hailee-Jay Maunsel, visited communities across Australia, including some affected by natural disasters.

## NRL Community Awards

NRL Community Awards recognise and celebrate the contributions of those who make rugby league the greatest game for all. In 2022 over 600 nominations were received. Once again, the judging panel for awards was chaired by an ARL Commissioner.

## Grassroots Winners:

- Volunteer of the Year: Wendy Povey, NSW;
- Community Rugby League Club of the Year: Narromine Jets, NSW;
- Young Person of the Year: Ethan Garton, QLD;
- Teacher of the Year: Alysia Bader, NT;
- Women In League Award: Jessica Ashcroft, NSW; and
- Indigenous Community Award (new award): Victor Wright, NSW.

## Elite Awards:

- Ken Stephen Medal, Man of the Year: Cody Walker, South Sydney Rabbitohs; and
- Veronica White Medal, Woman of the Year: Kennedy Cherrington, Parramatta Eels.

## Fan Vote Winners

A record number of votes were received in 2022.

- Veronica White Medal: Stephanie Hancock, Gold Coast Titans (9651 votes); and
- Ken Stephen Medal: Nicho Hynes, Cronulla Sutherland Sharks (37,807 votes).

## NRL League Stars Inspire

The NRL League Stars Inspire programme continues to encourage primary school children to lead positive and healthy lives by developing their knowledge, skills, attitudes and values in the areas of Respect, Health & Wellbeing and Inclusion and Diversity.

In 2022 the programme reached 36,000 students across 130 schools. Since 2019 it has reached 160,000 students across 593 schools. A survey found 81 per cent of teachers believed children would be more likely to be involved in NRL after participating in the programme.

"We would **definitely want the programs back**, we could see how the program helped all the kids, and not just the boys either."

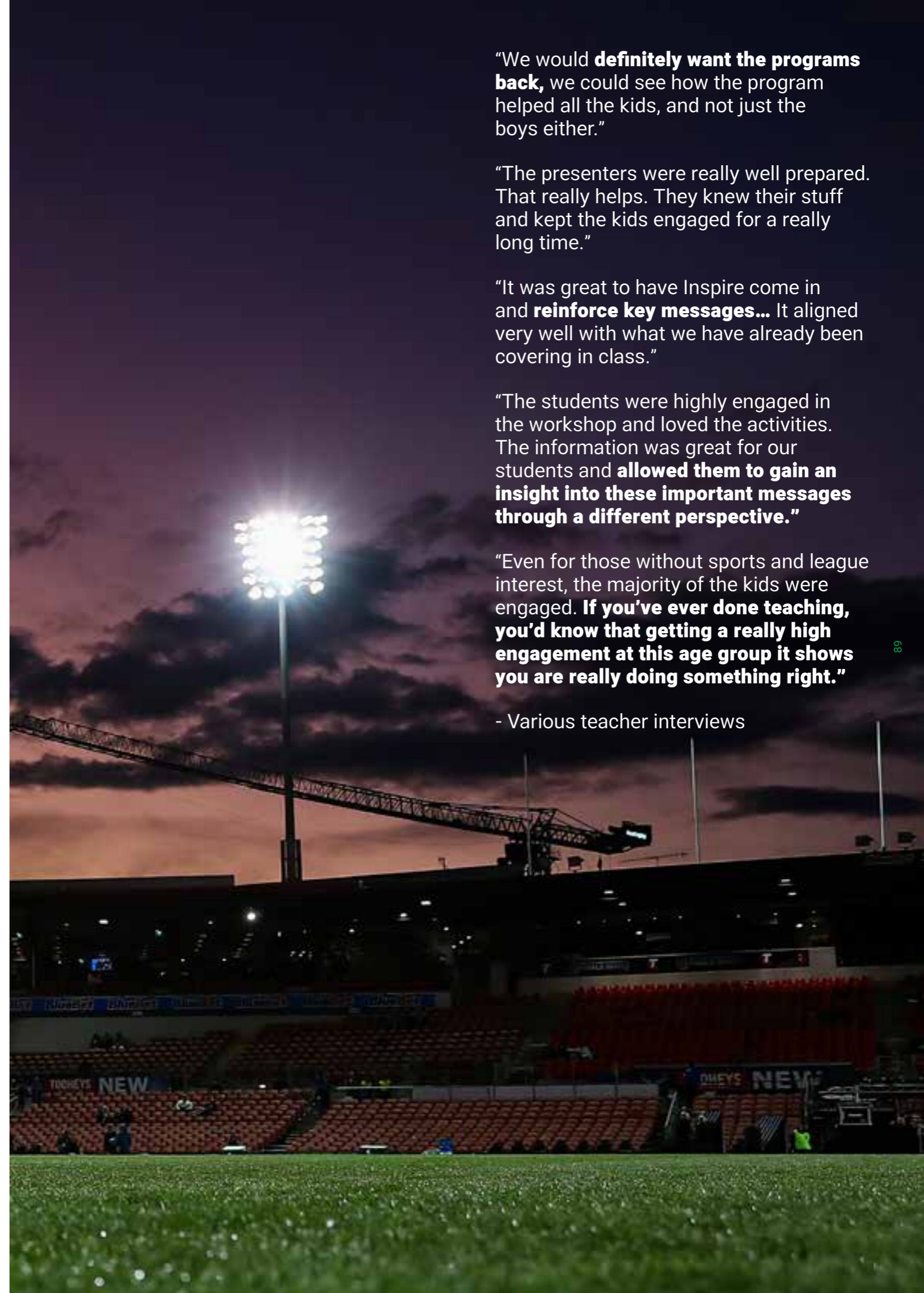
"The presenters were really well prepared. That really helps. They knew their stuff and kept the kids engaged for a really long time."

"It was great to have Inspire come in and **reinforce key messages...** It aligned very well with what we have already been covering in class."

"The students were highly engaged in the workshop and loved the activities. The information was great for our students and **allowed them to gain an insight into these important messages through a different perspective.**"

"Even for those without sports and league interest, the majority of the kids were engaged. **If you've ever done teaching, you'd know that getting a really high engagement at this age group it shows you are really doing something right.**"

- Various teacher interviews





Elliott Whitehead  
and Cameron Murray  
promoting NRL's  
State of Mind

#### **NRL Indigenous Youth Summit**

Sixty-four year 11 students attended a camp in Sydney after being selected as youth summit ambassadors by the 16 NRL clubs. They took part in workshops covering leadership and career aspiration, with four of the ambassadors selected to be the voice of indigenous youth within the game. They will attend the Harvey Norman Indigenous All Stars v Māori game in 2023.

#### **NRL School to Work (S2W)**

NRL School to Work celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2022. The programme continues to focus on innovative ways to support participants to complete their HSC and achieve employment or an education placement.

In 2022 we supported 1165 participants working alongside our 156 partner schools, with 341 students transitioning from school into jobs or further education. NRL project officers also attended 338 school visits.

#### **In League In Harmony**

In League In Harmony continued to use rugby league as a vehicle to promote social cohesion by addressing issues including social disengagement, racism, gender inequality and bullying. In 2022 the programme was delivered to 56 schools and junior rugby league teams across NSW and to 1432 youth in Victoria. It was also delivered to 4925 students in 45 primary schools via the League Stars Inspire – Inclusion and Diversity programme.

Since 2013 In League In Harmony has engaged over 12,000 secondary school and community rugby league participants around Australia.

Based on survey feedback, 90 per cent of students felt the programme helped them to feel a sense of community belonging, gave them more confidence to become a community leader, and had taught them the value of inclusion and respect.

#### **State of Mind**

The NRL's State of Mind team delivered mental health programmes to 4,606 participants across Australia in 2022.

- 749 (18+) took part in the Grassroots rugby league programme;
- 1135 (aged 13-17) participants took part in the Youth-focused 'Get in the GAAME';
- League Stars Inspire – Health and Wellbeing programme was delivered to 2373 primary school students in regional NSW; and
- Nearly 350 participants from the broader community took part, including AMPOL Little Origin two in WA, AMPOL students in NSW, NRL staff in NSW & Victoria and 80 referees in the ACT.

#### **Voice Against Violence**

The Voice Against Violence programme continued its focus on preventing violence against women and children. In 2022 it continued to expand beyond Australia, reaching 5137 participants in the Pacific nations of Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Papua New Guinea to communities. A VAV social media campaign notched up 221,990 impressions.

# › SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES



### Tonga Relief

The NRL partnered with the Australian Red Cross through trial matches and round one of the NRLW Premiership to raise money to assist recovery efforts in Tonga after a volcanic eruption and tsunami destroyed homes, roads and farms in January.

All money raised as part of the Red Cross Tonga Recovery Appeal went toward supporting Tonga's recovery and rebuilding. NRL fans helped raise \$45,939, and the NRL donated \$25,000.

### Flood Appeals

NRL helped raise \$50,072 for the Queensland and NSW Floods Appeal through public donations.

In March the NRL announced the creation of a \$500,000 relief fund to assist grassroots clubs affected by the floods returning to the field. The NRL joined forces with QRL, NSWRL, NRL clubs and naming rights partner Telstra to create the fund.





# NRL COMMITTED TO INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION



Nicho Hynes lining up for  
the Indigenous All Stars

NRL is committed to Indigenous Reconciliation in Australia and has implemented a broad range of programmes and initiatives encompassing cultural competency, community engagement, development and capacity-building for Indigenous businesses, Indigenous employment and advocacy.

In 2018 NRL was the first national sporting organisation to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). In 2022 NRL achieved the 'Elevate' status RAP level. Organisations with an Elevate status RAP aim to go beyond to embed reconciliation into their business practices and decision-making.

Between 2018-2022 NRL achieved 70 per cent of its RAP targets across the four key areas of relationships, respect, opportunities and tracking and progress. Around 30 per cent were either 'Partially Achieved' or 'Not Achieved' largely due to internal restructures and the challenges of COVID-19 which limited NRL's ability to hold internal and external events, and to conduct face-to-face cultural awareness trainings.

## Key achievements

**Acknowledgement of Country:** NRL ensures that an Acknowledgement of Country is performed at all community events including Welcome to Country performances by Traditional Owners at major events each year, including All Stars, State of Origin and NRL Grand Final.

**NRL All Stars:** This annual event has been enhanced to benefit and unite communities and serves as the marquee moment of the pre-season. It encourages reconciliation through a host of events, community and school engagement. A 10-year plan has been put in place for the NRL All Stars. In 2022 Newcastle Knights NRLW coach Ron Griffiths was appointed as the first Indigenous coach of the NRL All Stars. He takes up the appointment in season 2023.

**School To Work:** The S2W programme is a mentoring programme that utilises NRL's brand to deliver support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students as they transition from school to employment or further education. The programme has been extended with a further 1000 Indigenous students participating. It has also shifted to online delivery to ensure that participants are receiving the required support and engagement.



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STATE LEAGUE  
REPORTS





# NEW SOUTH WALES RUGBY LEAGUE REPORT



For the first time since 2020 the NSW Blues returned home to Sydney for the Ampol State of Origin series and put up a valiant effort before falling just short against a spirited Queensland side.

NSW responded with an emphatic win over the Maroons in Perth to level the series but lost the decider in Brisbane with two minutes to go. The series resonated with a national audience of 9,044,601 tuning in across all three games.

The Harvey Norman NSW Sky Blues returned the shield to NSW for the first time since 2019, and the NSW under-19s had an impressive victory over Queensland in the first male pathways match in three years. The NSW under-19s women's team defeated Queensland to remain unbeaten since the female pathways Origin match started in 2019.

The NSW Blues secured Westpac as its new naming rights partner in a four-year deal that will see Westpac supporting female participation pathways, including the inaugural Westpac Junior Sky Blues Academy for teenage girls.

2022 got off to a difficult start with flooding affecting many regions. In response NSWRL announced a \$600,000 relief package that assisted 30 clubs and 4700 participants with jerseys, shorts, socks, footballs, tackle pads and goal posts and insurance.

Clubs worked tirelessly to get rugby league back on the field and by the end of the season, nearly 106,000 participants had registered, including a record 23,000 females.

The support of nearly 27,000 registered volunteers, along with an army of unregistered volunteers, underlined the strong community support for our game. This was recognised with NSWRL community awards being granted to Wendy Poverty (Volunteer of the Year) Victor Wright (Indigenous Volunteer of the Year) and Narromine Jets (Community Club of the Year).

NSWRL also enjoyed its first full season in 2022 for all competitions since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The Junior Representatives Competitions were conducted and a Grand Final day at CommBank Stadium was staged for the Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, Jersey Flegg Cup and Presidents Cup.

Penrith Panthers became the first club in history to claim premierships in four competitions including the NRL, the Knock-On Effect NSW Cup, Jersey Flegg Cup and SG Ball Cup.

NSWRL TV continued to go from strength-to-strength in 2022 with 186 games live-streamed to a total audience of 2,834,838. The highest rating stream for the season was the NSWRL Grand Final day with 107,120 fans tuning in, followed by the Junior Representatives Grand Final Day (45,367) and Week Two of the finals for The Knock-On Effect NSW Cup and Jersey Flegg Cup (44,498).

Strong growth was achieved across social media channels with a total cross platform of 1,699,918 followers, a 14 per cent increase on 2021. NSWRL relaunched its TikTok channel before State of Origin, with followers more than doubling to 76,600.

**1st** FIRST FULL SEASON COMPLETED  
AFTER TWO YEARS OF PANDEMIC  
DISRUPTIONS

**106k** ALMOST 106,000  
PLAYERS REGISTERED

**WINS** NSW TEAMS WON  
OPEN, U19 MEN'S AND  
U19 WOMEN'S STATE  
OF ORIGIN MATCHES

**\$600k** \$600,000 FLOOD  
RELIEF PACKAGE  
ASSISTS 30 CLUBS

**W** WESTPAC SIGNS ON AS  
NEW NAMING RIGHTS  
PARTNER OF NSW BLUES

◀ The Presets performing  
prior to the Rooster  
vs Rabbitohs game  
at Allianz Stadium

The One State strategic blueprint continued to make strong inroads into the way the game was administered in 2022. In 2019 six new zones were created across NSW to offer more competition opportunities.

In 2022 the Mojo Homes Illawarra Cup was expanded from five to eight teams with the addition of De La Salle, Helensburgh Tigers and Cronulla-Caringbah Sharks. The Peter McDonald Premiership, named after the late administrator who did so much for the game in western NSW, kicked off in April with clubs from Groups 10 and 11.

Forbes Magpies won the first title and went on to represent the western conference in the Presidents Cup. The Macarthur Conference Competition, featuring teams from Wests Tigers Macarthur Junior Rugby League and Group 6, received \$330,000 funding from Wests Group Macarthur.

A state-wide Player Points Index System (PPIS) was introduced for the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast regions areas for the first time in 2022 to reward junior development and player loyalty, and improve talent equalisation across NSW-based competitions.

NSWRL continued to connect strongly with the community across the core engagement pillars of Indigenous, All Abilities, Pride, Gender Equity, and Cultural Diversity.

NSW Blues coach Brad Fittler and Sky Blues coach Kylie Hilder hosted more than 2500 high school students from four universities, at Armidale, Wollongong, Canberra and Western Sydney as part of the inaugural Blues Youth Leadership Programme.

NSWRL and Transport for NSW delivered regional roadshows, with True Blue legends talking about road safety to more than 1000 high school students in the state's regional areas.

The multicultural Try League programme for culturally and linguistically diverse communities reached more than 1200 children in 2022. The Changing Rooms Programme expanded in 2022, reaching more than 2100 young people.

Extra funding was provided by the NSW Department of Health to take the face-to-face wellbeing initiative to regional areas. NSWRL staff also ran Activate Inclusion Sports Days for people of all abilities, with almost 500 participants in 2022.

NSWRL has a long and proud history with the Indigenous community and continued to foster that relationship with key Indigenous community partners from the KARI Foundation, Deadly Choices, and Clontarf Academy.

▶ NSW Women celebrating  
their win over Queensland  
at GIO Stadium



# QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE REPORT



Rugby league thrived across all levels of the game during another memorable season for the Queensland Rugby League.

The state's flagship teams – the men's Queensland Maroons and the women's Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons – once again inspired thousands of fans and junior players.

Billy Slater's Maroons were simply superb, reclaiming the State of Origin shield with an epic win in the deciding match of the series.

The 2-1 series victory was built on the Maroons' strong connection to the people of Queensland, with events like the Warwick fan day showcasing the immense passion the people of regional Queensland have for their Origin team.

Seven players earned their first Maroon jersey during the series, and all players stepped up at crucial times as Slater's team wrapped up the series with a dramatic 22-12 win, sealed by a stunning runaway try in the dying minutes by Ben Hunt.

The Harvey Norman Queensland Maroons put in a spirited performance in a see-sawing women's Origin, only to go down by six points in a thriller at Canberra's GIO Stadium.

Despite the loss, there was plenty to like about the Maroons' performance, and the overall campaign which saw all squad members remunerated for their time at training and in camps leading into the game.

This was part of the increased investment into the female game, which also saw head coach Tahnee Norris move into an expanded full-time role within the QRL's female pathways.

QRL state-wide competitions again flourished in 2022, headlined by the HostPlus Cup and BMD Premiership.

Norths Devils won back-to-back premierships in the HostPlus Cup, while the North Queensland Gold Stars edged out the Central Queensland Capras in a thrilling women's premiership final.

Importantly, many players from both competitions transitioned into national leagues, further demonstrating the value of QRL pathway competitions.

At community level, participation numbers grew by 4.75 per cent with 64,566 players signing up to play club rugby league in 2022.

It was a successful period off the field as well for the QRL, with numerous initiatives setting the game up for the future.

This included the launch of the QRL Strategic Framework 2023-27, progress made by the QRL's Corporate and Social Responsibility Committee and the development of a game-changing infrastructure strategy. The QRL was also a leader in the digital, content and broadcast space, following the launch of the QRL's own subscription live streaming platform, QPlus.tv.



> Matthew Milson evading a tackle in the National State Championship Final



>> Maroons fans out in full force for State of Origin Game 3



**4.75%** INCREASE IN QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

Across community rugby league and state-wide competitions clubs, 64,566 players signed on to play the game in 2022.

**3.2M** MINUTES WATCHED VIA THE QPLUS.TV STREAMING PLATFORM

Minutes watched via the Qplus.tv streaming platform. 443 games were livestreamed as fans enjoyed more access than ever before.

**146k** FANS WATCHED HOSTPLUS CUP GAMES

A crowd of 7304 created an electric atmosphere at the 2022 grand final at Moreton Daily Stadium as the competition's overall attendance figured surged past 140,000.

**MH** MANNIX HUNT LEADS BARCALDINE SAND GOANNAS TO GRAND FINAL VICTORY

Barcaldine Sand Goannas captain-coach Mannix Hunt led his team to a grand final victory just months after they faced the possibility of folding.

**\$255k** ALLOCATED TO QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY CLUBS

\$255,000 in funding allocated from the game's relief fund to get Queensland community clubs back on their feet following the devastating floods.

**70** HOSTPLUS CUP PLAYERS HAVE TRANSITIONED INTO THE NRL SINCE 2017

> Tarryn Aiken participating in Queensland Women's training session





# STATE AND TERRITORY LEAGUES REPORTS



South Australia U19 vs  
NSWRL Country U19 in  
Round two of the WNC19

## SA reboots with focus on community

Rugby League in South Australia in 2022 was delivered with a focus on community, connection and belonging. Time was invested in recovering from the disruptions and restrictions caused by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these challenges the team, community and participants remained enthusiastic and determined to ensure everyone stayed connected during the rebuilding and stabilisation of rugby league in SA.

The year kicked off with the Harmony Cup. This important community day featured men's and women's teams, under-16s boys and girls teams, under-18s boys teams and mixed tag for under-15s. In total 210 participants took to the field which was a big increase from the 144 players who took part in the inaugural 2020 event.

In 2022 a stand-alone female competition was launched catering for players from seniors to under-13s. The inaugural season was a great success, providing good momentum for the Harvey Norman Women's National Championships held in May. Female participation in SA was further enhanced with the introduction of RISE Rookies Academies.

NRL SA worked closely with metropolitan clubs to ensure COVID-19 impacts did not lead to the demise of existing clubs. Six clubs took part in the competition, including senior men's, women's and junior competitions. In 2023 the ambition is to launch club tag and all abilities competitions.

The Limestone Coast competition was severely impacted during and after the pandemic. Due to cross-border restrictions Victorian players were unable to enter the competition for a number of years. In 2022 the competition was relaunched with five teams competing in a 12-week competition.

Despite staff shortages and an inexperienced team, NRL SA was able to deliver Roads to Regions, RISE, Rookie RISE Tackle Ready, League Stars, sporting schools programmes, and various tackle and tag galas days, along with all abilities events.

Overall participation grew by 4.6 per cent. With a new look team in 2023, NRL SA will be focused on maximising game development opportunities to attract further growth. This will be boosted by Adelaide hosting Game one in the 2023 AMPOL State of Origin Series.

## Positive year in the NT

Rugby league in the Northern Territory enjoyed another positive year on and off the field in 2022.

New initiatives launched by NRL NT included Our House to encourage greater respect behaviours, Community Connect to engage with organisations across the Territory and a Participation Committee to retain and recruit girls to rugby league at all levels.

Almost 6500 people attended grand final day celebrations in Darwin that included junior and senior rugby league games, entertainment and participation by NT Cancer Council and a broadcast by MIX FM. For the first time all corporate hospitality suites were sold out.

Junior league partner Chemist Warehouse was active throughout the final series by providing branding support, free footballs and music. Media partner Nine Darwin supported the finals with live weather crosses as part of the nightly news.

Rugby league continued to be promoted in Gove, Alice Springs and Kathrine, which are critical to the future growth of the sport in school and club environments, by offering pathways for aspirational individuals.

Other highlight in 2022 included the NT Titans competing at the Harvey Norman National Women's Championships. The under-19 girls' team proved they could compete at a high level.

The Parramatta Eels took part in several community activities throughout the NT, including visits to Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine. The Eels also attended primary schools gala days.

NRL NT thanks our volunteers, players and key partners for their ongoing commitment to rugby League.

## Victoria rebounds in 2022

NRL Victoria completed a full season in 2022 following two years of COVID-19 disruptions.

Reconnecting with school and club communities across Victoria, and resetting programmes and competitions were the key priorities.

Re-engaging the community was achieved early via school-based blitzes connected to club-run 'come and try' events, along with supporting Melbourne Storm's community-based training sessions and events.

During the pandemic Victoria experienced a big drop in volunteers across community sport, with Vicsport reporting a 25 per cent decrease since 2019. Rugby league experienced similar falls.

To address this, NRL Victoria rolled out targeted support initiatives, including club governance training, club strategy development support and volunteer workforce support programmes. Child Safety training programmes were also delivered to support club compliance with new state legislation.

Closer links between community and Melbourne Storm were driven by several programmes including:

- Storm Junior League club competitions;
- Storm Premiership for Senior men's and women's competitions;
- Storm Cup schools championships for boys and girls; and
- Junior representative teams were branded Storm.

This relationship has extended to all registered participants in Victoria receiving free Melbourne Storm membership.

Pathways for male and females players were enhanced via greater collaboration with Melbourne Storm's academy programmes and coaching education.

Construction of NRL Victoria's new headquarters at Broadmeadows continued in 2022. Playing fields were completed and will be ready in early 2023.

NRL Victoria thanks players, coaches, teachers, volunteers and parents for their continued support of our sport.





>  
Fans in Perth enjoying  
themselves at State of  
Origin, Game 2

## WA celebrates 75th anniversary

The 75th anniversary of rugby league in WA was celebrated across the state in 2022. To promote this milestone a new logo was created to reflect the proud history of the game in WA. The logo was featured in all major partner promotions, competition, jerseys and other club content.

The centrepiece of the celebrations was Perth hosting Game two of the AMPOL 2022 State of Origin Series. Another sell-out crowd of 60,000 at Optus Stadium, along with record-breaking TV ratings in Perth, reinforced the significant support that exists in WA for rugby league. Well executed Origin activations were staged to promote our game at various locations around Perth, Fremantle, Rockingham and Mandurah.

The AMPOL Little Origin schools competition, won by South Halls Head and Lockridge primary schools, provided the school children with the experience of a lifetime, playing on Optus Stadium at the SOO half-time break.

In August a successful junior grand final day was held at the impressive new home of the Fremantle Roosters RLC. Perfect weather, a huge crowd and some exciting high-quality football made for a wonderful way to celebrate a wealth of emerging local talent.

In senior football, the Fremantle Roosters capped off a successful season by defeating the North Beach Sea Eagles to win the first-grade title. In other grand final results, Ellenbrook Rabbitohs were crowned women's premiers by defeating the Joondalup Giants. Alkimos Tigers defeated the Fremantle Roosters for the Val Murphy Trophy, and the Fremantle Roosters beat the Joondalup Giants for the Women's League Tag title.

The sixth annual NRL WA Harmony Cup Multi-Cultural Nines held over three days was the biggest ever, attracting over 1300 participants in 164 games across 17 different communities and cultures.

The event was officially opened on behalf of the WA Government by the Hon. Paul Papalia, Minister for Police, Veteran Affairs and Defence Industry, who stated it was the most impressive multi-cultural sporting event in the state.

NRL WA wishes to thank its major partners and sponsors for their support, including Healthway with their "Fuel to Go & Play" message, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Cash Converters, Consolidated Energy, Lion, the Triple M Radio Network, All Flags Signs & Banners, ISC and Dynasty.

Thanks also to WA's school teachers who have supported our efforts to have children engage with rugby league, and to the hard-working team at NRL WA and NRL HQ who work passionately to grow our great game in the West.





Petero Civoniceva with fans at the Magic Round Launch in Brisbane

### Participation Delivery team steps up

Participation Delivery teams in each state and territory played a key role in delivering school and community club activities, events and programmes across Australia.

Key achievements included:

- Resurgence in school rugby league with over 95,000 competition and event participants and 240,000 engagements through introductory programmes like League Stars; and
- Year-on-year growth of 0.91 per cent in club rugby league with 181,587 participants. The Player Development Framework and its 11 initiatives was a key factor in growth across different parts of Australia.

Other activities that extended the reach of rugby league included:

- Supporting major events across All Stars, Magic Round, Origin and the Finals series to connect the grassroots with elite players;
- Connecting with schools and providing positive experiences in the classroom and on the field through competition support, teacher training, school sport tag, touch and tackle competitions, representative carnivals, coaching sessions and League Stars experiences;
- Supporting club rugby league via delivery of competitions and recruitment campaigns, tackle ready programmes, coach and sports trainer courses, localised retention activities, community awareness, regional meetings and club training sessions;
- Renewed Pacific based funding streams to support workforce and programme outcomes in PNG, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga; and
- Training, development and support programmes for new Delivery Team members.

The Participation Delivery team recognises the contributions and professionalism of all Australian and Pacific managers and programme leads in 2022.

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**FINANCIAL**  
**REPORT 2022**



# 2022 NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Two years ago, the NRL along with many other organisations in Australia and around the world had to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will go down in history as one of the biggest challenges in recent decades. The ARLC responded by implementing a plan that amongst other things sought to secure the post pandemic financial viability of the game. The plan included stabilising, restructuring, and positioning for growth.

Against this backdrop, the ARLC is pleased to announce a surplus of \$62.9 million for 2022 which includes the following highlights:

## IMPROVED REVENUE

Revenue improvement of \$18.7 million which is a three per cent improvement compared to the prior year.

## REDUCED OPERATING EXPENDITURE

Operating expenditure reduced by \$17.1 million which is nine per cent lower than the prior year. The NRL operating expenditure as a percentage of revenue is now lower than all other major sporting organisations in Australia. This is particularly pleasing as right sizing operating expenses was a key focus for the ARLC during the pandemic.

## INCREASED DISTRIBUTIONS

Distributions to clubs, states, players and game development increased by \$16.0 million which is a 4.6 per cent increase compared to the prior year. It is also pleasing to note that the reduction in operating expenses has put the game in a strong position, which will allow distributions as a percentage of revenue to be increased in the coming years. The recent announcement by the ARLC advising increases to club funding and the salary cap is evidence that the plan is working. Clubs have been provided with significant financial support through the pandemic and are now funded at a level that ensures financial viability for all Clubs.

## ASSET ACQUISITION

The ARLC purchased the Gambaro Hotel (GH) in 2022 which is the first step in its plan to strengthen the game's balance sheet by acquiring value accretive and income producing assets. GH is trading well, and performance is expected to continue to improve off the back of well-placed investment in the facility and system growth in Southeast Queensland leading up the Brisbane Olympics. A plan is in place to drive a strong return on investment from this asset for the game.

## STRONG BALANCE SHEET

A focus of the ARLC is to ensure a strong and stable balance sheet. Pleasingly the net asset position of the game is now in excess of \$200m, up by 45 per cent on 2021.

## FUTURE GROWTH

The strong financial performance, coupled with the great product we are collectively producing, puts the game in a strong position for future growth.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## The Controlling Body 2012-2022 incl Contra

### PROFIT & LOSS (\$'000)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>181,600</b>	<b>320,612</b>	<b>344,878</b>	<b>354,261</b>	<b>366,165</b>	<b>377,230</b>	<b>520,465</b>	<b>552,941</b>	<b>417,273</b>	<b>570,345</b>	<b>585,374</b>
Event, Game and Sponsorship	(39,400)	(61,726)	(79,919)	(90,769)	(87,183)	(97,898)	(103,083)	(128,865)	(65,445)	(102,805)	(107,069)
Football	(9,100)	(9,597)	(13,034)	(16,089)	(19,427)	(20,063)	(21,845)	(25,042)	(19,358)	(18,953)	(20,424)
Football related COVID-19 exceptional costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(11,376)	(27,892)	(2,293)
Community and Player Welfare	(11,500)	(14,474)	(14,907)	(16,726)	(16,860)	(16,350)	(16,010)	(17,179)	(6,428)	(7,271)	(8,678)
Integrity and Salary Cap	(450)	(2,240)	(2,516)	(2,595)	(3,221)	(3,776)	(3,864)	(3,375)	(3,331)	(3,110)	(2,986)
Administration	(13,373)	(15,550)	(16,995)	(18,951)	(19,390)	(17,714)	(18,559)	(20,342)	(12,229)	(14,016)	(19,994)
Insurance and Finance	(977)	(2,365)	(2,897)	(3,900)	(2,802)	(2,561)	(13,986)	(12,757)	(11,300)	(11,497)	(5,642)
Restructure Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,569)	(355)	-
Investment Servicing Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,342)
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>106,800</b>	<b>214,660</b>	<b>214,611</b>	<b>205,231</b>	<b>217,281</b>	<b>218,868</b>	<b>343,118</b>	<b>345,381</b>	<b>283,236</b>	<b>384,446</b>	<b>415,928</b>
Clubs and Players	(81,000)	(132,280)	(146,663)	(162,334)	(167,696)	(160,717)	(222,760)	(228,132)	(253,545)	(278,224)	(282,544)
States and Affiliates	(13,500)	(16,300)	(22,914)	(27,847)	(30,473)	(32,784)	(38,111)	(47,940)	(25,620)	(35,437)	(35,589)
Development	(21,700)	(20,739)	(23,192)	(27,516)	(29,276)	(32,850)	(35,125)	(40,433)	(29,253)	(27,935)	(34,826)
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(9,400)</b>	<b>45,341</b>	<b>21,842</b>	<b>(12,466)</b>	<b>(10,164)</b>	<b>(7,482)</b>	<b>47,122</b>	<b>28,876</b>	<b>(25,181)</b>	<b>42,850</b>	<b>62,968</b>

In the above Profit and Loss table Depreciation, amortisation and interest is disclosed within the respective category it originates. This varies from the statutory accounts where these costs are disclosed separately on the face of the Statement of Consolidated Comprehensive Income.

### BALANCE SHEET (\$'000)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Assets	110,740	188,074	194,816	192,892	249,304	226,956	248,431	267,335	238,553	254,330	285,524
Total Liabilities	91,390	123,383	108,282	118,824	185,400	170,534	154,537	144,564	140,963	113,890	92,176
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>19,350</b>	<b>64,691</b>	<b>86,534</b>	<b>74,068</b>	<b>63,904</b>	<b>56,421</b>	<b>93,894</b>	<b>122,771</b>	<b>97,590</b>	<b>140,440</b>	<b>193,348</b>

### PROFIT & LOSS (\$'000) INCL CONTRA

	2021		2022	
	CONTROLLING BODY <sup>1</sup>	CONSOLIDATED <sup>2</sup>	CONTROLLING BODY <sup>1</sup>	CONSOLIDATED <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>570,345</b>	<b>575,080</b>	<b>585,374</b>	<b>593,798</b>
Event, Game and Sponsorship	(102,805)	(103,296)	(107,069)	(106,737)
Football	(18,953)	(19,483)	(20,424)	(21,052)
Football related COVID-19 exceptional costs	(27,892)	(27,892)	(2,293)	(2,293)
Community and Player Welfare	(7,271)	(7,301)	(8,678)	(8,678)
Integrity and Salary Cap	(3,110)	(3,110)	(2,986)	(3,003)
Administration	(14,016)	(14,008)	(20,012)	(19,978)
Insurance and Finance	(11,497)	(11,513)	(5,642)	(5,657)
Restructure Costs	(355)	(355)	-	-
Investment Servicing Costs	-	-	(2,342)	(2,345)
<b>FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>384,446</b>	<b>388,124</b>	<b>415,928</b>	<b>424,056</b>
Clubs and Players	(278,224)	(278,224)	(282,544)	(282,544)
States and Affiliates	(35,437)	(34,847)	(35,589)	(35,367)
Development	(27,935)	(31,995)	(34,826)	(43,242)
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>42,850</b>	<b>43,057</b>	<b>62,968</b>	<b>62,903</b>

In the above Profit and Loss table Depreciation, amortisation and interest are disclosed within the respective category to which they relate. This varies from the statutory accounts where these costs are disclosed separately on the face of the Statement of Consolidated Comprehensive Income.

### BALANCE SHEET (\$'000)

	2021		2022	
	CONTROLLING BODY <sup>1</sup>	CONSOLIDATED <sup>2</sup>	CONTROLLING BODY <sup>1</sup>	CONSOLIDATED <sup>2</sup>
Total Assets	254,330	264,524	285,524	285,760
Total Liabilities	113,890	125,547	92,176	83,880
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>140,440</b>	<b>138,977</b>	<b>193,348</b>	<b>201,880</b>

#### NOTES

1. Controlling Body includes ARLC Ltd and NRL Ltd.
2. Consolidated Group accounts represent the Controlling Body and its controlled entities being ARLC WA Ltd (acquired 8 June 2015), ARLC SA Ltd (acquired 30 June 2015), ARLC Vic Ltd (acquired 1 July 2015) and ARLC NT Ltd (acquired 6 July 2015).



# DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors present their report for the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited ("ARLC" or "the Company") for the year ended 31 October 2022.

Directors' profiles can be found on page 12 of this report.

## COMPANY SECRETARY

Daniel Dressler, Senior Legal Counsel and Company Secretary. Mr Dressler has been the Company Secretary of the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and National Rugby League Limited since 12 January 2022.

Eleni North, General Counsel and Company Secretary, had been the Company Secretary of the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and National Rugby League Limited since 13 August 2014. Ms North resigned from the NRL on 31 December 2021.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the Company during the course of the financial year was the fostering and propagation of the game of Rugby League Football throughout the States and Territories of Australia and internationally.

The short and long term objectives of the Australian Rugby League Commission 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 to promote and encourage sport, recreation and the general welfare of young people in the community. The success of the Company's performance of these objectives is indicated by the growing awareness and participation in Rugby League.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL RESULTS

Revenue generated for the year was \$593,798,821 (2021: \$575,079,910). The Group's current year operating surplus was \$62,903,656 (2021: \$43,056,443).

The ARLC acquired the Gambaro hotel (GH) in Brisbane on 1 July 2022 as part of its investment strategy. GH includes a 68 room five-star hotel, signature restaurant, function and conferencing centre, bar and ancillary facilities. The hotel derives income from accommodation and food & beverage sales and is managed on behalf of the ARLC by an experienced operator.

## DIVIDENDS

No dividends have been paid, declared, or recommended by the Company during the financial year.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AFTER THE YEAR END

On 9 November 2022, the ARLC officially granted a license to the Dolphins making them the 17th team to enter the NRL competition.

On 23 December 2022, the ARLC announced a significant increase to the NRL Salary Cap for 2023. This will give rise to a material increase in the level of funding provided to the NRL Clubs when compared to 2022. In addition, the negotiation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Rugby Leagues Players Association (RLPA) is ongoing. The ARLC believes this will not impact the operations of the organisation or impact the status of the company as a going concern.

## LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE RESULTS

The Directors are not aware of any other particular changes in the operations of the Company which will materially affect the results in subsequent years.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

## 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 a company in which the Director has a substantial interest.

## INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS

The Company paid an insurance premium of \$629,515 (2021: \$576,003) in respect of a contract insuring the Directors of the Company named earlier in this report and each executive officer, against liabilities and expenses arising as a result of work performed in their respective capacities, to the extent permitted by law, up to the policy limit.

## 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. If the Company is wound up, the Articles of Association state that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2022, the number of members was 26 (2021: 25).

**BOARD MEETINGS**

The number of Board Meetings held during the year and the number of meetings attended by each Director was as follows:

DIRECTORS	BOARD MEETINGS	
	ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDED
Peter V'landys AM	19	19
The Hon. Peter Beattie AC	19	19
Tony McGrath	19	19
Alan Sullivan KC	14	14
Wayne Pearce OAM	19	18
Dr Gary Weiss AM	19	19
Professor Megan Davis	19	19
The Hon. Kate Jones	19	19

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited is located at: Rugby League Central, Driver Avenue, Moore Park, NSW, Australia, 2021.

**CORPORATE STRUCTURE**

Australian Rugby League Commission Limited is a public, not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee.

The domicile of the Company is Sydney, 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 2022, I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit;
- b. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit; and
- c. 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

Christopher George  
Partner  
Sydney  
9 February 2023

Member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited  
Licensed under a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Peter V'landys  
Chairman

Tony McGrath  
Director

Sydney  
9 February 2022

# STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Revenue	3(a)	593,798	575,080
		<b>593,798</b>	<b>575,080</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Event, game and sponsorship		(79,085)	(75,050)
Media contra		(24,582)	(24,546)
Football		(23,238)	(47,260)
Community and player welfare		(8,677)	(7,300)
Administration, Integrity and Salary Cap		(18,650)	(15,940)
Clubs and Players		(282,544)	(278,224)
States, Affiliates and New Zealand Rugby League		(35,367)	(34,847)
Development		(43,077)	(31,948)
Depreciation and amortisation	3(a)	(7,676)	(9,135)
Insurance and finance costs	3(a)	(5,657)	(7,418)
Restructuring – redundancies	3(a)	–	(355)
Investment Servicing Costs		(2,342)	–
		<b>(530,895)</b>	<b>(532,023)</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>			
Income tax expense	2(d)	–	–
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>62,903</b>	<b>43,057</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>			
		–	–
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF ARLC LIMITED</b>		<b>62,903</b>	<b>43,057</b>

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

# STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	182,553	171,636
Trade receivables	5	16,039	16,813
Prepayments and other receivables	6	21,748	34,229
Inventory	7	170	–
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>220,510</b>	<b>222,678</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Intangibles	8	8,741	9,368
Right-of-use lease assets	9a	11,510	14,840
Property, plant and equipment	10	42,963	15,602
Other receivables	11	2,036	2,036
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>65,250</b>	<b>41,846</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>285,760</b>	<b>264,524</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade payables		8,699	8,349
Other payables	12	54,297	81,699
Lease liabilities	9b	2,605	3,730
Provisions	13	5,353	5,112
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>70,954</b>	<b>98,890</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease liabilities	9b	11,613	14,073
Provisions	14	1,313	12,584
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>12,926</b>	<b>26,657</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>83,880</b>	<b>125,547</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>201,880</b>	<b>138,977</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves		2,228	2,228
Retained surplus		199,652	136,749
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>201,880</b>	<b>138,977</b>

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



# STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CHANGES IN EQUITY

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

	RESERVES \$'000	RETAINED SURPLUS \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
<b>As at 1 November 2021</b>	2,228	136,749	138,977
Net surplus for the year	–	62,903	62,903
<b>As at 31 October 2022</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>199,652</b>	<b>201,880</b>
<b>As at 1 November 2020</b>	2,228	93,692	95,920
Net deficit for the year	–	43,057	43,057
<b>As at 31 October 2021</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>136,749</b>	<b>138,977</b>

# STATEMENT OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from ordinary operations		618,081	575,907
Payments to suppliers and employees		(302,624)	(293,126)
Payments to clubs		(270,129)	(243,704)
Lease payments (interest component)		(770)	(779)
Interest received		1,026	260
Interest paid		(6)	(5)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>45,578</b>	<b>38,553</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for property plant and equipment		(28,839)	(718)
Payments for intangibles		(2,376)	(3,075)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(31,215)</b>	<b>(3,793)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayments of loans		–	–
Lease payments (principal component)		(3,446)	(4,452)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(3,446)</b>	<b>(4,452)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>10,917</b>	<b>30,308</b>
<b>CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD</b>		<b>171,636</b>	<b>141,328</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	4	<b>182,553</b>	<b>171,636</b>

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



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

## 1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The consolidated financial statements of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and its subsidiaries (collectively, 'the Group') for the year ended 31 October 2022 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 6 February 2023. Australian Rugby League Commission Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Australia, formerly the Company was called Australian Rugby Football League Limited.

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. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### (A) BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial report is a General Purpose financial report, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001, Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. The Group is a not-for-profit, private sector entity which is not publicly accountable. Therefore, the consolidated financial statements for the Group are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with the AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures.

The financial report has been prepared on a historical cost basis. The financial report is presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand (\$000), except when otherwise indicated under the option available to the company under ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191.

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to achieve consistency in disclosure with current financial year amounts.

### (B) STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Group has adopted AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier two Entities in the current year.

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 company'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".

The Group has adopted all of the new, revised or amending Accounting Standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current reporting period. No other new, revised or amending Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have been early adopted.

## (C) LEASES

The Group assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

### Group as a lessee

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 recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying 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.

### (i) Right-of-use assets

The Group recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e., the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and 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 the leased asset transfers to the Group at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment.

### (ii) Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Group recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The 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. The 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 (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date because the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable.

After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount 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.

**(iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets**

The Group applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to property leases that are considered to be low value. Lease payments low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**(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) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION**

The functional and presentation currency of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited is Australian dollars (\$).

**Translation of foreign currency transactions**

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

Foreign exchange monetary items that are outstanding at the reporting date are translated using the spot rate at the end of the financial year.

**(F) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash and short-term deposits in the Statement of Consolidated Financial Position comprise of cash at bank, cash in hand, short-term deposits and other cash-based investments with an original maturity of 90 days or less.

For the purposes of the Statement of Consolidated Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above.

**(G) RECEIVABLES**

**Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial assets are classified at initial recognition and subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (OCI), and fair value through profit or loss. The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the consolidated entity's business model for managing them.

In order for a financial asset to be classified and measured at amortised cost or fair value through OCI, it needs to give rise to cash flows that are 'solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI)' on the principal amount outstanding. This assessment is referred to as the SPPI test and is performed at an instrument level. The Group's business model for managing financial assets refers to how it manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling financial assets, or both.

**Subsequent measurement**

The Group measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met;

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the object to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest rate (EIR) method and are subject to impairment. The Group's financial assets at amortised cost includes trade receivables.

**(H) INVENTORY**

Stock on hand is reported at cost in accordance with AASB 102. It comprises of food & beverage supplies to be used as part of providing the hospitality services.

**(I) INTANGIBLES**

Intangible assets acquired separately or in a business combination are initially measured at cost. The cost of an intangible asset acquired in a business combination is its fair value as at the date of acquisition. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Internally generated assets, excluding capitalised development costs, are not capitalised and expenditure is charged against profits in the year in which the expenditure is incurred.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite. Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised over the useful life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The amortisation period and the amortisation method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life are reviewed at least at each financial year-end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for by changing the amortisation period or method, as appropriate, which is a change in accounting estimate. The amortisation expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognised in profit or loss in the expense category consistent with the function of the intangible asset.

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are tested for impairment annually either individually or at the cash-generating unit level. Such intangibles are not amortised. The useful life of an intangible asset with an indefinite life is reviewed each reporting period to determine whether indefinite life assessment continues to be supportable. If not, the change in the useful life assessment from indefinite to finite is accounted for as a change in the accounting estimate and is thus accounted for on a prospective basis.

Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the intangible assets as follows:

	2022	2021
Computer Software	3 - 10 years	3 - 10 years
/ Legal Trademarks		
/ Digital Assets		

**(J) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Such cost includes the cost of replacing parts that are eligible for capitalisation when the cost of replacing the parts is incurred. Similarly, when each major inspection is performed, its cost is recognised in the carrying amount of the plant and equipment as a replacement only if it is eligible for capitalisation. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as incurred.

Plant and equipment have been depreciated over their useful economic life in 2022 and 2021 as follows:

	LIFE (YEARS)	METHOD
Leasehold Improvements	10 - 20	Straight Line
Building Costs	10 - 40	Straight Line
Owned Plant and Equipment	3 - 10	Straight Line

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

**Derecognition and disposal**

An item of plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year the asset is derecognised.

**(K) IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS**

The Group assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the entity makes an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets and the asset's value in use cannot be estimated to be close to its fair value. In such cases the asset is tested for impairment as part of the cash-generating unit to which it belongs. When the carrying amount of an asset or cash-generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset or cash-generating unit is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Impairment losses relating to continuing operations are recognised in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset.

An assessment is also made at each reporting date as to whether there is any indication that previously recognised impairment losses may no longer exist or have been decreased. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated. A previously recognised impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the assets recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. If that is the case the carrying amount of the asset is increased to its recoverable amount. That increased amount cannot exceed the carrying value

amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation, had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. Such reversal is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income unless the asset is carried at revalued amount, in which case the reversal is treated as a revaluation increase. After such a reversal, the depreciation charge is adjusted in future periods to allocate the assets revised carrying amount, less any residual value, on a systematic basis over its remaining useful life.

**(L) PAYABLES**

Payables are carried at amortised cost and represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the entity becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services.

The Group's financial liabilities include trade and other payables.

**Initial recognition and measurement**

All financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value and, in the case of trade payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

**(M) OTHER TAXES**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount 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, which is 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.

**(N) PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

Provision is made for employee benefits 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.

**(O) REVENUE**

The main revenue streams for the Group relate to the following sources:

- Licensing which includes Media, Wagering product fees and Merchandise Royalties;
- Operations and Events which includes Sponsorship, Game Receipts, Investment Income and Government Income; and
- Other income which includes Financing Income, Digital Services Income and Sundry Income.

### 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 five year performance period necessary to 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 will follow the movement in the cost profile.

A significant financing component will be accounted for by the ARLC in instances where the timing of cash received differs from performance of their obligation. An interest expense will be recognised by the ARLC as this occurs in each reporting period. An interest rate of 10 per cent has been utilised by the ARLC to account for the significant financing component and is reflective of the borrowing rate that the ARLC would be offered for a separate lending transaction.

Cash received and interest expenses associated with the significant financing component are to be recorded as deferred revenue and then to be 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 for the usage of the licence granted over the contract term as the Sports Betting operators carry on their business. The Group will recognise revenue when or as the sales relating to each bet occurs.

### Merchandise Royalties

The Group grants licences to manufacture and sell Club and Player merchandising containing NRL branding. The rights granted to merchandisers are able to be accessed consistently over the contract term and thus the most appropriate measure of progress is time that has elapsed to determine revenue recognition. 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 the customer.

### 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 and 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.

### Game Receipts

The performance obligation of the Group 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.

### Investment Income

The ARLC acquired the Gambaro Hotel (GH) in Brisbane on 1 July 2022. GH includes a 68 room five-star hotel, signature restaurant, function and conferencing centre, bar and ancillary facilities. The hotel derives income from accommodation and food & beverage sales and is managed on behalf of the ARLC by an experienced operator.

### Government Income

Government funding contracts with the Group creates enforceable rights and obligations for the Group to carry out its promise of the operation and running of a rugby league event for the Government or at a location chosen by the Government. Government income is initially recognised as deferred revenue where funding is received in advance, with revenue recognised as the services are performed or the conditions are fulfilled. The government entity only receives the benefits of the Group's ongoing obligations and activities upon the execution of each event. Therefore, revenue is to be recognised at a point in time being the point at which the event is complete.

### Financing Income

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

### Digital Services Income

The Group sells Digital Inventory to digital sponsors to assist with the promotion of rugby league through the NRL network. Digital inventory that is sold by the Group is sufficiently specific to a financial period and for promotion of rugby league throughout that period. Digital inventory is able to be produced by the Group and benefited by the digital sponsors simultaneously over the term of the contract. The measure of progress to recognise digital revenue is therefore time that has elapsed over the contract term.

### Sundry Income

This includes football statistics revenue, player agent registration fees, and shared service charges to entities affiliated with the Group. The performance obligation is the provision of service, and the measure of progress for revenue recognition is when the service is provided. In addition, salary cap and other fine revenue are brought to account when the amount of the fine has been approved by the Board and any appeals process is concluded.

**(P) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS**

**(i) Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

The preparation of the ARLC's financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the accompanying disclosures, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. Uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets or liabilities affected in future periods. There were no judgements, apart from those involving estimations, that management has made in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies that had a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial report.

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are described below. The Group based its assumptions and estimates on parameters available when the consolidated financial statements were prepared. Existing circumstances and assumptions about future developments, however, may change due to market changes or circumstances arising that are beyond the control of the Group. Such changes are reflected in the assumptions when they occur.

**(ii) Impairment of Financial assets**

The ARLC recognises an allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) for debt instruments measured at amortised cost. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the consolidated entity expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate.

ECLs are recognised in two stages. For credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within in the next 12 months. For those credit exposures for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of the default.

For trade receivables, the Group applies the simplified approach for calculating ECLs. Therefore the entity does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The ARLC has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

**(Q) 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. The going concern basis includes an assumption that there will be no suspension of the 2023 NRL season.

**3(A). INCOME STATEMENT DISCLOSURES**

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Licensing		409,867	405,161
Operations and Events		168,392	158,978
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Financing income		1,026	260
Digital Services income		3,221	3,417
Sundry income		11,292	7,264
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>		<b>15,539</b>	<b>10,941</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>593,798</b>	<b>575,080</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION</b>			
Depreciation of plant and equipment			
Building	10	589	625
Plant and equipment	10	890	978
Right-of-use lease assets	9a	3,195	4,095
Amortisation of Digital asset	8	2,771	3,191
Amortisation of Intangible assets	8	232	246
		<b>7,677</b>	<b>9,135</b>
<b>INSURANCE AND FINANCE COSTS</b>			
Interest expenses – lease liabilities		770	910
Interest charge (non-cash)		1,034	3,638
Insurance		3,744	2,754
Provision for doubtful debts / (reversal of expense)		91	(29)
Interest expenses		18	145
		<b>5,657</b>	<b>7,418</b>
<b>RESTRUCTURING – REDUNDANCIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE BENEFITS EXPENSE / (REVERSALS)</b>			
Salary and wages		52,816	52,500
Annual leave		179	1,430
Long service leave		(20)	398

### 3(B). INCOME STATEMENT ANALYSIS

The following tables provide an analysis of the operations of the Group that is used by management to assess the financial performance of the Group. The 'Controlling Body' column contains the consolidated financial results for the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited ("ARLC") and National Rugby League Limited ("NRL") legal entities. The 'Controlled Entities' column contains the financial results for the various state league entities and NRL Foundation that are controlled by the ARLC. The accounting policies used to prepare the tables are consistent with those used by the Group.

	2022			TOTAL
	CONTROLLING BODY \$'000	CONTROLLED ENTITIES \$'000	CONTROLLED ADJUSTMENTS \$'000	\$'000
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>585,374</b>	<b>9,557</b>	<b>(1,133)</b>	<b>593,798</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Event, game and sponsorship	(78,507)	(578)	-	(79,085)
Media contra	(24,582)	-	-	(24,582)
Football	(22,610)	(628)	-	(23,238)
Community and player welfare	(8,677)	-	-	(8,677)
Administration, Integrity and Salary Cap	(18,652)	1	-	(18,651)
Clubs and Players	(282,544)	-	-	(282,544)
States, Affiliates and New Zealand Rugby	(36,500)	-	1,133	(35,367)
Development	(34,675)	(8,402)	-	(43,077)
Depreciation and amortisation	(7,661)	(15)	-	(7,676)
Insurance and finance costs	(5,657)	-	-	(5,657)
Investment Servicing Costs	(2,342)	-	-	(2,342)
	<b>(522,406)</b>	<b>(9,622)</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>(530,895)</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>62,968</b>	<b>(65)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,903</b>

	2021			TOTAL
	CONTROLLING BODY \$'000	CONTROLLED ENTITIES \$'000	CONTROLLED ADJUSTMENTS \$'000	\$'000
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>570,345</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>575,080</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Event, game and sponsorship	(74,559)	(491)	-	(75,050)
Media contra	(24,546)	-	-	(24,546)
Football	(46,731)	(529)	-	(47,260)
Community and player welfare	(7,270)	(30)	-	(7,300)
Administration, Integrity and Salary Cap	(15,948)	8	-	(15,940)
Clubs and Players	(278,224)	-	-	(278,224)
States, Affiliates and New Zealand Rugby	(35,437)	-	590	(34,847)
Development	(27,904)	(4,044)	-	(31,948)
Depreciation and amortisation	(9,104)	(31)	-	(9,135)
Insurance and finance costs	(7,417)	(1)	-	(7,418)
Restructuring – redundancies	(355)	-	-	(355)
	<b>(527,495)</b>	<b>(5,118)</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>(532,023)</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>42,850</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,057</b>

#### 4. RECONCILIATION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and deposits at call. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Cash at bank – Controlling Body		172,361	165,113
Short term cash deposits – Controlled Entities		1,708	3,020
Cash at bank – Controlled Entities		8,483	3,503
<b>TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>182,553</b>	<b>171,636</b>

Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Short-term cash deposits are currently made for varying periods of between 30 days and 90 days, depending on the immediate cash requirements of the Company, and earn interest at the respective short-term deposit rates.

#### 5. TRADE RECEIVABLES

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Trade receivables		18,345	19,211
Provision for doubtful debts		(2,306)	(2,398)
<b>TOTAL TRADE RECEIVABLES</b>		<b>16,039</b>	<b>16,813</b>

(i) For terms and conditions relating to related party receivables refer to Note 17.

(ii) Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are generally on 30-60 day terms.

As at 31 October 2022, trade receivables of an initial value of \$2,305,980 (2021: \$2,397,224) were impaired and fully provided for. See below for movements in the provision for impairment of receivables.

	COLLECTIVELY IMPAIRED \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
<b>At 1 November 2020</b>	(3,526)	(3,526)
Provision reversal for the year	22	22
Utilised	1,106	1,106
<b>At 31 October 2021</b>	<b>(2,398)</b>	<b>(2,398)</b>
Provision reversal for the year	(10)	(10)
Utilised	102	102
<b>At 31 October 2022</b>	<b>(2,306)</b>	<b>(2,306)</b>

#### 6. PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS (CURRENT)

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Prepayments and other assets		5,615	7,793
Accrued income		4,771	3,140
Goods & Services Tax (GST Receivable)		2,449	4,892
Advances to NRL clubs		–	9,000
Other deposits		8,913	8,887
Lease receivables		–	517
<b>TOTAL PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		<b>21,148</b>	<b>34,229</b>

Other deposits relates to investments held in a managed cash fund.

#### 7. INVENTORY

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>STOCK ON HAND – AT COST</b>		<b>170</b>	<b>–</b>



### 8. INTANGIBLES (NON CURRENT)

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>DIGITAL ASSET</b>			
Opening balance		8,940	9,120
Additions		2,338	3,011
Amortisation		(2,771)	(3,191)
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		<b>8,507</b>	<b>8,940</b>
Gross carrying amount		14,876	21,805
Accumulated amortisation		(6,369)	(12,865)
<b>SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND LEGAL TRADEMARKS</b>			
Opening balance		428	609
Additions		38	65
Amortisation		(232)	(246)
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		<b>234</b>	<b>428</b>
<b>TOTAL INTANGIBLES</b>		<b>8,741</b>	<b>9,368</b>

### 9A. RIGHT OF USE LEASE ASSETS (NON CURRENT)

Set out below are the carrying amounts for right-of-use assets recognised and the movements during the period:

	PROPERTY \$'000	MOTOR VEHICLES \$'000	OTHER EQUIPMENT \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
<b>As at 1 November 2021</b>	13,989	756	96	14,840
Additions	(331)	250	(56)	(137)
Depreciation Expense	(2,305)	(849)	(40)	(3,194)
<b>As at 31 October 2022</b>	<b>11,353</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,510</b>

Presented below is a maturity analysis of future lease payments:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Not later than one year	3,240	4,481
Later than one year and not later than five years	7,476	11,699
Later than five years	12,076	12,336
	<b>22,793</b>	<b>28,515</b>

### 9B. LEASE LIABILITIES

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (included under interest-bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>As at 1 November</b>	17,803	13,250
Additions/ (Disposals)	(138)	8,872
Accretion of interest	770	912
Payments	(4,217)	(5,231)
<b>As at 31 October</b>	<b>14,218</b>	<b>17,803</b>
Current liabilities	2,605	3,730
Non-current liabilities	11,613	14,073
	<b>14,218</b>	<b>17,803</b>

The following are the amounts recognised in Profit and Loss:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Interest revenue of lease receivable	101	123
Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	(3,195)	(4,095)
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(770)	(912)
<b>As at 31 October</b>	<b>(3,864)</b>	<b>(4,884)</b>

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (NON CURRENT)

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>BUILDING</b>			
Opening balance – cost		20,844	20,844
Additions		27,328	–
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		<b>48,172</b>	<b>20,844</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
Depreciation for the year		(589)	(625)
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		<b>(7,194)</b>	<b>(6,605)</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>		<b>40,978</b>	<b>14,239</b>
<b>PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>			
Opening balance – cost		10,891	10,173
Additions		1,511	718
Disposals		(4,994)	–
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		<b>7,408</b>	<b>10,891</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
Opening balance		(9,528)	(8,550)
Depreciation for the year		(890)	(978)
Disposals		4,994	–
<b>CLOSING BALANCE</b>		<b>(5,424)</b>	<b>(9,528)</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>		<b>1,985</b>	<b>1,363</b>
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>42,963</b>	<b>15,602</b>

11. OTHER RECEIVABLES (NON CURRENT)

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Lease receivables	2,036	2,036
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>2,036</b>

12. OTHER PAYABLES (CURRENT)

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Accruals		31,948	26,936
Taxes payable		118	3,218
Other payables		5,782	13,375
Deferred revenue		16,450	38,170
<b>TOTAL CURRENT OTHER PAYABLES</b>		<b>54,297</b>	<b>81,699</b>

Deferred revenue predominantly relates to the invoices raised to our Sponsors and Government bodies for the 2023 season.

13. PROVISIONS (CURRENT)

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Employee benefits	15	5,353	5,112
<b>TOTAL CURRENT PROVISIONS</b>		<b>5,353</b>	<b>5,112</b>

14. PROVISIONS (NON CURRENT)

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Employee benefits	15	1,313	1,476
Other provisions		–	11,108
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS</b>		<b>1,313</b>	<b>12,584</b>

The \$11.1m in Other Provisions in 2021 was an accrual for player outperformance payments under the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Players Association. Further agreement was reached with the Players Association during the financial year which resulted in the majority of these obligations being settled.

## 15. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Aggregate employee entitlements includes on-costs:			
Current	13	5,353	5,112
Non-current		1,313	1,476
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		<b>6,666</b>	<b>6,588</b>

The accounting treatment for employee benefits is detailed in the accounting policy Note 2(n).

## 16. EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

### (A) GRANTS TO NRL CLUBS ARE CONTRACTED AS FOLLOWS:

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Not later than one year		299,736	225,928
Later than one year but not later than five years		-	-
		<b>299,736</b>	<b>255,928</b>

The grant committed to NRL clubs is as per the interim funding agreement letters issued to all clubs on 13 January 2023.

### (B) GRANTS TO STATE LEAGUES

ARLC provides funding to New South Wales Rugby League Limited and Queensland Rugby League Limited to administer the game in their respective states in accordance with the New Members Agreement dated 10 February 2012. The funding is agreed on an annual basis.

### (C) OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS:

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Not later than one year		3,381	1,708
Later than one year but not later than five years		3,548	270
Later than five years		-	-
		<b>6,929</b>	<b>1,978</b>

These commitments include IT services contracts.

### (D) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES:

If a NRL Premiership club is unable to pay its contracted players amounts due under the 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 Company.

## 17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

### (A) DETAILS OF DIRECTORS/INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONERS

The following persons held the position of director of the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and its controlled entities during the past financial year, unless otherwise stated.

Peter V'landys AM (Chairman)  
The Hon. Peter Beattie AC  
Tony McGrath  
Alan Sullivan KC (appointed 7 February 2022)  
Wayne Pearce OAM  
Dr Gary Weiss AM  
Professor Megan Davis  
The Hon. Kate Jones

### (B) COMPENSATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key Management Personnel are those who have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Australian Rugby League Commission Limited and National Rugby League Limited, directly or indirectly, including all directors (executive and otherwise).

The remuneration of Key Management Personnel for the full year is as follows:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Remuneration Total	6,090,483	6,191,819

Key Management Personnel compensation includes all employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119).

During the 2022 financial year, key management personnel included the roles of the Commissioners, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Executive General Manager (EGM) of Finance, Technology and Operations, Chief Customer and Digital Officer, EGM of Media, EGM of Elite Football, EGM of Partnerships, General Counsel, Head of Integrity, EGM of Participation and Strategy and EGM of Performance and Pathways.

### (C) KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key Management Personnel of the Company and Key Management Personnel of its related parties, or their related entities, conduct transactions with entities within the consolidated Group that occur within a normal business relationship on terms and conditions no more favourable than those with which it is reasonable to expect the entity would have adopted if dealing with the Key Management Personnel or related entity at arm's length in similar circumstances.

### (D) TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Sales to and purchases from related parties are made in arms' length transactions both at normal market prices and on normal commercial terms.

### 18. MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The Company is a company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the articles of association state that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. At 31 October 2022, the number of members was 26 (2021: 25).

### 19. FINANCIAL ASSETS

#### (A) BANK GUARANTEE

There is a security deposit guarantee held for Rugby League Central Queensland totalling \$397,025 as at 31 October 2022 (2021: \$397,025).

### 20. ARLC ENTITY DISCLOSURES

The summary financial information of the Australian Rugby League Commission Limited entity is disclosed in the tables below.

#### (A) FINANCIAL POSITION

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Current assets	196,164	199,322
Non-current assets	30,246	3,260
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>226,410</b>	<b>202,582</b>
Current liabilities	27,031	65,502
Non-current liabilities	2,031	2,700
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>29,062</b>	<b>68,202</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>197,348</b>	<b>134,380</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	2,228	2,228
Retained surplus	195,120	132,152
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>197,348</b>	<b>134,380</b>

#### (B) FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Net surplus/(deficit)	62,968	42,850
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>62,968</b>	<b>42,850</b>

### 21. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
<b>FEES TO ERNST &amp; YOUNG (AUSTRALIA)</b>		
For auditing the statutory financial report of the parent covering the group and auditing the statutory financial reports of any controlled entities	264	257
For other assurance and tax compliance services	27	-
	<b>291</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>FEES TO OTHER OVERSEAS MEMBER FIRMS OF ERNST &amp; YOUNG (AUSTRALIA)</b>		
For auditing the financial report of any controlled entities	-	-
For tax compliance services	-	-
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>257</b>

### 22. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

On 9 November 2022, the ARLC officially granted a license to the Dolphins making them the 17th team to enter the NRL competition.

On 23 December 2022, the ARLC announced a significant increase to the NRL Salary Cap for 2023. This will give rise to a material increase in the level of funding provided to the NRL Clubs when compared to 2022. In addition, the negotiation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Rugby Leagues Players Association (RLPA) is ongoing. The ARLC believes this will not impact the operations of the organisation or impact the status of the company as a going concern.

## Directors' 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 entity are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the consolidated entity's financial position as at 31 October 2022 and of its performance for the period ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board



Peter Vlandys  
Chairman



Tony McGrath  
Director

Sydney  
9 February 2023



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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 consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 October 2022, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

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

- a. Giving a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 October 2022 and of its consolidated financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b. 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 is the directors' report accompanying the financial report.

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.



### Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material 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.
- ▶ 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.



- ▶ Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance 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

Christopher George  
Partner  
Sydney  
9 February 2023



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