



# AUSTRALASIAN WATER RESCUE CHALLENGE

**AGENCY INFORMATION &  
NOMINATION FORM  
2024**

**Australasia's Inaugural Water Rescue Challenge**



# Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC)

Friday 5 April, 2024



The Australasian Rescue Organisation (ARO) is hosting the inaugural Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC).

As the first of its kind in Australasia, this event will provide an opportunity for all agencies that perform water rescue roles across Australasia to compete, learn and come together in a true ARO 'spirit of the challenge' format.

ARO is known for leading the way in rescue through leadership, creating learning and development pathways for some of the best trainers and assessors in rescue and creating meaningful opportunities for individuals to exchange and share best practice.



This event welcomes the region's best water rescue operators as they vie for a title in the first event of its kind.

Throughout the event, teams of 8 (minimum of 2 Land Based Operators and maximum of 6 In Water Operators) either from one agency or multiple, can compete for First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Best Team Leader or Spirit of the Challenge Awards.

There will be multiple scenarios of varying complexities located throughout Penrith Whitewater Stadium (PWS).



As the peak body for the development and exchange of information, knowledge and skills sharing of rescue expertise, ARO is independent from any state or agency. Its network of members, agencies and key decision makers within the industry can rely on ARO as a trusted source of information and guidance.

ARO (formerly Australasian Road Rescue Association) is an independent association of emergency service members with elected officials who provide an independent forum for information exchange, lessons learned and challenges. The ARO challenges are the formal pathway to international events and challenges.





# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **Do I need to be a current individual ARO member to compete?** Yes.
2. **Does my agency need to be a member of ARO to compete?** Yes.
3. **How much is it to enter?** \$2,500 per team. Participation is not confirmed until payment is received.
4. **How long is the event?** The inaugural event is one day to minimise costs to agencies for the initial challenge. Next year's challenge is planned as a multi-day event and learning symposium that will feature more areas of water rescue, including boats and potentially a helicopter rescue challenge.
5. **Who can enter?** Any government rescue agency or government authorised rescue agency can enter. As spots are limited, the event is open to spectators.
6. **Can I have a mixed agency team?** Yes, mixed agency teams are encouraged.
7. **Can we enter multiple teams?** Depending on the amount of entries, agencies may be allowed one spot in the first call. If all spots are not filled, the opportunity may exist for multiple teams. Please indicate how many teams you wish to enter.
8. **What does a team consist of?** A team of 8 includes 6 In Water qualified rescuers and 2 Land Based rescuers. Teams may consist of 8 In Water rescuers however 2 people will be nominated at a Land Based level and can only work to that level of training.
9. **Can I have a reserve on the team?** Each team may nominate one additional person. The reserve person can only enter the competition due to injury or sickness during the event.
10. **Can I have a team manager?** Yes.
11. **Do I need to be physically fit?** Water rescue is a physically demanding capability. The challenge consists of multiple scenarios over the day in the water environment, so participants need to be able to complete all scenarios.
12. **Do I need to be an accredited General Land Rescue Operator to compete?** No, but it is recommended.
13. **Do I need to have an understanding of motor vehicles?** Yes, rescues from vehicles form a very large part of water rescue in Australasia. It will be assumed that rescuers have knowledge about rescues from vehicles, as well as safe work and entry, in and around vehicles.
14. **What minimum qualifications do I need to hold?**
  - For In Water rescuer: PUASAR002 Undertake swift-water and floodwater rescue and recovery, or equivalent.
  - For Land Based Rescuers: PUASAR001 Perform land based swift-water and floodwater rescue and recovery, or equivalent.
  - Evidence of qualifications and a current Fit for Task evolution must be provided upon entry.
15. **Is the water still or moving?** The challenge will be held in fast and slow moving water and some still water environments. Moving water will be up to Class 3 Grade. Participants should be experienced in this environment.
16. **What challenges will take place?** Challenges will recreate actual rescues that water rescue teams have attended in past years. They are designed to emulate time critical rescues of persons from water. Each challenge scenario is timed with a large part featuring an in-water component.
17. **Can a participant be excluded from the challenge?** Safety is paramount during this challenge. An ARO Command / Technical Assessor may choose to halt any scenario for any breaches of safety. Participant's proficiency in and around water will also be constantly monitored for participant's safety. Participants who do not display the ability to work safely in an aquatic environment will be removed for their safety.
18. **Will the challenge allow innovation?** Innovation is one of the main reasons for conducting challenges. New, innovative and safe techniques are encouraged and will be scored appropriately.
19. **Is Personal Protective Equipment / Clothing (PPE/PPC) supplied?** No, agencies are required to bring their own PPE/PPC for their roles, i.e., In Water PPE/PPC and Land Based PPE/PPC. Land Based operators will not be allowed to wear In Water PPE/PPC (i.e., wetsuits).
20. **Can I bring a new tool/device etc?** Controlled equipment is used at ARO challenges so that all teams have fair and equal use of equipment. A list of controlled equipment will be provided to the teams with their entry packs.
21. **Will rafting or be a part of the challenge?** Yes. All forms of In Water rescue will be part of the challenge.
22. **Is there a powered boat section to the challenge?** Not this year. Powered boats will be considered for next year and will be a separate AWRC challenge.
23. **Are spectators, media and the public able to come and watch?** Yes, this challenge has been designed so that the events are very close to those watching and the general public. Spectator areas will be defined on the day. Media will be required to register with the ARO Media Team.
24. **Is catering provided?** Catering will be provided for participants and event organisers. However, participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks, water and hydration supplements. More information on this will be confirmed closer to the date.
25. **Is transport provided?** No.
26. **Is accommodation provided?** No.
27. **Is the event sponsored?** Yes, sponsors will be invited to the event to showcase innovation and best practice in equipment and services.



# Register your interest

**Location:** Penrith Whitewater Stadium (PWS),  
McCarthys Lane, Cranebrook NSW 2749



## Friday 5 April 2024 at PWS

- 6:30am: Participants sign in
- 7:00am: Induction & PPE gear check
- 7:30am: Welcome & briefing
- 8:00am - 4:00pm: AWRC (Challenge)
- 5:00pm: Event debrief & presentation ceremony

### Agency Name

### Contact Name

### Email

### Role

### Phone Number

**I would like to nominate a team (8 in total, excluding reserve and team manager).**

**Team names are as follows:**

☐

Team Leader (Either IWO or LBO)

☐

In Water Operator (maximum 6)

☐

Land Based Operator (minimum 2)

☐

Reserve Member

☐

Team Manager

**I would like to nominate support members for consideration (agency qualifications may apply).**

**Please provide names and details for relevant roles (or provide as an attachment).**

☐

Water Rescue Assessor

☐

Water Rescue Safety Officer

☐

Water Rescue Stand Manager

☐

Medical Assessors & Support

☐

Planning & Logistics

☐

Administration & Event Support

☐

Other (please specify)

### Comments

**Please send me an invoice for:**

☐

Entry fee for one team (\$2,500)

☐

Agency membership (\$1,500pa + \$50 j/f)

☐

Include membership for my agency participants (\$75pp/pa)

**For more information  
or to register interest:**  
E [ARO@AROrescue.org](mailto:ARO@AROrescue.org)  
W [www.AROrescue.org](http://www.AROrescue.org)