



AUSTRALASIAN WATER RESCUE CHALLENGE

AUSTRALASIAN RESCUE BOAT CHALLENGE

AGENCY INFORMATION
& NOMINATION FORM
2025

Australasia's only Water Rescue and Rescue Boat Challenge

Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) and the Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC)

12-14 March 2025



The Australasian Rescue Organisation (ARO) is pleased to host the second Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) and in inaugural Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC).

As the first events of their kind in Australasia, these challenges provide an opportunity for all agencies who 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 only events of its kind. Placements are awarded for First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Best Team Leader or Spirit of the Challenge Awards.

Teams of 8 (In Water and Land Based qualified rescuers either from one agency or multiple) can compete in the Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC).

Teams of 6 (On Water, In Water, and Land Based qualified rescuers either from one agency or multiple) can compete in the Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC).

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 is an independent association made up 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?** \$5,500 per challenge per team. Participation is not confirmed until payment is received.
- 4. How long is the event?** The event will run over multi-days, with challenges on one day each to minimise costs to agencies to participate.
- 5. What does ARBC look like?** The event will feature a series of challenges over one day that will test the team in simulated water rescues in both still and moving water conditions.
- 6. Who can enter?** Any government rescue agency or government authorised rescue agency can enter. Spots are limited.
- 7. Can I have a mixed agency team?** Yes, mixed agency teams are encouraged.
- 8. 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.
- 9. What does a team consist of?** AWRC teams consist of 8 , including 6 In Water qualified rescuers and 2 Land Based rescuers. ARBC teams of 6 includes 6 In Water qualified rescuers, 1 In Water qualified rescuers, and 1 Land Based qualified rescuers. Rescuers nominated at that level can only work to that level of training.
- 10. Can I have a reserve on the team?** Yes, each team may nominate one additional person which can be interchanged at any time for safety and fatigue management.
- 11. Can I have a team manager?** Yes, this is recommended for logistics purposes.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Do I need to be an accredited General Land Rescue Operator to compete?** No, but it is recommended.
- 14. 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.
- 15. What minimum qualifications do I need to hold?**
 - For In Water rescuer: PUASAR002 Undertake swift-water and floodwater rescue and recovery, or equivalent.
 - For On Water Rescuers: PUASES009 Undertake inland floodboat operations, 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.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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 a water component.
- 18. 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.
- 19. 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.
- 20. 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, On Water PPE/PPC, and Land Based PPE/PPC. Land Based rescuers will not be allowed to wear In Water PPE/PPC (i.e., wetsuits).
- 21. 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 the briefing.
- 22. Will rafting or be a part of the challenge?** Yes. All forms of In Water and On Water rescue will be part of the challenge.
- 23. What types of boat will be used and do agencies have to provide the boat?** Boats for this challenge are limited to inflatable rescue boat style up to 4.4m in length and must be of tiller steer outboard propulsion. Outboards can be up to 30hp and 2 stroke engines must be use environmental oil for Penrith Lakes. If your wishes to enter a team a boat of this type or is travelling significant distance, please contact us.
- 24. What safety equipment is required for ARBC?** A detailed list of boat safety equipment will be provided closer to the challenge.
- 25. Will there be a boat safety inspection?** Yes, boats will be scrutineered to ensure safety of all participants.
- 26. 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.
- 27. 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.
- 28. Is transport provided?** No.
- 29. Is accommodation provided?** No.
- 30. 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

Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC)
Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC)



Wednesday 12 March - Friday 14 March 2025

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

Agency Name _____

Contact Name _____

Email _____

Role _____

Phone Number _____

I would like to nominate an AWRC team/s (8 in total, excluding reserve and team manager). Team names are as follows:

I would like to nominate an ARBC team/s (6 in total, excluding reserve and team manager). Team names are as follows:

AWRC Team Leader (Either IWO or LBO)

ARBC Team Leader (Either OWO, IWO or LBO)

In Water Operator (maximum 6)

On Water Operator (3 operators)

In Water Operator (1 operator)

Land Based Operator (minimum 2)

Land Based Operator (2 operators)

Reserve Member (optional)

Reserve Member (optional)

Team Manager

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

Planning & Logistics

Water Rescue Safety Officer

Administration & Event Support

Water Rescue Stand Manager

Other (please specify)

Medical Assessors & Support

Comments

Please send me an invoice for:

Entry fee per challenge per team (\$5,500)

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

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

**For more information
or to register interest:
E Admin@ARORescue.org
W www.AROrescue.org**