

10 January 2025

Mr David Hourigan  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority  
**BY EMAIL:** [100DayReview@gvlda.au](mailto:100DayReview@gvlda.au)  
**Via portal at:** [www.gamesreview.com.au](http://www.gamesreview.com.au)

Dear Mr Hourigan,

**RE: Submission from Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland to the 100-day Review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure**

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Paddle Australia (PA) and Paddle Queensland (PQ) are appreciative of the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Queensland Government's Terms of Reference (TOR) for the **100-day Review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure** (the 100-day Review).

PA is the peak body for paddle sports in Australia. PQ is a State Association of PA and exists to promote, support and coordinate all levels and all types of paddle sport in Queensland.

This submission has been jointly prepared by PA and PQ (collectively referred to as Paddle) and reflects our united commitment to building a legacy for Paddle through the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032).

In addition, we have also attached a letter of support from our international federation, the International Canoe Federation (ICF). The ICF letter dated 7 January 2025 is an Annexure to this submission.

Canoe and kayak events at the Olympic and Paralympic Games are a combination of two distinct sports – **Canoe Sprint** (flatwater) and **Canoe Slalom** (whitewater).

At the Olympic Games, canoe races are held as whitewater slalom and flatwater sprint events.

At the Paralympic Games, canoe events are held as flatwater sprint paracanoe events.

In being mindful of the 10 January 2025 deadline for the lodgement of this submission in response to the TOR, we have structured our submission in two parts:

- Part 1 - addresses the immediate and urgent need to select and settle fit for purpose Olympic venues for Canoe Slalom and Canoe Sprint for Brisbane 2032 and will be lodged by 10 January 2025; and

- Part 2 – addresses the broader objectives set out in the TOR and will focus on maximising long-term benefits from ensuring facility infrastructure investments support regional economic development.

Part 2 of this submission will be lodged on 10 February 2025.

In relation to Part 1 of this submission, Paddle would welcome the opportunity of meeting with the Review Panel to discuss the most salient aspects of the submission.

#### Part 1 - Olympic venues for Canoe Slalom and Canoe Sprint for Brisbane 2032

##### Canoe Sprint

Under the existing Games Venue Master Plan, Wyaralong Dam is listed as the venue for Rowing and Canoe Sprint.

In acknowledging the “Objectives” and “Guiding Principles” set out in the TOR, Paddle highlights there are considerable cost savings and efficiencies associated with Olympic and Paralympic rowing and paddle events being co-located at the same facility. Consequently, the primary focus when evaluating options should be identifying a cost-effective competition course that satisfies the requirements of both sprint and paracanoe, as well as rowing competitions

These same cost saving efficiencies associated with co-location also apply to the important considerations of: infrastructure design alignment, connectivity and integration, affordability and deliverability, leveraging investment and delivering a legacy-focused facility asset that can be activated as an event revenue generator before during and after Brisbane 2032.

For Canoe Sprint there are four potential venues that could host Olympic and Paralympic events or lead-in legacy training / competition events:

- **Wyaralong Dam** (joint Canoe Sprint and Rowing). Paddle notes that in the most recent Gateway Review undertaken in August 2024, Wyaralong was identified as being deliverable under the current budget allocation; or
- **Hinze Dam** – subject to a more complete feasibility assessment being undertaken, as a joint Canoe Sprint and Rowing venue; or
- **Damian Leeding Memorial Park / Coomera** – (Canoe Sprint only venue). The site is a tremendous training venue for Paddle sports, as well as being an international and domestic event facility for Paddle; or
- **Lake Kurwongbah** – this site is potentially suitable as a Canoe Sprint only venue; we have engaged proactively with the developers to understand the site and see its potential.

We also note the findings of the *Sport Venue Review: Independent Review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Venue Infrastructure* (the 60-day Review), which determined that Lake

Kurwongbah was not a suitable venue with significant earthworks being required, as well as having significant environmental challenges.

In relation to the **Hinze Dam**, Paddle has consulted extensively with Rowing Australia and the City of Gold Coast, and we share concerns that a previous feasibility study undertaken on behalf of the Queensland Government as to the suitability of this facility asset as a Games venue was inadequate and failed to take into account:

- capital works undertaken in 2011 to raise the height of dam wall by 15m, which solved any concerns relating to water depth – see link to the SEQ Water Hinze Dam Fact Sheet: <https://www.seqwater.com.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/Seqwater%20-Hinze%20Dam%20fact%20sheet.pdf>;
- the close proximity of the Hinze Dam to the proposed athlete village at Robina (*less than 25-minutes drive*), which will house 2,600 athletes and officials, as well as the significant availability of additional hotel and resort stock on the Gold Coast;
- the proximity to significant public transport hubs on the Gold Coast;
- the potential for the Hinze Dam to be activated as a facility asset that will provide lasting sport, community and economic benefits extending beyond the Games, as well as creating greater opportunities for significant water sport tourism activations in association with competition and recreational water sport events; and
- Hinze Dam was a significant training venue for paddle sport athletes prior to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games (*the Great Britain Olympic Games Team used Hinze Dam as a training base*).

Until 2011, the Hinze Dam was utilised as a venue for a variety of water sports including Canoe Sprint events including Junior National Championships and Grand Prix regattas; also during this time Rowing has utilised the venue for an Australian Rowing Championships, the Australian University Rowing Championships in 2005, the SEQ Schools Championships in 2007 and various Head of the River events.

In noting the Objectives and Guiding Principles of the 100-day Review, it appears, subject to a more thorough feasibility assessment, which also examines the Olympic and Paralympic overlay requirements, that the Hinze Dam may be a superior site.

That said, the most recent Gateway Review undertaken in August 2024 identified Wyaralong as being deliverable under the current budget allocation, providing a significantly greater cost benefit than any other location in South-East Queensland – we recommend that this be reviewed and compared to a more thorough feasibility assessment of the Hinze Dam.

Paddle also draws the Review Panel's attention to the letter dated 10 January 2025 from Mayor Tom Tate to the respective CEOs of PA and Rowing Australia, highlighting the city's enthusiasm for a more thorough investigation of the Hinze Dam as a legacy asset and also confirming that the city has no water safety concerns as the retail end-user of water supplied from the Hinze Dam.

Mayor Tate's letter dated 10 January 2025 is an annexure to this submission.

PA had its most successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in history in Paris 2024 with overall 8 medals won (11 medallists) from a total 18 athletes who represented at the Games. A truly remarkable effort from all our athletes; including high profile Paris Olympic Game heroes; opening ceremony flag bearer Jessica Fox, Noemie Fox, and Queenslanders Tom Green and Paralympic Games Team Captain Curtis McGrath.

PA's High-Performance Program was recently awarded the High Performance Program of the Year in the 2024 Australian Sports Performance Awards. The Gold Coast (Miami) based Australian Institute of Sport National Centre of Excellence would benefit greatly from having an international standard Sprint Canoe race venue in Southeast Queensland and would be a significant competitive advantage to support sustainable success on the world stage. The ICF, our world governing body, has already confirmed its commitment to hosting future international competitions at Olympic venues, ensuring these venues continue to deliver long-term legacies.

**Another significant factor that should be considered in the consideration and selection of the optimal venue facility for Canoe Sprint and Rowing events at Brisbane 2032 is the overall number of athletes competing in all event disciplines of both sports at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games comprised approximately 8% of the total overall athlete cohort for the Games – i.e. 10,500. This number is further expanded when support staff and officials are added.**

This extremely high level of athlete activation at a single facility venue highlights the importance of a more thorough feasibility examination of the Hinze Dam, especially noting its very close physical proximity to the planned athlete village at Robina and public transport hubs on the Gold Coast. These public transports services also provide better access for spectators.

#### Canoe Slalom

Under the existing Games venue Master Plan, Canoe Slalom events will be held at the **Redlands Whitewater Centre** within the Redlands City Council local government area.

Notably, the Redlands City Council is a Junior Games Delivery Partner for Brisbane 2032.

Paddle notes the “Methodology” set out in the TOR specifically references that the “Document review” will include “existing project plans, business cases, Project Validation Reports (PVRs) cost assessments, gateway reviews and other project documentation ...”.

In this context, Paddle highlights the supporting findings of the 60-day Review that the Redlands Whitewater Centre proceed, noting also that these findings were supported by the Queensland Government – see below extract from the 60-Day Review:

<b>Review panel findings about Redland Whitewater Centre</b>	
Finding 5.3	The Panel found that the Redland Whitewater Centre proposal and the Penrith Whitewater Stadium in Sydney were the two most plausible options for whitewater sports.
Finding 5.4	The Penrith Whitewater Stadium experiences poor weather conditions (wind and temperature) at the equivalent time when the Games will be held. In previous years, the venue has been closed between June and September.
Finding 5.5	The Redland Whitewater Centre proposal presents a compelling case. The review panel saw a range of advantages to building the facility including strong legacy outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a sound financial model for the facility</li> <li>• The facility provides a regional attraction which could have broader benefits to the Redlands</li> <li>• The centre would provide a convenient training facility for Queensland Government Emergency Service, Queensland Surf Lifesaving and other first responder agencies</li> </ul>
Finding 5.6	Environmental issues raised by community members were examined, however the Panel formed the view that these issues can be managed and will be subject to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act approval.
Recommendation 5.2	Proceed with the Redland Whitewater Centre project as scoped.

**Table 1: Extract of Sport Venue Review findings and recommendation specific to the Redland Whitewater Centre.**

The Queensland Government responded to the review on 18 March 2024 in relation to the Redland Whitewater Centre (refer to Attachment 2) as outlined in Table 2.

<b>Summary of sports venues</b>		
<b>Venue</b>	<b>Report findings</b>	<b>Government response</b>
<b>PADDLE VENUES</b>		
Redland Whitewater Centre	Recommended to proceed.	Recommendation accepted subject to the continued support from Redland City Council.

**Table 2: Extract of Queensland Government response to the Sport Venue Review.**

As mentioned above, the Redlands Whitewater Centre is also overwhelming supported by the ICF – see annexed letter 7 January 2025 from the ICF.

Paddle also emphasises the importance of having two world class venues in Australia to create momentum at both the elite and grassroots level for all our whitewater disciplines.

We are constantly challenged as a sport by consistent water quality (blue algae) issues at Penrith Whitewater Centre and an alternative venue for international and domestic events and activities is critical; noting the increased profile, popularity and demand for whitewater access off the back of the sports most successful Olympic Games result in Paris 2024 with 3 gold medals shared between the Fox sisters, which without doubt inspired the nation.

We summarise these benefits below:

1. Historical context and need
  - o SEQ lacks accessible, reliable whitewater facilities due to inconsistent water sources.
  - o Canoe Slalom paddlers in the region are restricted, and the number of participants would grow significantly with a dedicated facility.
  - o Existing paddlers face barriers to regular participation, as the nearest whitewater rivers are in Coffs Harbour or Dorrigo, ~8 hours away.

## 2. Design and accessibility

- The proposed stadium includes two channels:
  - an Olympic-grade channel for advanced users;
  - a beginner channel, crucial for fostering grassroots participation, school programs, and recreational paddling.
- It is imperative that the beginner channel is retained in the design for significant legacy/long term operating sustainability. Lack of beginner channels, as exists with the Penrith Whitewater Stadium, limits new participants as going straight onto an Olympic grade course is not conducive to skills development or retention of participants.

## 3. Community Benefits

- Potential for increased recreational paddling, school outdoor education programs and family-friendly activities.
- Shared amenities at the Birkdale Community Precinct (restaurants, outdoor spaces) create a multi-use destination – something which is unique to the site at Redlands. This is highly beneficial in terms of long-term use and community activation.
- Inspiration from international models like Vector Wero in NZ, which has reduced youth truancy and hosts over 100,000 schoolchildren annually:
  - [Major Milestone Met For Waka Pacific Trust \(Vector Wero Whitewater Park Operator\) | Scoop News](#); and
  - [Community-Good-Report-2024.pdf](#)
- Opportunities for schools to reintroduce whitewater programs, diversifying revenue streams and increasing participation.

## 4. Education and Safety

- The stadium is positioned to serve as a **Swiftwater Rescue Centre of Excellence**, offering critical safety training for paddlers and outdoor enthusiasts.
- Access to year-round, graded water environments supports training pathways, certifications, and skill development.
- Addresses the current scarcity of swiftwater training locations and certification pathways in Queensland.
- Supports a complete training pathway, from foundational paddling skills to qualifications as instructors or assessors.
- Provides a venue for school camps, excursions, and sports programs, introducing young people to paddling and water safety in a controlled, safe environment.

## 5. Sporting Pathways and Competitions

- PQ has been unable to fully develop competitive paddling pathways due to the lack of consistent access to whitewater facilities.
- The absence of dedicated whitewater courses in Queensland has restricted opportunities for athlete development, leaving paddlers to train in suboptimal conditions or travel interstate.
- Provides a venue for state championships, national events, and potentially international competitions like the Wild Water Championships.
- Enables the establishment of a talent pipeline in Queensland, growing participation and opportunities for high-performance athletes.
- Opens up opportunities for Queensland athletes to compete at national and international levels, elevating the state's presence in paddling sports.

- The Queensland Academy of Sport have expressed interest in a pathway partnership if there was a SEQ facility.

#### 6. Economic and Social Impact

- Boosts local economy through tourism, events, and recreational use:
  - An example is the U.S. National Whitewater Centre in Charlotte, North Carolina, exemplifies the economic benefits of such facilities. It attracts over 700,000 visitors annually and contributes approximately \$37 million to the regional economy.
- Creates a family-friendly environment that encourages ongoing community engagement.
- Potential for sponsorships and subsidies for schoolchildren, modelled after successful international programs.
- Access to whitewater parks encourages physical activity, which can lead to improved mental and physical health outcomes for community members. Regular engagement in recreational activities like kayaking and rafting promotes fitness and well-being.

#### 7. Legacy Planning

- Aligns with Redland City Council's vision for a sustainable and multipurpose precinct.
- Integrates seamlessly with the Birkdale Community Precinct, enhancing its long-term value and appeal.
- Balances Olympic ambitions with a strong focus on community development, ensuring a dual-purpose facility.

As mentioned, Part 2 of this submission will address the broader objectives set out in the TOR and will focus on maximising long-term benefits from ensuring facility infrastructure investments support regional economic development, as well as the often talked about, but not planned for opportunity to maximise the sport tourism opportunities provided by Brisbane 2032.

The marketplace presence and audience viewership of an Olympic Games far eclipses domestic sporting codes.

For instance, the audience viewership of the Australian Olympic Team for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games on **9Now** was 1.6 billion minutes. The Paddle event disciplines of *Canoe Sprint* and *Canoe Slalom* contributed 30.3 million minutes of that total.<sup>1</sup>

Paddle is aware that a number of Australian National Sporting Organisations have highlighted the importance of a properly funded ***International Sports Events Strategy*** to ensure legacy opportunities associated with Brisbane 2032 are maximised.

In noting the “Guiding Principles” of the TOR relating to leveraging investment and delivering permanent legacy-focused infrastructure investments, as well as benefits to rural and regional Queensland, Paddle also wishes to highlight the opportunities that the development and implementation of an internationally focused Sports Event Strategy could unlock.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Olympic Committee, *Paris 2024 Audience Viewership Report – Canoe Slalom/Sprint*, December 2024.

Brisbane 2032 will be one of the biggest sporting events in the world and can, as such, deliver benefits on a much broader scale than events associated with domestic sporting codes. Olympic and Paralympic sports are international, providing Queensland with a global shopfront to showcase itself to the world.

Accordingly, to fully leverage the opportunities presented by Brisbane 2032, Paddle recommends that Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) develop a comprehensive *International Sports Event Strategy* to secure international sporting events as revenue generators for Queensland ahead of the Games as a clearly defined pre-legacy benefit. Such a strategy would position Queensland as a global hub for sports tourism, enabling the State to attract and deliver world-class international sporting events across a range of disciplines.

Brisbane 2032 provides an international spotlight, creating a unique eight-year window to capitalise on Queensland's elevated profile with global sporting federations and event organisers. International events represent significant opportunities for Queensland to drive visitation, enhance its brand as a destination and create economic benefits across the State.

Aggressive forward-thinking from TEQ, with matching funding support, would enable Queensland to secure major events such as what PA was been able to secure with the *2025 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships* at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium in New South Wales.

Paddle is confident that these events could be secured if the requisite facility assets and event funding support were available.

Queensland's seasoned capability in hosting events, coupled with world-class venues, would provide TEQ with an enhanced platform to develop a strategy that:

- aligns with broader tourism and economic development goals;
- explores collaborative partnerships with national sporting organisations and international federations; and
- prioritises regional engagement to ensure benefits extend beyond metropolitan areas to rural and regional Queensland.

All these suggested benefits from event activations can be delivered as of now. We should not wait until 2032 to start promoting Queensland.

By investing in an *International Sporting Event Strategy*, the Queensland Government would provide TEQ with an enhanced capacity to unlock Queensland's full potential as a sports tourism leader. This would drive economic, cultural, and community benefits for years to come while strengthening the enduring legacy of Brisbane 2032.

Part 2 of this submission will be lodged on 10 February 2025.

Should the Review Panel have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact PA CEO, Kim Crane on E: [kim.crane@paddle.org.au](mailto:kim.crane@paddle.org.au), or M: 0408 197 672.

Regards,

**Kim Crane**  
**CEO**  
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**Scott Sharples**  
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17 March 2025

Mr David Hourigan  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority  
BY EMAIL: [100DayReview@gvlda.au](mailto:100DayReview@gvlda.au)

Dear Mr Hourigan,

**RE: Supplementary submission from Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland to the 100-day Review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure**

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Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland (collectively, Paddle) welcome the opportunity to submit Part 2 of our response to the Queensland Government's Terms of Reference (TOR) for the 100-Day Review of Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure (the 100-Day Review).

This submission, jointly prepared by Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland, builds upon our initial Part 1 submission (lodged on 10 January 2025), which focused on securing dedicated Olympic and Paralympic venues for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032) in Queensland, specifically:

1. new Slalom whitewater centre; and
2. an international Sprint course in Queensland.

If these two facility assets are not delivered, then there is no legacy opportunity for Queensland.

In this Part 2 supplementary submission, we expand our focus beyond the competition venue in addressing the broader scope of the TOR and the delivery of a generational legacy for paddle sports across regional and rural Queensland.

In addition, we have included as an Annexure to this supplementary submission the regional infrastructure requirements for Northern Gold Coast/South Brisbane, which list the following key priority areas as determined by Paddle Queensland

- development of a Centre of Excellence at Damian Leeding Memorial Park, Oxenford, Gold Coast; and
- development of a 9-Lane Course including spectator seating and shade at Damian Leeding Memorial Park to meet International Canoe Federation standards.

### Specific questions from Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority Board delegates

During Paddle's interview with the Authority Board delegates from the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) on 24 January 2024, the delegates sought more detailed responses to a series of questions.

Many of the questions posed by the GIICA Board delegates also address topics and areas Paddle intended to highlight in this supplementary submission, especially in relation to the legacy opportunities for Queensland that will be permanently lost if investment is not made in these facility assets.

The questions posed by the GIICA Board delegates and Paddle's responses to each are detailed below.

**Q: Are there any specific directions/specifications from the International Canoe Federation (ICF) regarding temperature/timing of the years for the hosting of paddle events?**

*Response:*

The ICF does not dictate specific temperature parameters for paddle sports primarily because it has not needed to do so, owing to the fact that paddle sports are summer, not winter sports.

There has never been any consideration of paddle sports being held during winter for the same reason.

In this context, we highlight the fact that the Olympic and Paralympic Games are the sport's pinnacle international events.

Athletes and spectators from around the world rightly expect elite performances at an Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Any consideration of hosting paddle sports during winter in July (during winter in the foothills of the Blue Mountains, Sydney) will result in compromised performances.

An important point of distinction to make here is that the 2000 Sydney Olympics were held in late September/early October, not in the middle of winter in July.

Further, it is likely Australia would suffer reputational harm, in hosting a Summer Olympic sport during winter.

Q: In relation to the Redlands Whitewater Centre, what legacy outcomes would be lost to Queensland if the whitewater events were to be transferred to Penrith?

*Response:*

The direct answer to this question is that any transfer of whitewater events to Penrith will mean that all legacy outcomes for Queensland will be completely lost.

The new Redlands Whitewater Centre will create an important and strong connection between our sport and the community. This is clearly a venue not just for an Olympic competition in 2032, rather it will offer long-term, sustainable opportunities for the community to enjoy active recreation.

A second, purpose-built whitewater facility in Australia will provide a huge boost for our sport in our ability to grow at a grassroots level as well as develop and train world-class paddlers and bring more major international events down under.

In this context, we highlight the submission dated 7 January 2025 made by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) to the 100-day Review, in which the ICF praised the proposed Redlands Whitewater Centre as representing the best possible example of evolutionary innovation in facility design.

The impact of Brisbane 2032 is more than infrastructure legacy; it helps create a movement. It allows us as the lead governing body in Australia to support, inspire and develop all paddlers, partners, fans and stakeholders to join us in building a sport and lifestyle that inspires, unites, and thrives for generations to come.

At Paddle Australia, we know that great achievements come from clear purpose, bold action and a connected community. Accordingly, our strategy focuses on more than just incremental growth; it challenges us to re-imagine what paddling can be: a home for paddle sport, a world-class sport, a vibrant adventure-focused lifestyle and a community where everyone feels they belong.

Our goal is to create a sustainable foundation for the future - one that embraces innovation, strengthens our financial resilience, and builds pathways for success at every level.

Sport infrastructure allows us to generate and diversify our revenue streams. By investing in new assets, services, and systems, we are preparing for a future where paddling continues to flourish. Our success will depend on reaching more people, welcoming new participants and connecting with broader communities. By aligning with the ICF's *Fit for Future Evolution* strategy, we will elevate paddling's profile on the global stage and showcase Australia as a premier paddling nation.

It should also be noted that the Redlands Whitewater Centre was confirmed as the Canoe Slalom Venue in the Brisbane 2032 Master Plan during the candidature process.

As part of a bigger picture, the Redlands Whitewater Centre will be an integral part of the 62-hectare Birkdale Community Precinct, Redlands Coast's master planned premium parkland.

The Redland Whitewater Centre has been designed for all ages and abilities, will offer activities like tubing on calm waters, learning water safety, beginner paddling, as well as tackling rapids for canoeing, kayaking, and rafting.

This year-round venue will be a great spot for families, emergency services and athletes. Earmarked to host the Canoe Slalom events during the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it could potentially be the international home of Canoe Slalom and future Para-sport disciplines.

The centre could be built and open in 2028, providing impact and advance legacy well before and long after the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Redlands Whitewater Centre will be a new destination for Southeast Queensland tourism and adventure sports communities. Far from being a niche venue, the proximity of the venue to Brisbane and both coasts provides the customer base to ensure its long-term viability as well as facilitate another vitally important attraction for the continued growth of Queensland's visitor economy and the growing adventure and nature-based tourism sectors.

There is also opportunity to partner with local clubs and the Queensland Academy of Sport to deliver beginner to elite and event strategy opportunities - i.e. training camps, Oceania, National and World championship events.

The proximity of the Redlands Whitewater Centre to Brisbane also delivers significant advantages in:

- **connectivity** - it is a short 30 min drive or short daily flights from 3 main airports of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast for athlete transfers.
- **post-training recovery benefits** - Queensland Academy of Sport recovery service bases in Brisbane or the Gold Coast (AIS Sprint Canoe National Centre of Excellence), or Sunshine Coast training centres. By addressing critical facility shortfalls, Redlands Whitewater Centre and International Sprint Course venues can ensure Queensland's regional Paddle sports athletes remain in the sport, enhance development pathways and contribute to Olympic success in 2032.

In Paddle's initial submission to the 100-day Review, we highlighted the fact that Brisbane 2032 will be one of the biggest sporting events in the world and can, as such, deliver benefits on a much broader scale than events associated with domestic sporting codes. Olympic and Paralympic sports are international, providing Queensland with a global shopfront to showcase itself to the world.

We also made the specific recommendation that in order to fully leverage the opportunities presented by Brisbane 2032, Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) needed to be tasked to develop a comprehensive *International Sports Event Strategy* to secure international sporting

events as revenue generators for Queensland ahead of the Games as a clearly defined pre-legacy benefit.

We pointed out that such a strategy would position Queensland as a global hub for sports tourism, enabling the State to attract and deliver world-class international sporting events across a range of disciplines.

**It is concerning that very little work has been undertaken to date in mapping the benefits of hosting international sporting events.**

With the hosting of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032, Australia will join an exclusive club of nations that have hosted three or more Olympic Games. This significant milestone provides not just the opportunity to drive impact and legacy from the Games, but to use the Games as a catalyst to sustain the quality of Australia's international sporting events calendar, delivering lasting leveraging and legacy opportunities before, and importantly, after the Games.

As international recognition of the value of major sporting events has resulted in a significant increase in the competition of winning and delivering events, Queensland and Australia needs to be smarter, not to just win the right to host events, but to drive co-ordinated impact and legacy benefits for the nation and primarily for Queensland.

In Paddle's initial submission to the 100-day Review, we referred to the significant beneficial economic impact resulting from locating an international rowing and paddle centre in a major metropolitan area.

Paddle estimates that in a 10-year period from venue completion, the new facility at the Redlands Whitewater Centre and International Sprint Course could attract an economic impact to the region in excess of \$100M, including for example:

- ICF – Canoe Slalom World Championships – once;
- ICF – U/23 and Junior Canoe Slalom World Championships – once;
- ICF - Canoe Sprint World Championships – once;
- ICF – U/23 and Junior Canoe Sprint World Championships – once;
- ICF – Canoe Polo World Championships – once;
- ICF - World Paddle Games – once [\* see note below – this is a new event concept (this event is projected to deliver an additional \$70 - \$90M economic uplift)];
- Australian Canoe Sprint Championships – three to four times;
- Australian Canoe Slalom Championships – three to four times;
- Australian Canoe Polo Championships – three to four times;
- Australian Freestyle Canoe Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Canoe Sprint Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Canoe Marathon Championships – twice;
- Queensland Canoe Polo Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Dragon Boat Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Stand Up Paddling Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Va'a – Sprint Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Va'a – Distance Championships – three to four times;

- Queensland Canoe Sprint Schools Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Canoe Marathon Schools Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Canoe Polo Schools Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Dragon Boat Schools Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Stand Up Paddling Schools Championships – three to four times;
- Queensland Va'a – Sprint Schools Championships; and
- Queensland Va'a – Distance Schools Championships.

Current benchmark data suggests that Paddle Australia's hosting of the **2025 ICF Slalom World Championships** in Penrith with 25,000 tickets sold and \$13M worth of economic benefit to the Western Sydney region with the event operating on a \$4M budget for delivery.

World Paddle Games is a new concept whereby up to 10 paddle sport disciplines will run their world championships within the same competition period window all at venues and locations within the Southeast Queensland region.

It is difficult to quantify an economic benefit figure, however, with 170 National Federations affiliated within the ICF community the Southeast Queensland region is an ideal destination for pre-Olympic camps, and visiting international teams.

Q: Does Paddle have a preference to have sprint kayak events held over 500m or 1,000m?

The distance of the sprint kayak events is a matter currently under consideration by the sports international body, the ICF.

Sprint kayak events have been held over both 500m and 1,000m at previous Olympic Games.

Q: What details can be provided as to the tenure/lease and planning arrangements for the Redlands Whitewater Centre?

At this stage, it would be premature and speculative to state what ownership structure and operating model is ultimately put in place, however, we refer the GIICA to the more detailed listing of benefits delivered by the Redlands Whitewater Centre set on pp. 5-7 of Paddles' initial submission, which specifically addressed the following seven areas:

- Historical context and need;
- Design and accessibility;
- Community Benefits;
- Education and Safety;
- Sporting Pathways and Competitions;
- Economic and Social Impact; and
- Legacy Planning.

## Summation

We were pleased to note the acknowledgement of GIICA Board delegates during our interview on 24 January 2025 that it is far easier for the Authority to make a recommendation/s that keeps both Paddle and Rowing together for the purposes of the selection of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic venues.

Our strength lies in unity and together with our State Paddle Associations and partners, we will create a nation-wide paddlesport community that harnesses the experience, passion and expertise from every corner of Australia.

While this supplementary submission addresses broader issues of generational outcomes that extend far beyond just Brisbane 2032 itself, we reiterate again the point made in our initial submission that any determination of the Olympic and Paralympic venues for Canoe Sprint and Rowing events should note that the overall number of athletes competing in all event disciplines of both sports at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games comprised approximately 8% of the total overall athlete cohort for the Games – i.e. 10,500. This number is further expanded when support staff and officials are added.

This athlete cohort represents a significant economic benefit to Queensland.

All these benefits will be lost to Queensland if a decision is made to transfer the paddlesport and rowing events for Brisbane 2032 to Penrith. Any such decision will result in zero legacy for Queensland.

This is a time for transformation.

Through innovation, technology, and operational excellence, we will enhance productivity, reduce costs, and improve how we serve our members and stakeholders. At the same time, we are committed to reflecting the changing face of our community by fostering diversity and inclusion in everything we do.

Most importantly, we must lead with purpose and vision when thinking about Brisbane 2032 legacy infrastructure.

Sustainability—social, environmental, and economic—is at the heart of our plans.

We are not just building a thriving paddling ecosystem for today; we are creating a legacy for tomorrow, ensuring our sport and lifestyle remain vibrant, responsible, and resilient for decades to come.

We will elevate paddlesports to new heights, inspire countless people to join our journey, and leave a lasting impact that goes far beyond the water.

Paddle Australia and Paddle Queensland are more than just governing bodies of a sport – we are also a lifestyle.

We are the home of paddlesports.

While clubs will always be at the heart of what we do; we engage actively with and add value to, the broader paddling community and with fit for purpose facilities we can attract the Asian and Oceania paddle sport markets to our region.

Australia has a focus to be a premier global paddle destination, which presents economic benefits to the Tourism, Travel, Hotel and Hospitality markets through attracting international sporting events to the region and creating paddle experiences more broadly.

As a sport we stand ready to work with the Queensland Government and GIICA in delivering these legacy outcomes for our sport and the state as a whole.

Should the Review Panel have any queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact PA CEO, Kim Crane on E: [kim.crane@paddle.org.au](mailto:kim.crane@paddle.org.au), or M: 0408 197 672.

Regards,

Kim Crane OLY CEO Paddle Australia	Scott Sharples Executive Officer Paddle Queensland
Andrew Trim OLY President Paddle Australia	Julian Norton-Smith Chair Paddle Queensland

## Paddle Queensland Incorporated

**Association:** Paddle Queensland Incorporated

**Association Representative:** Scott Sharples

**Position:** Executive Officer

**2024 Membership:** 1,437 (27% growth from 2023)

**Projected Membership Growth by 2034:** 2,011 (40%)

### Scope of Work:

Paddle Queensland is seeking support from Government's to address urgent infrastructure challenges that threaten paddle sports long-term sustainability across Southeast Queensland (SEQ).

The key priority areas include:

- development of a Centre of Excellence at Damian Leeding Memorial Park, Oxenford, Gold Coast; and
- development of a 9-Lane Course including spectator seating and shade at Damian Leeding Memorial Park to meet International Canoe Federation standards.

Queensland has a significant shortfall in regatta centres, limiting talent development, participation growth and event-hosting capabilities. Despite housing the most competitive regattas in Queensland, the SEQ region struggles with course shortages, forcing paddlers to train outside optimal high-performance conditions due to capacity limitations.

Regional paddlers relocate to the SEQ region's elite programs, but the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) Canoe Program, Australia's largest high-performance paddle program, trains at a substandard facility.

To address these issues, the Paddle Centre Infrastructure Review highlighted a current two centre shortage, increasing to three by 2032. The review provides a roadmap for Brisbane's long-term paddle infrastructure strategy, ensuring a lasting Olympic legacy through targeted investment in:

- developing high-performance facilities across the Northern Gold Coast/South Brisbane; and
- new training centres to meet increasing demand.

These infrastructure improvements will ensure SEQ is fully equipped to support Brisbane 2032 and sustain paddle's continued growth throughout Queensland.

Strategic investment in Paddle Queensland infrastructure will not only safeguard the sport locally, but will also establish the region as an Olympic training and competition hub in the lead-up to Brisbane 2032.

### Key Infrastructure Requirements:

#### 1) Centre of Excellence and Course (CEC) – Northern Gold Coast/South Brisbane

The CEC is critical to ensuring both high-performance athletes and community-level participation going forward. An investment in the CEC ensures Queensland has a dedicated home for Olympic-level training and a post-Games paddle legacy.

The proposed key infrastructure requirements will ensure Brisbane 2032 leaves a permanent impact on Queensland paddling.

As part of the CEC, there is potential to include an indoor facility for year-round high-performance training. The CEC would position Paddle Queensland as an ideal destination for Queensland and Australian Paddle sports events, pre-Olympic camps, and visiting international teams.

#### 2) Facility Expansion to Support Growth

With projected membership growth of 40% by 2034, Paddle Queensland requires additional Paddle sports capacity, including:

- eight new modern boat houses that serve as both a community hub and a resource centre to support increasing participation. The new facilities will incorporate solar power to align with sustainability goals and reduce operational costs to provide year-round paddling and training opportunities, as well as supporting junior and senior competition expansion.

Boat house expansion will strengthen SEQ's position as a premier paddle sports venue, allowing Paddle Queensland to attract and retain Paddle sport athletes while hosting larger-scale competitions.

#### 3) Infrastructure Modernisation

Several critical positioned boat houses require immediate attention, including:

- modernisation and addition of change rooms to include enhanced recovery zones, athlete warm up/cool down facilities and accessibility improvements; and
- improved parking and public transport access

Investments in these modernisations will improve the conditions for paddle sports, encourage community engagement and enable Queensland clubs to host high-quality paddle sports events, driving economic and social benefits across the region.

### Indicative Costs:

Outlined below are the estimated costs for the CEC and Course on the Gold Coast:

Infrastructure Project	Estimated Investment
Stage 1: State Paddle Centre of Excellence (2026/7)	\$2,000,000
Stage 1: State Paddle Centre of Excellence Nine Lane Course with Spectator Seating and Shade (2026/7)	\$1,000,000
Stage 2: Preliminary World Cup and World Championships Enhancements (2028/30)	\$500,000
Stage 3: Ongoing Maintenance (2031-2036/7)	\$1,500,000
<b>Total Estimated Investment over 10 years</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

*Note: These project costs are preliminary estimates only and may be refined following further detailed assessments. Paddle Queensland in partnership with other stakeholders, including the Queensland Government, is willing to contribute financially towards the facility's development.*

These infrastructure investments are not just about building a CEC, but ensuring that SEQ can play a central role in the Olympic narrative, which is a once in a generation opportunity.

### How This Project Enhances Activations for Brisbane 2032

The development of the CEC is crucial for Paddle Queensland to fully engage and contribute to the success of Brisbane 2032, while maintaining and meeting the operational requirements of the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

- **Hosting Olympic and Paralympic Pre-Training Camps:** International teams can conduct their pre-Olympic and Paralympic training on the Gold Coast, leveraging top-tier facilities that meet ICF standards.
- **Organising Pre-Olympic and Paralympic Events:** Enhanced facilities will position Paddle Queensland to attract high-profile international competitions such as the Oceania Asia Pacific Cup and major regattas leading up to 2032, such as the 2030 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships.
- **Accelerating Regional Engagement:** By hosting international, national, and state events, Paddle Queensland will drive regional engagement, participation and pathway development for local athletes.

In addition, the Gold Coast has a proud paddle sports legacy, producing world-class athletes who have represented Australia on the Olympic and Paralympic stage. Notable Olympians and Paralympians include:

- Clint Robinson;
- Ken Wallace;
- Tom Green;
- Curtis McGrath; and
- Susan Siepel.

Additionally, the Gold Coast plays a crucial role in Queensland's paddle sports talent pipeline, with:

- 12 junior Paddle sport athletes in the Queensland state pathway; and
- 12 Paddle sport athletes in the senior high-performance pathway.

Investment in Gold Coast paddle sports infrastructure will ensure the region continues to produce elite talent for Brisbane 2032 and beyond. The CEC will also serve as a high-performance training base, supporting Olympic and Paralympic preparation with:

- **Climate acclimatisation** – Similar conditions to Brisbane for optimal athlete readiness.
- **Proximity to the capital** – A short drive (under one hour) for athlete transfers from either Gold Coast or Brisbane airports.

By addressing critical facility shortfalls, the Gold Coast can ensure Queensland's regional Paddle sports athletes remain in the sport, enhance development pathways, and contribute to Olympic success in 2032.

The Paddle Queensland proposal encapsulates the National and International event opportunities for the Gold Coast over the next decade, extending beyond Brisbane 2032. Key events such as the 2030 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships are pivotal, with the necessary infrastructure improvements aligned strategically with the proposed event timetable.

#### **2027/8 Target Events:**

State Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling  
School Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling

Interstate: Canoe Sprint Grand Prix

National Champs: Canoe Sprint, Stand Up Paddling

Asia Pacific Cup: Canoe Sprint

#### **2029 Target Events:**

State Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling  
School Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling

Interstate: Canoe Sprint Grand Prix

National Champs: Canoe Marathon, Dragon Boat

**2030 Target Events:**

State Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling

School Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling

Interstate: Canoe Sprint Grand Prix

National Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Polo, Stand up Paddling

World Cup: Stand up Paddling

World Championships: Canoe Sprint

International Camps: Canoe Sprint

**2031 Target Events:**

State Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling

School Champs: Canoe Sprint, Canoe Marathon, Canoe Polo, Dragon Boat and Stand Up Paddling

Interstate: Canoe Sprint Grand Prix

National Champs: Canoe Sprint

International Camps: Canoe Sprint

**Engagement & Partnerships:**

Paddle Queensland has a proven track record of successful collaboration with various stakeholders, including:

**Engagement:**

- City of Gold Coast Mayor - Tom Tate;
- Paddle Australia Chief Executive Officer - Kim Crane; and
- ICF President - Thomas Konietzko.

**Partnerships:**

- Gold Coast Paddlesports;
- SYC Oxenford Watersports Centre;
- Gold Coast Outrigger Canoe Club;
- Coomera Dragons; and
- Oxenford Rowing Club.

Support from the Queensland Government for this project will ensure the Gold Coast becomes a key contributor to Queensland's paddle sports legacy, supporting community sport and high-performance athlete pathways.

Paddle Queensland is committed to contributing towards SEQ's broader Olympic and Paralympic activation strategy, maintaining the city's status as a premier paddle and sports hub in Australia.

**Conclusion & Call to Action:**

As the Brisbane 2032 Games draw closer, Paddle Queensland is committed to ensuring the CEC becomes a focal point for elite and grassroots paddling. By ensuring that our venues align with international standards, we can unlock significant economic benefits from hosting major events, potentially delivering a return on investment.

Legacy and growth in the sport of paddling on the Gold Coast must begin now. This proposal is more than just a plan for a facility; it is a strategic investment in the future of paddle sports, fostering community engagement and securing the region's place on the global stage for generations.

*ENDS*