

2021 IRC CONGRESS
AUSTRALIAN REPORT

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Overview of IRC in Australia:

Due to the lack of racing in Australia during 2020/21 there has been a significant decrease in the number of boats that revalidated during the year while new applications have remained reasonably steady. On a positive note, the Australian yacht racing fraternity still considers IRC the premier rating system and is patiently awaiting the resumption of both inshore and offshore racing regattas.

Table 1 - Revalidations and New IRC applicationsⁱ

Year	Number of IRC boats	Number of new boats	Percentage of new boats
2018	446	62	14%
2019	329	30	9%
2020	283	33	12%

This year certificates in Australia are being charged using a tiered system rather than a flat rate. The feedback from owners around the country has been very positive about this change. The Australian office switched from spreadsheet-based processing to using a new database system. This change has greatly improved workflow efficiency and decreased processing times for certificate applications.

Racing in Australia

The Sydney to Hobart event for 2020 was cancelled after a COVID outbreak in Sydney decimated the available crew. Hamilton Island Race Week has not gone ahead for two years running which has been very disappointing for all. This year the Australian IRC Titles which were to be held in conjunction with the Hamilton Island Race Week event have been abandoned as well.

There is great expectation amongst the IRC fleet that this year's Sydney to Hobart will proceed as planned. Many boats are preparing off-water for this event now. There is no indication currently that we will not be lining up for the start on 26th December.

The tables below show the breakdown of IRC applications in Australia, by state, for financial years 2019 and 2020. Comparing Table 2 with Table 3 it shows applications in New South Wales have dropped 40% while in Western Australia there has been a 70% increase.

Table 2 - Applications broken down by State for 2019/20

IRC By Application Type and State								
ApplicationType	Count	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	TAS	SA	NT
Revalidation	311	136	41	39	29	36	20	
Amendment	113	61	11	16	5	12	6	
Trial	44	19	4	4	7	8	2	
New Application	34	9	4	8	2	7	2	1
Re-registration	6	4	1					
COPY CERTIFICATE	4			1				
Short Handed Application	1	1						
Totals	513	230	61	68	43	63	30	1

Table 3- Applications broken down by State for 2020/21

IRC By Application Type and State								
ApplicationType	Count	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	TAS	SA	NT
Revalidation	262	92	47	33	42	25	14	
Amendment	118	61	6	26	11	5	4	
Trial	45	19	1	6	10	7	2	
New Application	33	13	5	4	1	7	1	
Copy Certificate	27	15		6	2	1	2	
Re-registration	8	7				1		
Short Handed Application	2	2						
Totals	495	209	59	75	66	46	23	

Looking Forward

Looking at the current rating year (2021/2022) the number of quarter one applications is down from 174 to 153. If the Sydney to Hobart race and the race schedule prior proceeds as planned, it is expected that the Rating Office will have a very busy time in the lead up to Christmas. Every effort will be made to accommodate boat owners and skippers to ensure all certificates are able to be processed in time with a particular focus on reducing the volume of expedited requests.

ⁱ The data shown in the tables in this report are for applications based on the Australian IRC Rating year (June – May).