2026 IRC CONGRESS

AUSTRALIAN REPORT

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Executive Summary

Key Points:

1. Issued certificates have increased compared to 2024.
2. Standard certificates are becoming more popular.
3. 80th Sydney to Hobart had 103 entries and the winner was the first female and double handed winner in its history.

Overview of IRC in Australia:

Table 1

Application Type	Count
REVALIDATION	293
AMENDMENT	138
TRIAL	48
NEW APPLICATION	33
SECONDARY REVALIDATION	27
SECONDARY NEW APPLICATION	19
COPY CERTIFICATE	4
NEW STANDARD APPLICATION	35

Certificates issued increased by 32 in 2025, a 9% increase. Standard certificates are becoming more popular as boats approach the point where weighing and further measurement is required.

The introduction of the classic boat regatta run by the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club earlier this year attracted 20 new boats to IRC and many of these were standard certificates. This regatta is planned again for 2027, and indications are it will be bigger than 2026 which is encouraging.

The 2025 Sydney to Hobart had 103 entries in IRC and saw the first female skipper Jiang Lin and double hander win the race in Min River a JPK 10.30. This is also the only the boat under 12.19m (40 foot) to have won the race on IRC since 1989 when Another Challenge skippered by Lou Abrahams won the race. Double handed racing is continuing to grow in the Australian fleet.

2026/7 Season is showing the similar growth in the numbers

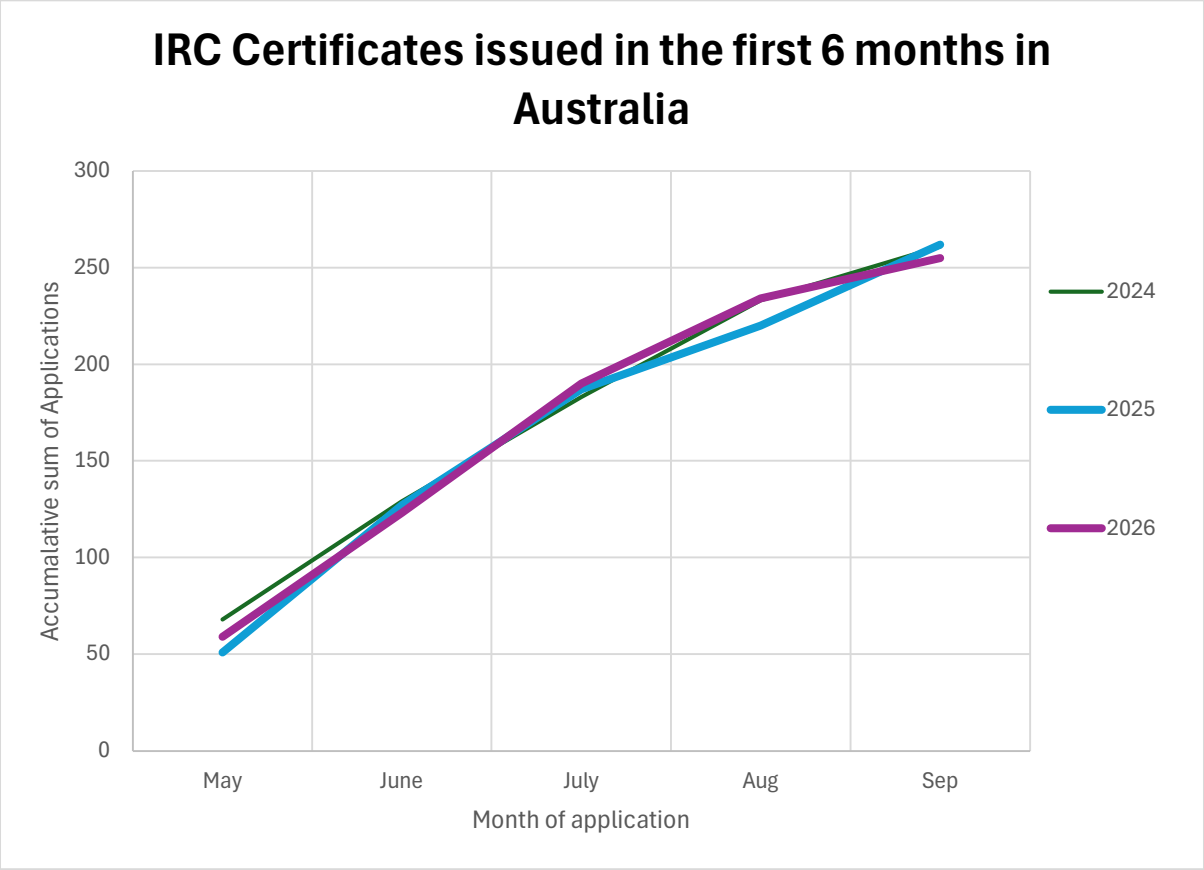

Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the applications for revalidations and new certificates for the first 6 months of the rating year in Australia (opening in June). The chart shows our numbers are consistent year by year yet last year's number reversed the trend by increasing. The numbers for 2026 are incomplete at the time of writing this report, however, it is expected to be similar to 2025.

Hopefully the 2026 edition of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race will see an increase in competitors again this year. This race continues to be the pinnacle of offshore yacht racing in Australia.

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