



# SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2023-2027

Coolangatta Surf Club

PREPARED BY



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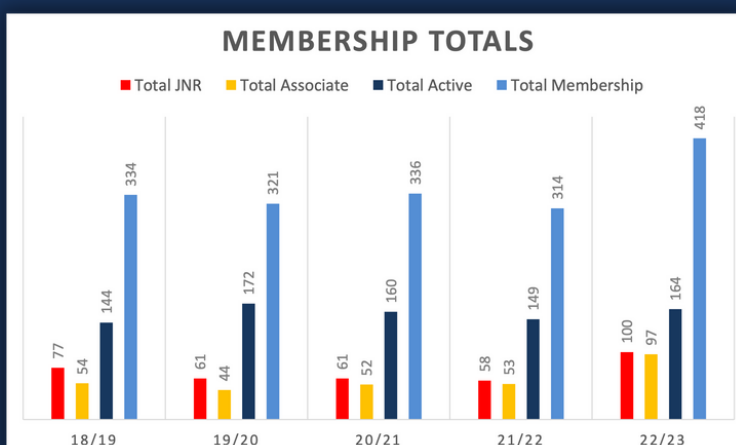
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# INTRODUCTION

In December 2022, several members of the surf club gathered for a sustainability workshop. The workshop formed a strategic planning session that identified the clubs values, its key stakeholders and the formation of a sustainability strategy.

From the workshop, it was made clear that the consideration of sustainability in strategic planning is key to the safe and continued operation of the Coolangatta Surf Club (CSC). We are introducing this sustainability strategy as our first formal strategic plan to address sustainability.

While CSC is seen as a single entity, we are actually two separate businesses. The Coolangatta Surf Life Saving Club (CSLSC) is a legitimate charity with many members (see graphic below) while the Supporters Club is a not-for-profit that supports CSCs goals.



Although we are one surf club amongst many others, we impact a large audience. In this strategy, we acknowledge that our impacts extends beyond our immediate stakeholders, and have designed the strategy with that in mind.

The sustainability strategy aims to have a positive impact beyond the club itself to influence the surrounding community. The community and the environment are intrinsically connected, meaning, we cannot help the community without helping the environment.

Progress on the sustainability strategy will come with many benefits to CSC, including improved risk management, attracting increasing sponsorship, members and volunteers, and improving our reputation as a leading surf club on the Gold Coast.

This sustainability strategy outlines our plans to review and set targets that enable us to continue providing key life saving services sustainably into the future. It is our hope that this strategy also helps to encourage greater membership of volunteers, maintain a consistent membership, and inspire future membership amongst the younger generation.



# VALUES, MISSION STATEMENT & NET ZERO

## COOLANGATTA SURF CLUB VALUES

- Preservation of Life
- Community Service
- Teamwork and Leadership
- Trust and Respect
- Innovation and Inclusivity

**MISSION STATEMENT**

"CSC AIMS TO LEAD IN FOSTERING INNOVATION OF SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN SURF LIFE SAVING WHILE PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE, EDUCATE AND IMPLEMENT A SUSTAINABLE CULTURE IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR CLUB."



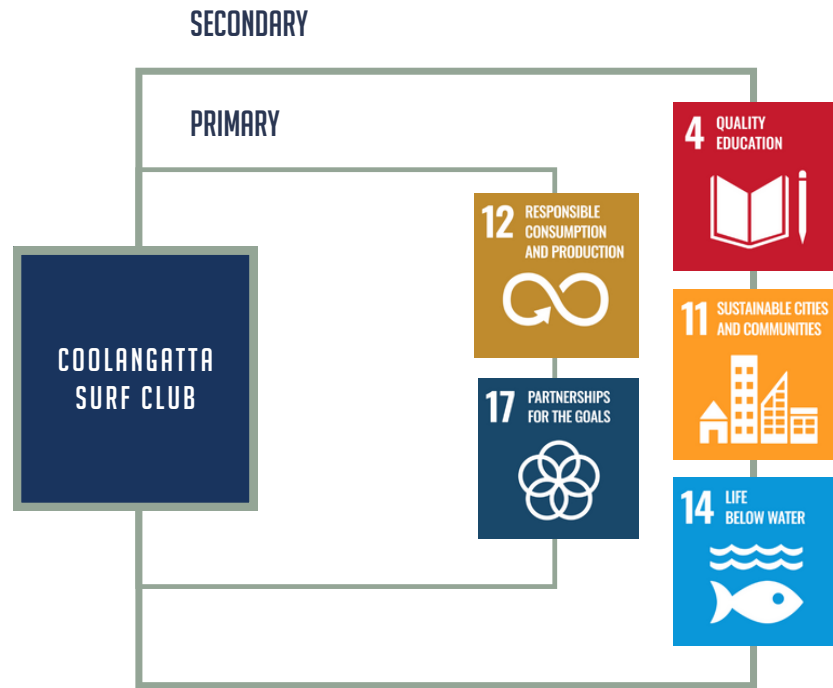
**NET ZERO STATEMENT**

"AT CSC, WE ARE COMMITTED TO REDUCING OUR CARBON EMISSIONS TO NET ZERO BY 2035 THROUGH A COMBINATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CARBON OFFSETTING PROGRAMS."



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Based on our mission statement and key values at the surf club, we have identified several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which serve as a blueprint for the strategy. Our SDGs are split into primary and secondary SDGs. We are focused on the primary SDGs, however we are pursuing actions on the secondary SDGs simultaneously as we believe they underpin and are the to key achieving our primary SDGs.



## PRIMARY



12: Ensure sustainable management of the club by implementing the appropriate policies and frameworks at the club that reduce our use of energy, waste and water.



17: To achieve our sustainability goals, we plan to encourage strong partnerships. Partnering with other businesses and organisations with similar values will enable us to share knowledge and expertise with one another. Strengthening existing partnerships will also be a key focus to coordinate sustainability policies and regulations and effectively decarbonise our supply chains.

## SECONDARY



4: Harness the opportunity we have as a surf club to improve the quality of our education by adding sustainability to our existing education programs. We aim to provide learners with the knowledge needed to promote sustainability in the community.



11: Our strategy aims to reduce our impact on the community and surrounding environment while promoting an inclusive environment for future generations. We will consider sustainability throughout any refurbishments and renovations of our building.

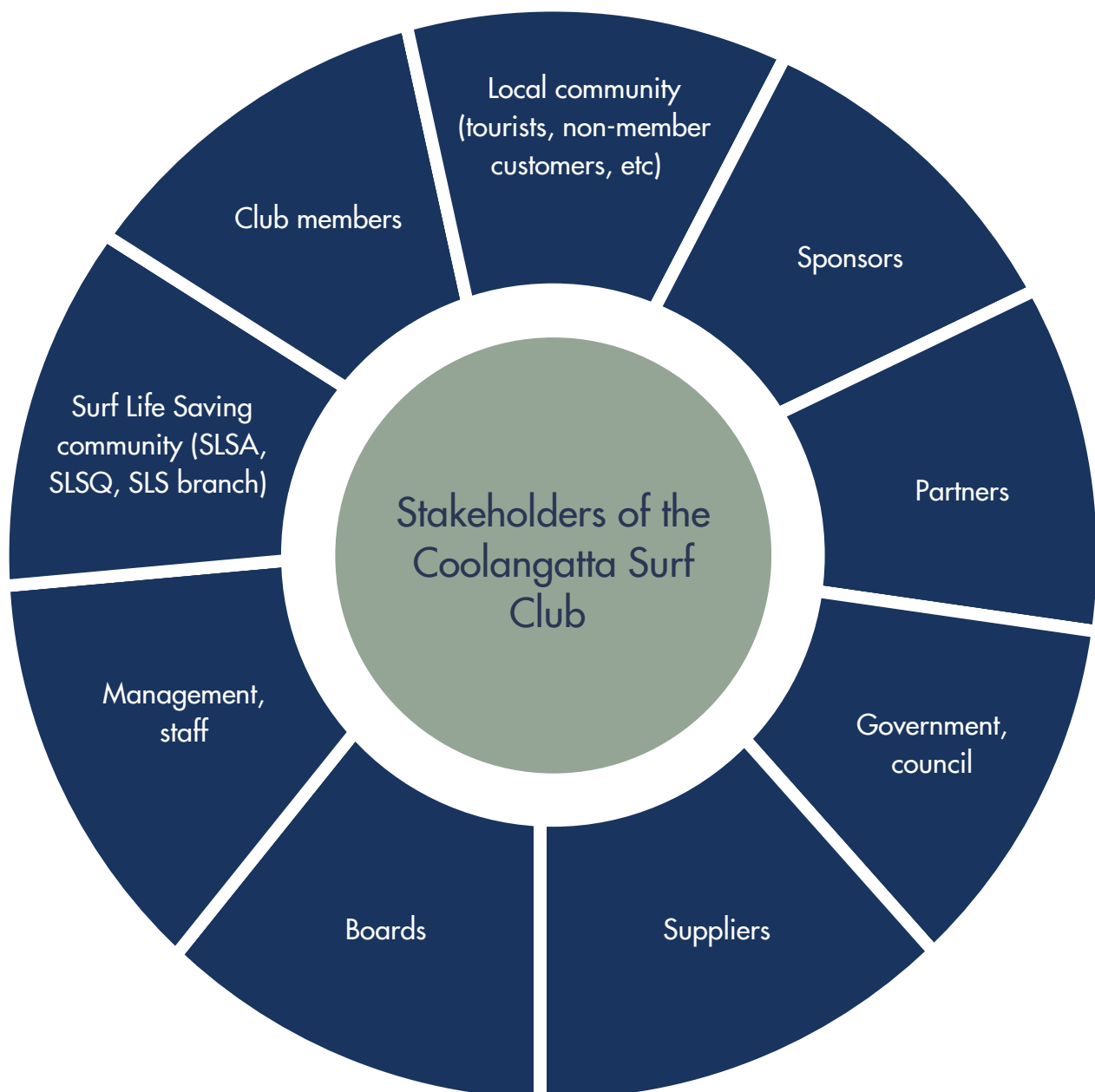


14: We must ensure that the continued operation of the surf club does not impact life in the ocean. Every process at the club will be examined to verify that we are using best practices for the marine environment.



# STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders will be involved along the journey towards our sustainability targets. As part of our process, we are considering all our stakeholders and their interests in the club to ensure that they are effectively engaged and benefitting from this strategy.



# CURRENT INITIATIVES

CSC has begun implementing several sustainability initiatives, and this strategy will ensure that we remain accountable to implementing effective future actions. Assessing our current initiatives will help the club identify areas for improvement.

Sustainability initiatives at the club to date include:



Providing recycle bins for beverage containers



Removing bottled water from patrol and replacing with reusable bottles



Review assessment of waste management practices



Meal packaging has changed from plastic to cardboard containers



Switch from plastic to wooden cutlery and paper straws





# CURRENT TRENDS & RISKS

As a part of this strategy, we have analysed current trends in regards to sustainability in the nonprofit sector. This analysis also identified some potential risks to implementing a sustainability strategy.

Identifying trends can help CSC stay informed about the latest developments in the nonprofit sector and provide valuable insights into the direction the sector is moving in. This can help the club to make informed decisions and stay ahead of the curve.

Identifying risks can help CSC to anticipate, plan, and mitigate potential challenges and obstacles that may arise in the course of implementing the sustainability strategy. This can help the club to avoid or mitigate those risks and ensure the success of the strategy's initiatives.

Overall, by identifying trends and risks, CSC can better understand the landscape in which it operates, and can develop a more effective and comprehensive strategy.

## TRENDS

- A growing focus on climate action and the need to address the impacts of climate change on communities and the environment.
- Greater emphasis on sustainable practices and reducing waste.
- Development of innovative solutions to environmental challenges, such as renewable energy technologies and sustainable food systems.
- Collaboration and partnerships with other organisations to amplify impact and share resources.
- Increased transparency and accountability in reporting on environmental performance.
- Growing recognition of the role of the nonprofit sector in driving progress towards environmental sustainability.
- An emphasis on education and outreach to raise awareness about environmental issues and engage communities in sustainability efforts.
- An increase in the number of nonprofit organisations that are working to advance social and environmental justice, particularly for marginalised and disadvantaged communities.
- A growing recognition of the importance of integrating sustainability into all aspects of nonprofit operations, from program delivery to fundraising and governance.

## RISKS

- ⚠ Potential for increased costs associated with implementing sustainability measures or the loss of funding from stakeholders who do not support the organisation's sustainability efforts.
- ⚠ Uncertainty of the future impacts of climate change.
- ⚠ Response from stakeholders who do not support the club's sustainability initiatives or who perceive the organisation as prioritising sustainability goals over its core mission.
- ⚠ Potential for disruptions or challenges in implementing sustainability measures, or the need to adapt to new regulations or standards.



# STRATEGY SNAPSHOT

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## MISSION STATEMENT

CSC aims to lead in fostering innovation of sustainability within Surf Life Saving while preserving the community and environment. We have a responsibility to create, educate and implement a sustainable culture in all aspects of our Club.

### YEAR 1 2023

- Develop a sustainable procurement policy
- Incorporate sustainability education within SLS courses
- Work with community organisations on sustainability initiatives
- Establish a team to oversee the sustainability strategy
- Transition to full LED lighting in the club
- Complete a solar assessment for the surf club
- Conduct a complete waste audit and develop a food composting system
- Become ocean friendly certified
- Identify sustainable alternatives for all products used at the surf club

### YEAR 2 2024

- Collaborate with suppliers to minimise product distance travelled
- Complete a full carbon audit (scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions)
- Curate an emission reductions plan
- Install rooftop solar at the club
- Develop a waste management plan & educate employees on the plan
- Install a water meter

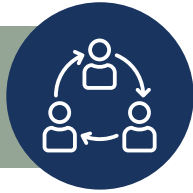
### YEARS 3-5 2025-2027

- Assess the effectiveness of the waste management plan
- Investigate water-saving technologies
- Apply principles of the circular economy
- Monitor and track progress on the emission reductions plan and all sustainability initiatives
- Complete annual waste, carbon and water auditing
- Publish annual overview reports
- Apply for Climate Active certification
- Purchase carbon offsets
- Begin development of the Coolangatta Sustainability Strategy 2028-2032

**NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2035**

# YEAR 1 - 2023

## Engagement



- Harness procurement opportunities by developing a sustainable procurement policy. Work with suppliers to meet the terms of the policy and reduce the amount of carbon emissions and waste produced from the products CSC receives.
- Engage with suppliers on energy, waste and water management techniques. Collaborate on ways to improve efficiency and sustainability. Investigate the opportunity for packaging to be sent back to suppliers and reused for the next delivery of supplies.
- Incorporate sustainability education within existing SLS courses to educate the future of environmental warriors. Investigate incorporating sustainability education into a mandatory SLS training program, such as 'Proficiency'.
- Identify organisations or groups in the community that share similar goals and values to the club. Explore ways to work together on initiatives that promote sustainability through organising events, sharing resources, or collaborating on projects that benefit the community.
- Establish a well-rounded team at the club tasked with overseeing the implementation of the strategy and ensuring the club stays on track to meeting targets. Task the team with collaborating with internal and external stakeholders as necessary.
- Circulate the sustainability strategy among all club stakeholders to ensure everyone is aware of the plan and its goals. Add the sustainability strategy to mandatory staff onboarding documents.
- Utilise the club's social media and other public platforms to raise awareness about sustainability issues, promote what the club is doing, and to inspire others to take action.

## Energy



- Transition from partial to full LED lighting in the club. Investigate funding options to support this initiative.
- Complete a solar assessment for the surf club and investigate funding options for solar.

## Waste



- Conduct a complete waste audit to assess the various types and quantities of waste generated by the club, and identify opportunities for reducing, reusing and recycling those materials.
- Maximise space in the bin storage room to allow for multiple waste streams. Consider rubbish compacting.
- Develop a food composting system.
- Become ocean friendly certified by removing all single use plastics in circulation around the club.
- Minimise unnecessary food waste by making all club food from scratch.
- Review all products used by the surf club and identify sustainable alternatives such as biodegradable cleaning products and wax for surfboards.

# YEAR 2 - 2024

## Supply Chain



- Collaborate with suppliers to minimise the distance products travel before arriving at the club. Update the sustainable procurement policy with a maximum product distance travelled requirement. For instance, “maximum product distance travelled no more than 200km”.

## Energy



- Complete a full carbon audit (scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions).
- Curate an emission reductions plan based on the results from the carbon audit to support net zero emissions by 2035.
- Install rooftop solar at the club.

## Waste



- Develop a waste management plan for sorting and segregating different waste streams and implement measures to reduce waste generation.
- Educate employees of the club on the implementation of the waste management plan through guidelines for sorting and storing waste products.

## Water



- Install a water meter to track the amount of water being used at the club. Appoint a representative from the sustainability team to measure and record water use with the water meter at regular intervals (i.e. weekly). This will allow the club to track the total amount of water used over time and identify trends or changes in water usage.

# YEARS 3-4 - 2025, 2026 & 2027

## Waste



- Track, review and assess the effectiveness of the waste management plan and make adjustments as needed to improve performance and reduce waste.

## Water



- Investigate water-saving technologies, such as capturing rainwater water in water tanks for use at the Club to reduce the amount of water drawn from council water sources. Engage in partnerships within the community that can facilitate implementation of the water tanks.

## Circular Economy



- Minimise the use of non-renewable sources of energy while maximising the club's potential for renewable energy.
- Limit use of products to only those which can be easily repaired, upgraded and repurposed rather than being discarded after a single use.
- Collaborate with other businesses and organisations to create closed-loop systems that allow for the continual reuse of materials and resources.
- Educate employees, customers, and the general community about the benefits of the circular economy and how they can contribute to it.
- Evaluate and improve the club's practices and processes on an ongoing basis to ensure that they align with principles of the circular economy.

## Tracking & Monitoring



- Review of data collation across all sustainability initiatives to ensure tracking and measuring is being adhered to.
- Closely monitor progress on the emission reductions plan.
- Complete annual waste, carbon and water auditing to measure progress on the baseline measurements.
- Regularly review and assess progress towards our sustainability strategy. Publish annual overview reports to share how the club is tracking on its sustainability metrics to maintain transparency and accountability.

## Other



- Apply for Climate Active certification.
- Purchase carbon offsets to neutralise any remaining emissions.
- Begin development of the Coolangatta Sustainability Strategy 2028-2032.



## AN EVOLVING STRATEGY

We plan to engage regularly with stakeholders, such as employees, sponsors, and members, to ensure that the sustainability strategy aligns with their values and priorities. We will also continue to review for gaps in the strategy that may impact our ability to achieve our targets.

CSC is aware that the world, our community and the environment is constantly changing. This means that the sustainability strategy needs to be flexible and adaptable in order to remain relevant and effective.

New technologies, regulations, and changing stakeholder priorities and concerns can all impact the club's ability to achieve its sustainability targets. By ensuring this strategy is dynamic, the CSC can take these changes into account and adjust plans accordingly.

We are invested in the entire journey of this strategy, not just the final goal. Effective management and regular reporting of this strategy will ensure benefits throughout the entire process of the strategy.

As we near the end of this strategy in 2027, we will begin designing our second 5 year strategy which will progress the club to net zero emissions by 2035.

# GET IN TOUCH

The Coolangatta Surf Club encourages everyone to reach out if they have any recommendations for the Sustainability Strategy. New information on the Sustainability Strategy will be released on the [Coolangatta Surf Club website](#) as it becomes available.

Please [contact us](#) if you have any comments on the Coolangatta Surf Club's Sustainability Strategy.



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