



South Australian Gliding Association Inc

SAGA Strategic Plan 2026 – 2030



South Australian Gliding Association (SAGA) Inc

www.sagliding.org.au

SAGA is a registered incorporated association (number A1076)

ABN 64237791067

Introduction

The South Australian Gliding Association (SAGA) Strategic Plan has been developed to align with the Strategic Intent of Gliding Australia (GAus) while focusing on the unique needs and opportunities within our region. This plan is designed to serve as a continuous point of reference for our committee and a clear guide for securing funding to support our clubs and members.

Gliding is a unique sport, largely powered by the dedication of volunteers who are the lifeblood of our community. However, the world of aviation and sport is evolving rapidly. We recognize the need to adapt to changing community expectations, technological advancements, and the increasing demand for accessible and inclusive sports.

This plan outlines our commitment to not only embrace these changes but to be at the forefront of them. It addresses key challenges, such as:

- Club sustainability and governance: Ensuring our clubs have the capability and resources to thrive.
- Safety and skills development: Providing pathways for training and growth for all members, from new pilots to high-performance competitors.
- Inclusion and growth: Actively working to increase female and youth participation and welcoming all demographics.
- Infrastructure and airspace: Protecting and enhancing our facilities and operational areas.

By focusing on these strategic areas, SAGA aims to create a robust and sustainable future for gliding in South Australia and the Northern Territory, ensuring the sport remains a popular and accessible form of aviation for generations to come.

Acknowledgement of Country

We, the South Australian Gliding Association, acknowledge that we operate from and glide over the traditional lands of Aboriginal peoples across South Australia and the Northern Territory. We recognise their spiritual relationship with Country and honour their cultural heritage, beliefs, and continuing connections to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Strategic Area 1: Success and Growth

- Support clubs to build capability in governance to ensure grant readiness.
- Ensure all clubs maintain compliance with Gliding Australia's Integrity Framework.
- Proactively identify and disseminate information on grants and resources for clubs to improve facilities, attract new members and counter financial disruptions.
- Develop and implement strategies to increase volunteer participation
- Organise and promote community events to engage new audiences and increase attendance year-on-year.
- Promote gliding as an accessible and inclusive sport for all demographics, including youth, women, and underrepresented groups.
- Increase female participation in gliding from current levels by 2030.
- Support children and youth to get involved in the sport more through embedding gliding training in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

Strategic Area 2: Skills Development

- Offer pathways for skill development in cross-country, competition, and high-performance soaring for pilots of all ages.
- Organise and subsidise participation in coaching events for aspiring pilots.
- Provide subsidised courses to enhance training of instructors and coaches.
- Organise regular courses to train volunteers in maintenance to ensure safety.
- Leverage digital platforms for engagement with the gliding community.
- Develop and implement a robust succession planning framework for key leadership and technical roles, particularly CFIs.
- Celebrate achievements in the sport through the awards and trophies system.

Strategic Area 3: Facilities and Airspace

- Create a state centre for airworthiness training courses (Strategic Projects).
- Identify opportunities for infrastructure initiatives that reduce the environmental impact of gliding operations.
- Facilitate initiatives to ensure clubs have diverse and reliable launch capabilities, including aerotow and winch systems, to protect operations and event delivery.
- Develop plans to upgrade facilities to support diversity among members.
- Protect the freedom of our members to utilise airfields and airspace.
- Identify opportunities to expand coverage of the Open Gliding Network.

Strategic Project

State Airworthiness Training Centre

We aim to create a purpose-built state airworthiness training centre, enabling us to conduct airworthiness courses from basic maintenance right to comprehensive sailplane repair, with weight and balance, and tuition in engine maintenance and refurbishment. The centre should be semi-permanent with accommodation available for extended courses. One of the advantages of having such a facility is that all the necessary equipment will be in the one place making it possible to hold airworthiness courses over several weekends, or intensive weeklong courses, depending on the nature of the course. This workshop complex could also benefit university students, who are a key source of new members for gliding.

Implementation and Evaluation

The Executive Committee will maintain the Strategic Plan as a standing agenda item at all meetings. Progress on each strategic goal and key project will be tracked through a checklist to show plans, progress and assigned responsibilities. This process will enable the committee to proactively identify opportunities for improvement, address challenges, and make necessary changes in direction to ensure the plan's success.

The success of this strategic plan will be evaluated through a continuous improvement cycle:

Annual Review: On an annual basis, the Executive Committee will compile a progress report based on the objectives outlined for each strategic goal. This report will be shared with member clubs at each Annual General Meeting. Feedback will be used to gauge the effectiveness of the plan's initiatives from the perspective of our members and clubs.

Mid-Term Evaluation: In the middle of the plan's cycle (2027 – 2028), the committee will conduct a comprehensive mid-term review. This will assess progress against all strategic goals and allow for adjustments to priorities or resource allocation as needed.

Final Evaluation: In the final year of the plan (2029 – 2030), the Executive Committee will invite representatives from all member clubs to a strategic workshop. The purpose of this workshop will be to evaluate the overall success and suitability of the strategic goals and projects, inform the development of the next strategic plan, and ensure a seamless transition to the next cycle of growth for the association.