

NZOKDA

Strategic Road Map.

New Zealand would firstly like to thank the authors of the Strategic Road-Map. Obviously a lot of time has been spent creating this proposal, which is clearly aimed at ultimately securing the future of the International OK dinghy, to the benefit of ALL OK sailors worldwide. That is to be commended.

As an association, New Zealand is in favour of the road map in principle.

Generating more professional media and advertising is vital to achieving increased sailor numbers. This is beneficial to the smaller fleets, as if the information / advertising is carefully targeted, we can extoll the virtues of the class and attract new sailors. Once fleet numbers begin to increase, critical mass will begin to show.

The follow on from this is with increased numbers, qualification for international events becomes more prominent, thereby increasing the standard of sailors at the said events, which is a big draw card to those competing or wishing to complete.

Some have commented that individual numbers appear stable already. That may or may not be the case (and if it is the case, we would submit that is due in large part to the enormous voluntary contribution already made by the very people who have contributed to the Roadmap), but it must be recognised that numbers of individual sailors are not all that matters. It is crucial that there is also a drive to increase the number of countries who genuinely participate in the class. We think the Roadmap offers the best chance to achieve this.

As has previously been said by other Nations with regard to the proposed increase in fees payable to OKDIA. For the record, New Zealand fully supports this increase. We struggle to understand some of the arguments raised based on cost alone – this seems a very short-sighted view point, and should not be seen as a stumbling block for the whole strategic road map proposal. To put the issue in context, it must be recognised that the fees are currently so low as to be virtually non-existent. We think it is unreasonable for individuals to expect that to continue indefinitely.

New Zealand also supports the proposed objectives on the technical side. With the increase in new builders and new boats, an overhaul is clearly needed for the sailors to remain confident that measurement is consistent and that competitors' boats are within the rules.

New Zealand whole-heartedly looks forward to positively voting on these proposals at the Worlds in Melbourne.