

# Celebrating co-operatives and mutuals in IYC2025

THIS IS  
SOCIAL  
BUSINESS

## About International Year of Cooperatives 2025



**Co-operatives and mutuals hold a unique distinction as the only business model recognised by the United Nations with a dedicated International Year – first in 2012, and again in 2025.**

The theme of the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025) is "Co-ops Build a Better World". With more than one billion members globally, this message reflects the co-operative movement's long-lasting social and economic impact and their vital role in accelerating progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

International Year of Cooperatives 2025 is a chance to highlight the significant socio-economic contributions of co-operatives, particularly their roles in poverty reduction, job creation and social integration.



IYC2012 Australian coin



Melina Morrison,  
The Hon Bill Shorten  
MP and Greg Wall at  
the IYC2012 Stamp and  
Coin launch

## Celebrating International Year of Cooperatives 2025

Planning is now underway for IYC2025. The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals (BCCM) is actively working to organise industry events and celebrations throughout the year and is partnering with government to make IYC2025 a memorable success.

The previous International Year of Cooperatives in 2012 was marked by joint celebrations between industry and government, including Australian engagement with the United Nations in New York, the commissioning of a commemorative coin, industry events and the publication of a book showcasing Australian co-operative stories.

One enduring legacy of the 2012 celebration was the formation and continued growth of the BCCM, which began as the industry secretariat for the event, supported by foundation members. We look forward to collaborating with the members and Federal and State Governments once again, ensuring that the socio-economic contributions of Australia's co-operative and mutual enterprises are recognised and celebrated in 2025.

# Co-operatives and Mutuals in Australia

**Co-operatives and mutuals make a significant contribution to social and economic development in Australia:**

- Eight in 10 people in NSW are members of at least one co-op or mutual.
- There are 1,819 co-ops and mutuals Australia-wide.
- Nationally, the sector has a combined turnover of more than \$163.3bn (including super funds).
- Australia's co-ops and mutuals have **34.8 million memberships, including 68,000 SME members.**
- In FY2022-23, they generated direct **employment for 89,046 Australia workers.**
- Mutuals are significant players in sectors such as roadside assistance, financial services and insurance, working in the interest of NSW consumers.
- Agricultural co-ops are major exporters of Australian products including meat, dairy, macadamias, wheat and grain, Western rock lobster and berries.

Co-ops and mutuals are emerging in new sectors to meet the most pressing social and economic challenges, such as manufacturing growth, energy transition, affordable homes and caring together.



Norco

## Manufacturing growth

The co-operative sector can contribute even more to economic growth by boosting advanced manufacturing, creating jobs and driving our export capability.



Hepburn Energy photographed by Wiebe Wakker

## Energy transition

As we move towards a greener economy and climate resilience, energy co-operatives can help to embed local ownership and engagement in the future of energy security.



CEHL member co-op property

## Affordable homes

Housing co-operatives and the mutual financial sector can be boosted to provide more secure, affordable housing – particularly for key workers priced out of the housing market.



Kudos Services photographed by Nat Rogers

## Caring together

Co-ops and mutuals give people a stake in the delivery of social care, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas where current models are not working.

# IYC2025 calendar



**Soft launch of IYC2025**  
9 July 2024  
United Nations, New York



**IYC2025 Steering Group consultation webinars**  
30 September 2024



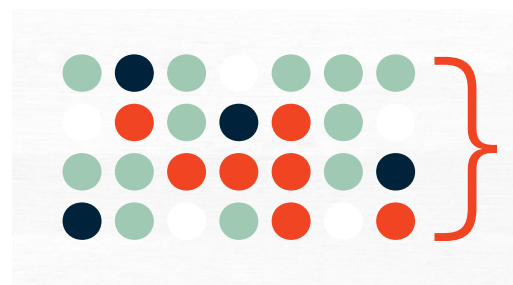
**Soft National launch of IYC2025 and Parliamentary Friends (Federal)**  
21 November 2024, Canberra



**International launch of IYC25**  
25–30 November 2024  
New Delhi, India



**365 days of co-operation**  
Daily social media campaign, prepared by the BCCM with member and sector contributions



**The power of co**  
12 month digital campaign to engage people in the powerful idea of co-operation



**National launch of IYC2025**  
February 2025 (TBC), Canberra



**Co-op Fed Assembly**  
March 2025, Sydney



**BCCM CEO Roundtable, NME Launch and Resilience Dinner**  
19 June 2025, Sydney



**International Day of Cooperatives**  
5 July 2025



**Parliamentary Friends Icons Breakfast Series**  
TBC



**IYC2025 Leaders' Summit and Taste of Australia Dinner**  
23 and 24 October 2025, Adelaide