



Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project (TRESBP)

www.tweedsandbypass.nsw.gov.au

PERCEPTIONS

Case study part 2, of 5

These images and extracts highlight issues and views relevant to managing Tweed sand bypassing and the coastline.

Extract 1 looks at economics and the surfing industry.

Extract 2 is a short archival extract showing beach and coastal stability are major concerns for councils, governments, politicians, communities and the media—in whichever decade the issue occurs.

Extract 3 contrasts variability in natural environments and human expectation.

Extract 4 is from special interest media and outlines concerns over loss of wave quality.



Image courtesy of Gold Coast Tourism

1 Surfing's Economic Contribution to the Gold Coast

The industry is incredibly diverse including surfboard shaping, clothing and hardware design, surf schools, educators and surf media. The direct contribution of the industry to the local economy in 2007/08 was estimated to be approximately \$1.4 billion in output, with around 9,400 full-time equivalent employment positions on the Gold Coast. Surf tourism and international students, that come to learn and surf, are key contributors.

Aside from recreational surf tourists, surfing events such as the Quiksilver and Roxy Pros generate significant tourism spending. It is estimated that retail and accommodation

expenditure by overnight visitors to these events is approximately \$1.8 million.

Surfing activity can be found all along the Gold Coast but there is a clustering of surf businesses from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta. World famous surfing breaks can be found at both ends of the Gold Coast including the "Superbank" at Coolangatta. International events such as the Quiksilver and Roxy Pros provide international exposure with millions of people around the globe viewing the event over webcasts.

Edited extract courtesy Gold Coast City Council. Source: *Surf Industry Review and Economic Contributions Assessment*, Aug 2009

2 Queensland State Archives—1972 Cabinet Documents

A report by Jonathan Richards, Consultant Historian

Issues: Beach Erosion on the Gold Coast

This was a major issue that Cabinet considered at 10 meetings between January and October. It was also the subject of extensive media coverage, with a number of newspaper editorials criticising the Government for failing to arrest the dramatic loss of beach sand. There had been similar problems on Gold Coast beaches during 1967 when apartment blocks at Surfers Paradise were 'menaced' by high seas. Various measures, including the construction of strategic groynes, were suggested by the Delft Laboratory in Holland in a report released by the Government in 1971.

In January, the Gold Coast City Council accused the Government of 'hindering attempts to restore eroded beaches', claiming that it was 'more concerned' about rural matters than the State's major tourist area. The Premier said in response that the Government had offered to help the Gold Coast City Council a month earlier, but there had been 'no official reply'. As 'huge seas' destroyed beachfront facilities, the Acting Mayor of the Gold Coast (Alderman Neumann) 'emotionally criticised' the State Government, and repeated his claim that it was giving higher priority to rural concerns than to the 'protection of the tourist industry'. Bjelke-Petersen [then Qld premier], saying his advisers 'continued to remind him' that an anti-erosion scheme for the whole Gold Coast costing \$38 million was necessary, announced that he would fly to Coolangatta and personally inspect the problem.

Extract courtesy of Queensland State Archives (quotes from *The Courier-Mail*, Jan. & Feb. 1972, with dates and page numbers given in original report). Source: www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/CommsDownloads/Documents/1972CabinetDocuments.pdf

3 Beach—a changing recreational space

If you were coming to, say, Rainbow Bay for your annual holiday, each year it might look different. And your experience there will be completely different. It could be an open beach with waves breaking on the shoreline, and at other phases a lagoon with waves breaking well offshore.

If you've come down to Rainbow Bay to go for a swim in a quasi-protected environment and it's not there you can be quite upset by that because that's the experience you've come to enjoy. These views have been given in community consultation. But this variability is part of living in a naturally variable environment.

Whether it's in a managed environment with sand bypassing as part of the management, or at another location, beaches vary. Storms play their part. What we see—the beach width, the amount of sand, the character of the beach, the waves and our experience there—will vary.

From the community's point of view, and tourism and even the local residents, the beach can be looked at as a recreational space, a major recreational resource. But there's no predictability. I think sometimes our community struggles with this. Mostly, recreational spaces tend

to remain the same. If you are playing soccer you go down to the soccer field and it looks the same every single day. But our beaches change from day to day, from month to month, from year to year and decade to decade.

Extract from unpublished interview (2009) with Professor Rodger Tomlinson Director, Griffith Centre for Coastal Management Research Griffith University, Queensland.
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Rainbow Bay Beach, southern Gold Coast.



Image courtesy of Gold Coast Tourism

4 SAVE KIRRA

30 Jan 2009

Up until six years ago, Kirra Point was arguably Australia's best wave. The bulbous, superfast, sand-sucking right pointbreak offered some of the longest tubes on the planet for generations of Aussies, from guys like Michael Peterson and Rabbit Bartholomew to today's Coolie Kids Fanning, Parko and Dingo.

Six years ago, Tweed Sand Bypass started pumping sand on the beach at Kirra, and destroyed the break. And while the outcry was minimal at first, 'cause the sand created the Superbank [a world-renowned surfing break which formed following sand bypassing] up the beach at Snapper Rocks, the momentum to bring Kirra back has been steadily increasing.

Last weekend, on Australia Day, over 1500 paddlers took to the surf off Kirra Beach and formed a map of Australia in the water.

Gold Coast surf activist Andrew McKinnon explains:

"There's no doubt that the unprecedented surfing show of strength and the community concern of the loss of Kirra Point has highlighted a distinct message to the powers-that-be and the reaction has drawn a quick response, with discussions set in place with QLD and NSW State Governments Ministers ready to deal with the problem.

..."It's time that the State Governments put some money back into the surfing amenity like other mainstream sports like Footy, Cricket, Tennis, Basketball, Swimming and Track events. Surfing is a poor cousin when compared to the State and Federal assistance that other sports receive, yet here on the Coast there are at least 60,000 people who surf and at least 3.5 million Australians who surf."

Edited extract, courtesy of surflife.com

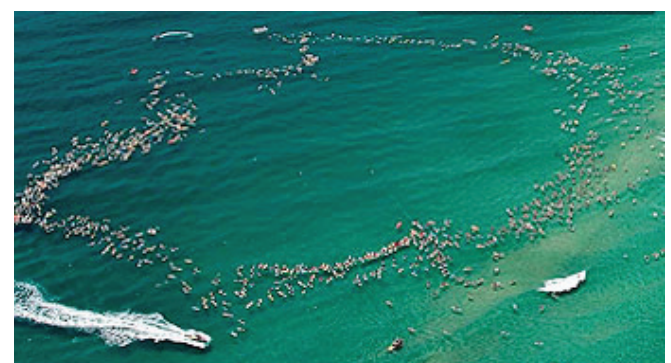
Source: www.surflife.com/surf-news/save-kirra-paddleout-draws-1500-surfers_22003



Kirra Beach, circa 1939, with swimming, sunbathing and camel rides. Image courtesy of Gold Coast City Council Local Studies Library (GCCCLSL)



Waves at Kirra Beach, 1936 (left), and waves flood the carpark and hit the Pavilion during a 1970s cyclone. 1936 image courtesy of GCCCLSL



Surfers on a paddle-out at Kirra Beach, Australia Day 2009, responding to concerns over loss of wave quality. Reprinted with permission: joliphotos.com