



Nomination information

Criteria, process & tips



National Surfing Reserves works with coastal communities to assist them in the recognition of national and regional surfing reserves.

We keep the process simple: engage, nominate, dedicate and advocate. We have prepared this information pack and should you require more information please contact us.

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Surfing reserve criteria

When using our criteria there could be potentially 100s of surfing reserves. Surfing sites are only dedicated as a surfing reserve when there is strong community support.

A national surfing reserve is:

- National class quality waves
- A place considered sacred by the local and national surfing community
- Long term usage of the beach and wave environment from the local and national surfing community, including First People, surf life-saving clubs and/or board riding clubs

A regional surfing reserve is:

- Regional class quality waves
- A place considered special by the local surfing community; all beaches with board riding clubs
- Long term usage of the beach and wave environment from the local surfing community, including First People, surf life-saving clubs and/or board riding clubs with significant history

Compare your surfing site with current surfing reserves

National surfing reserves:

1. Noosa, Queensland
2. Gold Coast, Queensland (Burleigh, Currumbin, Kirra-Snapper)
3. Lennox Head, New South Wales
4. Angourie, New South Wales
5. Crescent Head, New South Wales
6. Merewether, New South Wales
7. North Narrabeen, New South Wales
8. Manly-Freshwater, New South Wales
9. Bondi, New South Wales
10. Maroubra, New South Wales
11. Cronulla, New South Wales
12. Killalea, New South Wales
13. Phillip Island, New South Wales
14. Daly Head, South Australia
15. Point Sinclair, South Australia
16. Yallingup, Western Australia
17. Maragret River, Western Australia
18. Kalbarri, Western Australia
19. Gnaraloo/Red Bluff, Western Australia (pending)

Regional surfing reserves:

1. Mid Coast/ Southport Beach, South Australia
2. Cabarita, New South Wales (pending)
3. Encounter Bay, New South Wales (pending)

We also have three national surfing reserves that have been endorsed as World Surfing Reserves:

1. Manly World Surfing Reserve
2. Gold Coast World Surfing Reserve
3. Noosa World Surfing Reserve

Surfing reserve process

Nomination process (community)

- Consultation with user groups & government
- Draft reserve boundaries
- Seek community endorsement
- Nomination report
- Submit nomination to NSR
- Preliminary approval by NSR National Reference Group
- Invitation to form Local Steering Committee
- Approval/ refusal by NSR
- Start fundraising/grant applications

Reserve planning

- Prepare booklet & send for printing
- Prepare plaque, seek approval from NSR and send for casting
- Prepare onsite signage
- Plan ceremony: site selection, speakers, catering
- Media and communications plan: media release, invitations, running sheet, etc.

Ceremony

- Site set-up and safety briefing
- Arrivals (guests, VIPs, media)
- Music, speakers, plaque unveiling
- Afterparty

Ongoing action

- Committee evolves to Local Stewardship Committee
- Media engagement for issues and events
- Engage proactively with government officials and develop a management plan
- Promote inclusivity at surfing reserve

Booklet preparation

Each surfing reserves has its own unique waves and history. That is what makes them special to those people who surf, live near and visit them.

Local Steering Committees have the enviable task of trying to capture the characteristics, events and people that define a particular surfing reserve. It is a fun and challenging task that requires thorough research, careful word-smithing and a keen understanding of reserve and its links to the community.

No single person is capable of producing a surfing reserve booklet. It requires contribution from many community members, including non-surfers such as photographers, historians, First People, sporting clubs and naturalists. In fact, the booklet will present a greater picture of what a surfing reserve means if it includes the widest range of people.

Steps

1. Photo collections & Artworks

It is important to start collecting photos for your booklet as early as possible. This task requires making contact with a wide range of people. It is amazing how many people have captured special moments and have them tucked away in photo albums and on film. It is very likely that you will receive many more photos than you are likely to use so it is important that you catalogue your photos in a logical manner, either by subject or chronologically.

Take care of peoples photos. They have been generous enough to part with them. As people's photos are very important to them it is also essential that you keep a careful record of photos and their owners. This will avoid photos being misplaced or lost.

Not all photos are useable. Photos must be in a format suitable for reproduction in print. That requires clear pictures at a particular resolution. At minimum photos must be scanned and saved at a resolution of 300dpi.

The photographer holds the copyright for a photo. You should obtain the written consent of people to use their photos. Never use photos if you do not have the written consent of the photographer.

All booklets to date have included a local artwork that depicts the surfing reserve. This adds a special touch to the booklet. If you plan to use artwork, have it scanned at minimum resolution of 300dpi and returned to the artist as soon as possible. You should also obtain the written consent of the artist and owner to use the work.

It is best if you assign primary care for photos and artworks to one responsible person. Others can help to locate the works but a single person should be in charge of the catalogue and return of works.

You should try and use images that capture what you are describing in the text of the booklet.

2. Text

Most of the booklets have followed a chronological order in the arrangement of text.

It will be important for the author to be competent with a computer, have a strong grasp of grammar and some creative flair. A suggested format for the booklet is as follows:

- Welcome – this could be written by your Mayor or another profile person. It should be concise and capture the importance of the reserve to a broad range of people in the Community.
- Contents – This page gives the contents of the booklet including page numbers
- Natural Environment – This section should describe the physical area in and around the reserve, its beaches and dunes, marine life, rocky points and sandy beaches. You could include some description of environmental commitment like the work of local Beach/Dune care groups in this section.
- First People Heritage – It is advisable to ask the local indigenous community to write this section of the booklet.
- Early years – This section should capture the local area before surfing became a major part of the community.
- First surfers – If you are lucky enough to be able to verify who surfed in the area first then this should be included. It is not always possible to be sure about the first surfers so very careful research should be undertaken. There are often conflicting claims as to who was first so if you are unable to confirm it then it may be best to leave this out and talk about the first surfers in a more general sense.
- Surfing 60s & 70s – This era was iconic in most locations as it represents the first wave of surfing growth. The 60s and 70s had a lot of colourful characters and events to capture and usually provides interesting reading!
- Modern-day – This section focuses on the modern sport of surfing in your area. It includes aspects such as surfing contests and new trends such as bodyboards and tow-in surfing.
- Chairperson's statement – A statement from the Local Steering Committee, acknowledging partners and supporters. You can seek your NSR representative to contribute to this section.
- Picture of plaque – You should include the design of your plaque.
- Map of the reserve – You should include a map of the reserve so that readers can identify with its area. The Department of Lands can provide a map of the reserve in a format suitable for printing.

3. Editing

Once a draft has been written you will need to edit the document. The LSC should undertake at least 2 edits of the text before photos are included.

It is prudent to ask someone outside the LSC to edit the document also to make sure it is a product that will appeal to everyone.

You should have your first edits complete at least 2 months before dedication day.

4. Layout

Once you have prepared a draft of your text and it has been edited well, it is important for the LSC to agree on a draft layout. This will require a selection of many more photos than will ultimately be used. You will need alternate photos as some will not be useable because of scale, quality or even the "feel" of the booklet.

Once you have agreed on a rough layout you will need to make contact with a professional or someone that has specialist skills in graphic art to assist in finalising the layout of your booklet. You should allow sufficient time and creative licence for the person to make changes to the document to suit printing.

Once your graphic artist has done a draft layout, the LSC should meet to agree or request final changes. This should happen only once and then the document should be returned to the artists for final changes and preparation for printing.

Final layout should be completed at least 6 weeks before dedication day!

The booklet is now ready for printing.

5. Printing

Once your booklet is ready for printing you should make contact with your NSR representative and they can arrange for printing. Printers may require at least 1 month to print your booklet.

You will need to explain the layout format (eg A5 landscape) and print and paper quality desired.

Your NSR rep will obtain 3 quotes from printing companies and contract a reliable and reputable company to produce your booklet. You will need to be clear with the printers when and where you will need delivery of the product.

Always allow sufficient time to ensure you can get another print run done in case of an emergency.

FAQs

Why a surfing reserve?

The dedication of a surfing site as a national or regional surfing reserve is a community and government recognition of the contribution surfing makes to the Australian lifestyle and the significance that surfing sites have made to the development of surfing in Australia.

Why some surfing sites and not others? National Surfing Reserves was formed in February 2005 to address, identify, assess and process the dedication of surfing reserves and sites in Australia. To date, some 24 sites of surfing significance along Australia's 37,000km coastline have been identified for dedication as a national surfing reserve. There could be 100s of regional surfing reserves based on our criteria, however, only where there is strong community support do we accept nominations.

What does the reserve do?

National Surfing Reserves recognise sites of environmental, cultural and historic significance in Australian surf culture. The status of a national or regional surfing reserve signifies the cultural and historical importance to Australian and local surfing and helps raise awareness about the importance of protecting our precious coastal environment.

In New South Wales, ***national surfing reserves*** is recognised under the ***Crown Lands Act***. This offers legal protection to the National Surfing Reserve Declaration and highlights the significance of the Crown Estate in the surfing culture and Australian lifestyle.

What can/can't I do in a surfing reserve?

The surfing reserve won't limit current public enjoyment of the area in any way. Reserving the land for surfing is a reflection of its main use but other uses, such as swimming and fishing, will continue.

What happens now?

Once a surfing reserve has been dedicated, it is (more) possible for the community to become involved in guiding the future management of the land. Unique and valuable coastal environments require engaged communities to participate in the management and protection of the coastal zone.

What if I don't surf?

The reserve is there for everyone to enjoy, as it always has been, whether they paddle out for a surf or not. The Government has protected the site and people's right to use it through this initiative.

What about surf rage?

The values the community have come up with are written on the plaque. "Share, respect, preserve". This is a great message for all who want to enjoy surfing sites.

What if the community strongly opposes surfing competitions?

Reserving the land provides the opportunity for the local community to guide the management of issues.

Project plan

Task	By when	Person responsible
Nomination stage		
Submit nomination to National Surfing Reserves National Reference Group (NRG)		
Acceptance of nomination by NRG		National Surfing Reserves (your representative)
Local Steering Committee (LSC) formed		
Concept development		
Reserve boundaries identified by LSC & adopted by NRG		
Plaque site identified		
Sign site identified		
Plaque wording drafted		
If required, consult government and draft maps of reserve prepared		
Final public meeting (post-confirmation)		
Update local community		
Call for photos/ contribution for the booklet		
Support fundraising		
Booklet		
Photos for booklet collected and scanned (min.300dpi)		
Booklet wording drafted		
Booklet layout completed		
Booklet ordered	At least 1 month	

	before the ceremony	
Booklet printed and collected	At least 1 week before the ceremony	
Plaque		
Plaque designed and ordered	At least 1 Month before the ceremony	
Plaque cast and collected	At least 1 week before the ceremony	
Rock recessed	At least 1 week before the ceremony	
Rock set	At least 1 week before the ceremony	
Plaque set	Day of the ceremony	
Sign		
Sign designed and ordered	1 month before ceremony	
Sign produced and collected	1 week before ceremony	
Sign installed	Day before ceremony	
Ceremony planning		
Organise event plan		
Invitations sent up	Up to 3 months before for VIPs	
Safety plan organised and approvals from the local council		
Confirm site needs (accessibility, power, toilets)		
Arrange Welcome to Country	At least 1 month before the ceremony	
Ceremony		
Site manager and coordinators		

appointed		
Risk assessment completed		
Volunteers assigned jobs		
Traffic controller		
Welcome/sign-on the sheet if need to collect tickets		
Public arrival times		
Media arrival times and location		
Book sales in place		
Entertainment set up		
Catering/ afterparty event organised		

Final tip

We pride our process for its simplicity. If everything starts to get hard, local politics stall the process, funds have not been reached or the timing just isn't right, that is OK.

Go for a surf and remember the purpose of recognising your local surfing site. It will happen, when the timing is right.

Resource pack date: July 2021