

Ministerial Roundtable Protecting Surfing Reserves Tuesday 16 March 2021 COMMUNIQUE

On 11 February 2020, the Premier announced the Queensland Government would actively look at legislating lasting protections for Queensland's World Surfing Reserve areas which include Noosa and the Southern Gold Coast, from Burleigh to Snapper Rocks.

On 4 March 2020, the former Minister for Sport convened the first Ministerial Surfing Roundtable on the Gold Coast to start a conversation on how best to fully protect Queensland's World Surfing Reserves at the Gold Coast and Noosa. The roundtable resolved to commission a discussion paper by mid-2020.

Development of the discussion paper was guided by roundtable members comprising marine, surf and environmental experts as well as local councils, government agencies, surfing organisations, First Nations peoples, and members of the local stewardship committees for the Gold Coast and Noosa World Surfing Reserves.

On 27 August 2020, the former Minister for Sport chaired the second Ministerial Surfing Roundtable where members collaborated to finalise the discussion paper that guided community and stakeholder consultation on the values of Queensland's World Surfing Reserves, including how best to protect these values.

Between 2 October and 30 November 2020, the Queensland Government undertook community consultation through the release of the *Protections for World Surfing Reserves in Queensland* discussion paper. The consultation process attracted 86 responses including 72 online survey responses and 14 written submissions from a range of community and industry stakeholders.

Consultation results revealed a desire to protect Queensland's World Surfing Reserves from environmental damage, future development and increased population, as well as preserving the cultural values of both First Nations peoples and surfing heritage.

On 16 March 2021, the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport chaired the third Surfing Roundtable where members discussed the results of consultation and potential next steps. Roundtable members committed to further investigate legislative and non-legislative options, in collaboration with relevant government, community and industry stakeholders, to enhance protections for World Surfing Reserves in Queensland, where needed.