

Queensland's World Surfing Reserves



Snapper Rocks

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting and celebrating the unique environmental, cultural, and economic values of Queensland's World Surfing Reserves (WSRs).

Queensland's WSRs are globally recognised for their unique environments, rich surf culture, and importance to Traditional Owners, local communities and visitors. Surfing is a vital part of Queensland's coastal lifestyle, a major tourism drawcard, and a growing Olympic sport. With surfing set to showcase Queensland's iconic beaches on the global stage during the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, these reserves highlight the state's reputation as a world-class destination for ecotourism, recreation and natural beauty.

Queensland is proud to be home to two of the world's 14 designated WSRs. The Gold Coast WSR, dedicated in 2016, stretches from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta. The Noosa WSR, dedicated in 2020, extends from North Sunshine Beach, around the Noosa headland to Laguna Bay.

The Queensland Government recognises that WSRs face challenges that may impact their unique values. It is essential to carefully plan and manage development activities to protect Queensland's iconic surf breaks.

To ensure these special areas and world-class beaches are preserved for the long term, the Queensland Government has strong regulations in place including protections for coastal processes, water quality, ecosystem health, biodiversity, vegetation, and cultural heritage.

Key Queensland legislation that safeguards our world-class surf breaks include:

- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (e.g. pollution control);
- *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (e.g. erosion and development);
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (e.g. protection of flora);
- *Fisheries Act 1994* (e.g. protection of marine plants);
- *Planning Act 2016 and State Planning Policy* (e.g. coastal development); and
- Local planning schemes under Queensland's planning framework.

The Queensland Government will continue to work closely with Traditional Custodians, local communities, the Save the Waves Coalition, and other stakeholders to protect and promote Queensland's WSRs. By safeguarding these iconic reserves, the Queensland Government is ensuring future generations can continue to enjoy the world-class surf, pristine environments, and cultural heritage that make Queensland's WSRs truly unique.



Burleigh Headland