

Kirra beach needs community action

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THE Coolangatta and Kirra communities have been urged to provide input into solving sand problems at Kirra Point.

Southern Gold Coast councillor Chris Robbins said a community information night would be held at Tweed Heads Civic Centre on November 2 at 5.30pm.

Cr Robbins said surfers had argued for years to have a rock groyne extended at Kirra Beach to bring back the surf break, but it was not an option in the Tweed River Sand Bypassing Project report now on public exhibition.

The report has investigated sand movement and its impacts on a navigable entrance at the Tweed River mouth and on southern Gold Coast beaches.

Cr Robbins said the report would affect Kirra Beach and it was up to the community to add a groyne to the agenda.

"What I am hoping will come forward is the strong concerns of the surfing community," she said.

"The groyne has been on the surfing community wish list for some time."

Kirra Surf Riders president Jason Thomas said he wanted to see the groyne put back to restore the surf break because the club did not have a home break to surf on.

"It is affecting our club it is hard to get new members and old members are leaving."

Mr Thomas said it has also led to fewer visitors to Kirra and the surf riders usually went to Duranbah to catch waves.

"We have to run our club competitions at Duranbah," he said.

On Sunday Kirra Surf Riders will host the Kirra Teams Event at Duranbah which will be attended by 16 junior teams.

A further 500 surfers are expected to go to Duranbah to attend the Kirra Open Teams Event in February.

"It is taking a lot of people out of Kirra," Mr Thomas said.

"We have produced world champions from this area in the past."

Options the Queensland Government has put forward in its report included extending existing sand pumping and including a new outlet at North Kirra, developing more dredge placement areas along southern Gold Coast beaches, considering the Tweed River entrance as a one-off source of sand for proposed beach nourishment works by the Tweed Shire Council at Kingscliff or developing a dredging or pumping program to recycle sand to the southern Letitia Spit.

Currumbin MP Jann Stuckey said a feasibility study was announced in July 2009 to investigate these options and despite initial government denials long-term residents believed the sand bypass has exacerbated the problem of Kirra Beach.

The report can be downloaded at derm.qld.gov.au and residents can comment until November 30, 2011 and the associated public information night will be held on November 2.

Your Say

"It is a tragedy that Kirra has been ruined by the sand dredging. But it is not only Kirra now, Greenmount beach is getting wider and wider and I was disappointed to see last weekend that even Rainbow is now changing. This problem needs to be fixed or beach going at this end of the coast will be ruined. It is a nightmare trying to get to the water with kids and all their stuff - a real turn off for families."

Fiona