



International campaigners back Kirra surfing stand

Point draws offshore aid

by Steve Spinks

THE organisation that helped save an important surf spot in California is set to throw its weight behind the 'Bring Back Kirra' campaign.

The International Surfrider Foundation is in negotiations with local organisations to join the campaign to restore Kirra Point as one of the best waves in Australia.

"The campaign is already supported by the Australian and Gold Coast chapters of the Surfrider Foundation," said Julia Chunn, general manager of the Australian Surfrider Foundation.

"We are hoping to let the local councils know that this is something we want to change."

The International Surfrider Foundation is expected to make its announcement this week as the Kirra Point Committee plans for a massive Australia Day paddle-out rally over the

degradation of the point.

Professional surfers Mick Fanning, Joel Parkinson, Stephanie Gilmore, Bede Durbidge and Mark Occhilupo are listed among the throng ready to join the paddling protest.

The decision to support the Kirra campaign comes hot on the heels of the International Surfrider Foundation's successful involvement in the 'Save Trestles' campaign to protect the San Onofre State Beach in California.

The campaign ended successfully late last year with a decision to dump a proposed highway that protesters feared would have ruined the beach and threatened wildlife.

"The proposed Foothill Transportation Corridor South was a 16-mile toll road highway that, if constructed, would substantially degrade San Onofre State Beach, home to the famous Trestles surf breaks, bisect some of the last open space in

Orange County and pave over vital habitat for seven endangered species," said Matt Butel, director of Surfrider Foundation Australia.

"Surfrider Foundation recognises the importance of Kirra not only as a surf break but as a significant asset to the city of the Gold Coast, both economically and environmentally.

"By bringing the Kirra campaign to the attention of a global audience via the international arm of the Surfrider Foundation, we hope that local and state governments will take notice of our plight and endeavour to find a solution to fix Kirra Point.

"Kirra really is a lost wave wonder of the world and this is recognised by Surfrider," said Mr Butel.

According to coastal scientist and Kirra Point Committee member Neil Lazarow, sand is choking the point and its waves to death.



Australian Surfrider Foundation general manager Julia Chunn has welcomed Kirra support from the international foundation