

# Birdy to voice protest song at paddle out



□ **BRIAN Burdett, with daughters Sky and Kayla.**

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“LET Kirra be Kirra... so our children can see, the beauty that’s there,” according to Birdy, lead singer from local band The Quiet Excitement.

Brian “Birdy” Burdett, yesterday previewed the single *Let Kirra Be Kirra*, which he will perform at the Australia Day Kirra Paddle Out.

The protest stunt involving hundreds of surfers forming a human map of Australia in the water off Kirra is designed to draw attention to the loss of the once world-famous Kirra Point break, which has been wiped out by sand pumping.

“I’ve travelled all over the world but had days here that were better than anywhere I’ve ever been,”

said Birdy, of Lennox Head.

“There’s no other wave in the world like it when it’s on.”

Birdy, who grew up in Burleigh, is teaching his daughters Sky, 7, and Kayla, 5, how to surf, and hopes one day they can ride the Kirra break.

“*Let Kirra Be Kirra* is primarily about bringing it back for our kids,” he said.

“I think they should be able to experience Kirra the way we did when we were kids.”

His girls love the protest song.

“It’s their favourite. They know all the words.”

The lyrics say: “Every day I read it in the paper, how somebody’s got a plan. And they say it’s better for

the beaches, I just want to bring it back the way it used to be, yeah.

“Watch the waves, see the sunshine on the water, let the ocean have its place. All this talk of building our beaches, I just want to see the Point, the way it’s meant to be.”

Birdy’s original version of the song was written in the late ’80s.

“I wrote it a long time ago when they wanted to build the marina at Kirra. The whole vibe is ‘don’t change’, so that’s still the same.”

The paddle out, organised by Kirra Surfriders, Kirra Surf Life Saving Club and the Surfrider Foundation, will begin at 10am (Qld time) on January 26, with the map, estimated to be 100m x100m, being created in the water from 11am.