



**Gold Coast**  
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# Give Kirra the break it wants

**A HUGE mass of sand off the southern Gold Coast, initially created as part of a sand-pumping event to protect beachside suburbs, should be shifted – at least partially – to restore one of the best surfing breaks in Australia.**

The Kirra break, which had a world reputation among surfers and once earned millions of dollars for tourism, has been nullified by the sand. Not surprisingly, a protest movement has sprung up and yesterday about 1300 people paddled out off Kirra Point to form a map of Australia to highlight the issue.

The burial of Kirra reef and the death of Kirra's surf break constitute an engineering problem.

The Tweed River Entrance Sand Bypassing Project – begun in 2002 – swamped the Gold Coast with sand, but in the absence of turbulent weather to carry the sand north again, more pumping needs to be done.

The authorities could do nothing and leave all the sand where it is.

And surfers and tourists naturally would vote with feet . . . and go elsewhere.