



Protesters unite to turn Kirra tide

MORE than 1300 people have taken to the water off Queensland's Kirra Point beach to protest against the demise of the once-historic surfing spot.

The paddlers, including pro surfers Mick Fanning and Joel Parkinson, were using Australia Day to shed some light on their cause, forming a 100m wide map of the nation

metres from the shore. They say the once iconic Kirra break has been destroyed by a joint NSW and Queensland state government project which was originally designed to maintain the beach.

The 2002 sands pumping project instead has dumped millions of cubic metres of sand on the beach, wiping out the

famous waves and a nearby coral reef.

A crowd of several hundred has gathered on the shore to watch the symbolic paddle-out.

Event organiser Andrew McKinnon said the response had been overwhelming and hoped it would send a clear message to the government to act quickly and rebuild Kirra.



Mapping it out: Protestors start forming a map of Australia off Kirra Point after packing onto the beach earlier as part of their protest to Queensland and New South Wales governments