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Move on Kirra's sand trap

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AUTHORITIES will investigate how to stop an iconic Queensland surfing beach from being smothered in NSW sand.

Sustainability Minister Andrew McNamara has asked the Environmental Protection Agency to look at short-term options to reduce the amount of sand being dumped at Kirra Beach on the Gold Coast following protests by surfers.

Kirra has been choked by about 10 million tonnes of sand since the Tweed River sand bypass began pumping eight years ago.

The bypass — meant to keep the river clear for boats and buffer beaches from erosion — has gradually buried the surf break.

Surfers, who met with Mr McNamara on Monday, want the sand pumping outlet moved north to save Kirra from extinction.

“I recognise that there is a longstanding problem with sand buildup at iconic Kirra Beach,” Mr McNamara said. “I have directed the EPA to investigate short-term options for the reduction of the sand.”

Andrew McKinnon, a spokesman for the Kirra Point Committee, said the group was now hopeful the Government would act.