



Department of Lands

National Surfing Reserves

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From the Minister



Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Regional Development

The Lemna Government fully supports the National Surfing Reserves initiative for honouring surfing and its unique place in the Australian way of life.

Australian surfers, and our surf breaks, are famous throughout the world; while in NSW surfing is part of the social and economic fabric of many coastal communities.

The legal protection government provides a national surfing reserve highlights the significance of the Crown land estate in ensuring our beaches are accessible to surfers and everyone else who wants to enjoy them.

We will continue to support communities seeking reserve status for iconic surfing locations.

Australia's Beaches

Australian beaches are world renowned for their crystal clear waters and white sandy shores. With over 80% of all Australians living within 50km of the coastline, it's no wonder so many of us enjoy our beaches and the world-class surfing breaks they provide.

As surfing has grown into a popular pastime, so too has the need to acknowledge its history, culture and contribution to Australia's lifestyle.

Crown land along the NSW coast offers some of the best surfing breaks in the world. Most of these surf breaks are below the high tide mark and their related beaches and foreshores are usually Crown reserves.

National surfing reserves provide recognition to the importance of our coastline for recreation and public access.



Cronulla National Surfing Reserve



Cronulla National Surfing Reserve was declared in September 2008 and is one of southern Sydney's premier surf spots. It is home to numerous former world champion surfers.





What is a national surfing reserve?

A national surfing reserve is a dedicated area that is protected for use by the general public and surfing community.

To date, some 24 sites along Australia's 37,000km coastline have been identified for dedication by the Sites National Reference Group.

The National Surfing Reserve initiative recognises these sites and ensures that they remain protected for generations to come.

This model is a first in recognising the iconic status surfing has achieved throughout the world.

Legal recognition of a national surfing reserve provides the basis for community involvement in its management through trust boards and plans of management. These plans help protect and enhance the local reserve. The reserve is officially recognised on all Government records for posterity.

Declaring a national surfing reserve does not limit public enjoyment of the area in any way; reserving the land for surfing is a reflection of its main use but other forms of recreation, such as swimming and fishing, continue. The reserve is there for the enjoyment of surfers and non-surfers alike.

National surfing reserves help to protect important coastal Crown land and at the same time ensure the enduring privilege of catching a wave at places like Angourie, Crescent Head, Lennox and Cronulla.

The community can support the declaration of their area once it has been recognised. Some of the 24 sites on the national list include Bondi, Killalea, Merewether, Manly and North Narrabeen.



Crescent Head stretches along 3.5 km of spectacular coastline north of Port Macquarie NSW.

During the 1950s, Crescent Head became widely recognised as a breeding ground for long board surfing in Australia.



Why do we need national surfing reserves?

National surfing reserves recognise sites of environmental, cultural and historic significance in Australian surf culture. This recognition helps raise awareness about the importance of protecting our precious coastal environment.

The NSW Department of Lands fully supports the National Surfing Reserve initiative and has been working in partnership with the community and the National Surfing Reserves Committee to create these reserves under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*.

This Act offers legal protection to a national surfing reserve and highlights the significance of the Crown estate in the surfing culture and Australian lifestyle.

2 **LENNOX**
NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE
declared February 08

Lennox National Surfing Reserve is north of Ballina NSW and includes renowned surf breaks at Lennox Point. Its proximity to Ballina and Byron Bay ensures that the area is popular with tourists and the locals.

Lennox National Surfing Reserve





Angourie National Surfing Reserve

The National Surfing Reserves Committee

The National Surfing Reserves Committee was formed as part of the National Surfing Reserves initiative.

The committee currently has seven members who represent the community by assisting in the declaration process.

The members of the committee are:

Mr Brad Farmer – Chair

Prof. Andrew Short – Deputy Chair

Mr Graham Harding

Mr David McPherson

Ms Helen Tyas Tunggal

Mr Norm Farmer ESM

Mr Chris Tola

DID YOU KNOW?

- Australia has produced 12 World Champion Surfers including the seven times Women's World Champion Layne Beachley.
- Goofy foot is riding with your left foot to the back of the board.
- Surfing was first noted by Europeans in Hawaii in the 1770s.
- Some common surf slang: hang-ten, grommets, stoked, barrels, gnarly and cowabunga.

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ANGOURIE

NATIONAL SURFING RESERVE

declared January 07

Angourie, on the NSW north coast near Yamba, was the first legally protected National Surfing Reserve in NSW. Angourie is legendary amongst the surfing community for its breaks and natural beauty.



Angourie National Surfing Reserve



Want to know more?

For more information on national surfing reserves and the Sites National Reference Group contact:

natsurfsites@sydney.net

Or visit **www.lands.nsw.gov.au**
or call **13000 LANDS**.

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State Plan

The NSW Government is implementing the State Plan by dedicating areas as national surfing reserves.

The State Plan seeks to improve the environment for living and encourage communities to engage in recreation.