

Question on Notice

No. 1586

Asked on Thursday, 11 December 2025

MS S BOLTON ASKED MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON A POWELL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the positive impact of surfing to health, sustainability, and ecotourism as an Olympic sport and its synonymity with Queensland—

Will the Minister provide the rationale behind the government's decision not to proceed with formal recognition of the Noosa World Surfing Reserve through mapping and marine charts in the lead up to the 2032 Games?

ANSWER:

World Surfing Reserves recognise globally significant surfing sites, attracting international visitors to these sites. There are only 13 recognised worldwide including Noosa's Headland (from Laguna Bay to North Sunshine Beach) on the Sunshine Coast and the southern beaches of the Gold Coast (stretching from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta).

The Queensland Government acknowledges the significant ecotourism opportunities the Noosa World Surfing Reserve provides for the Sunshine Coast. The designation of the Noosa World Surfing Reserve recognised the significant environmental, cultural and historic values which make this region so attractive to surfers. Such values include water quality, foreshore vegetation, and marine flora and fauna.

There are several regulatory frameworks already in place that provide for protections of the values found in the internationally recognised World Surfing Reserves on the Gold Coast and Noosa. These frameworks include the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*, and the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. These frameworks are effective at protecting and maintaining the values for World Surfing Reserves. As such, the Queensland Government does not consider additional protection or recognition for World Surfing Reserves is required at this time.