




GemLife presents

NOOSA FESTIVAL OF SURFING

3-12 MARCH 2023



Sustainability Report 2023

A man with grey hair, wearing a colorful patterned shirt and dark shorts, is playing a long wooden didgeridoo. He is standing on a sandy surface in front of a large white tent. The tent has a sign that reads "GemLife 50s LIFESTYLE RESORTS". To the right, there is a black structure with a "Red Bull" logo. In the background, there are string lights and a green sign with a picture of a beach. A small sign on the sand in the foreground says "100 HOURLY GIVEAWAYS".

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUE LOCALS, THE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CUSTODIANS OF LAND, WATERS AND CULTURE FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS. WE PAY RESPECTS TO FIRST NATIONS ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING. WE RECOGNISE THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE ON THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE IMPACTS, AND MUST PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN SHAPING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS.

The 32nd Annual Noosa Festival of Surfing presented by Gem Life, has been designated as an Ocean Positive Event. An Ocean Positive Event is addressing local environmental and social impacts, while also measuring and “wiping out” its carbon footprint by investing in future renewables.

The Noosa Festival of Surfing is one of the leading major events in Australia when it comes to environmental and sustainability initiatives. Our efforts are assessed under the Tourism Noosa Sustainable Event Criteria which aligns itself with GSTC (Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria) and managed by our Sustainability Officer. All key stakeholders and especially our sponsors choose to go out of their way to protect an environment that gives us, as surfers so much in return. But none of this can be achieved without the incredible efforts of our Waste Warrior Volunteers, who single-handedly ensure our waste is minimised and diverted from landfill to the max every day of the festival.

Our benchmarks in energy, water and waste have paved the way for other major events around Queensland and Australia to follow. We acknowledge the work of the Noosa Council in its efforts to monitor and require sustainability management in all event applications to ensure minimal footprints of events in this pristine area and to Plastic Free Noosa’s continued efforts to ban single use water bottles and plastics at events.

This Sustainability Report is a transparent description of the sustainability performance of the event, and includes measured data, photos and recommendations for improvement.

Surfers for Climate was delighted to be involved in the event at Noosa and would like to thank World Surfariis, Gem Life, and all of the event sponsors for their commitment to sustainability. Special thanks to Plastic Free Noosa for their support in guiding sustainability activations at the event over the past four years, and to Josh Allen and John Finlay from World Surfariis for inviting Surfers for Climate to be a part of the event in 2023.

The Festival normally takes place annually between mid-February and late-March, typically low season for tourism to Noosa. The event was held from the 3rd to 12th of March and attracted the best longboarders from across the country and overseas.



Noosa's surrounding coastline and in particular, First Point at Main Beach, is one of just 10 World Surfing Reserves on the planet. It has significant cultural, social and historical meaning to local people and surfers around the world.

The Festival recognises its event management activities and operations on the beach and in the water have the potential to produce both positive and negative environmental, economic and social impacts. The Festival commits to continually improve the environmental and social sustainability performance and annual benchmarking. Our sustainable event management principles are: Stewardship, Inclusivity, Integrity and Transparency. Underpinning the event's commitment to sustainability, a formal Sustainability Policy has been produced and publicly displayed on the Noosa Festival of Surfing Website.

The Noosa Festival of Surfing event is managed by World Surfaris Pty Ltd on behalf of the Noosa Malibu Club. Both World Surfaris & the Club hold environmental and social sustainability and responsibility as key to the operation, development and future of the Noosa Festival of Surfing. Not only for the local Noosa community but also for surfing culture globally.

The Festival is a 9-day program, being held from 5-13 March 2022 (inclusive) in the Noosa Shire, at First Point, Main Beach, Noosa Heads on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. The program includes surfing competitions, skate boarding, music, art and cultural exhibitions and charity events. We expect approximately 400 competitors and thousands of visitors, both domestic and international, who will come to Noosa to experience our celebration of the joy of surfing in the widest sense. They will enjoy the iconic coastline, a combination of natural beaches, dunes and tidal ecosystems, coastal parks and coastal infrastructure, as well as Noosa's associated village atmosphere of first-class accommodation, dining and shopping, gourmet produce and surf culture – all with a uniquely environmentally sensitive ethos.

The surrounding coastline, in particular First Point at Main Beach, is one of just 10 World Surfing Reserves. It has significant cultural, social and historical meaning to the traditional custodians, the Kabi-Kabi, local residents and surfers around the world. The Festival recognizes its event management activities and operations on the beach and in the water have the potential to have both positive and negative environmental, economic and social impact. The Festival commits to continually improve the environmental and social sustainability performance and annual benchmarking. Our sustainable event management principles are Stewardship, Inclusivity, Integrity and Transparency.

In 2022, we will continue to benchmark our key activities of energy, water and waste and encourage participation from our local communities, National Parks and World Surfing Reserve conservation groups. Event operators will continue to eliminate all single use plastic at our event and will encourage visitors and contestants to BYO water bottle and refill for free at our UnityWater community water van, saving single use water bottles. We will aim for 75% diversion of waste from landfill and offer 4 x waste stream bin stations including commercially compostable organics, refundable containers, landfill and recycling. We will continue to work with Plastic Free Noosa to keep our Plastic Free Champion status and choose suppliers and vendors who can adhere to our criteria.

In recent years, the event has achieved a Carbon Positive status by voluntarily offsetting more carbon than produced. We will continue to support the \$1/paid ticket to the local reforestation project "Trees for Tourism" with Landcare and Tourism Noosa to ensure the habitat of our koalas and other at-risk species are replaced within Noosa Shire. Each tree planted sequesters 124kg of carbon dioxide and helps offset our carbon emissions of the event.

The Festival will comply with all relevant legislation and regulations within the permit approved through the Noosa Council and strive to achieve international best practice on environmental and sustainability matters. Special consideration will be given to promoting local businesses within the Festival and wherever possible, environmentally sustainable products and services will be sourced locally.

World Surfaris initiated the initial appointment of a Sustainability Officer for the Festival, as well as creating the annual Sustainability Report. Our Sustainability Officer will ensure ongoing environmental performance, identification of environmental risks, recording and monitoring of impacts and implementing environmental and social sustainability measures.

We encourage everyone associated with the Festival to present our commitment to environmental and social sustainability to our competitors, guests, visitors, suppliers, contractors, agents and sponsors.

Signed



JOHN FINLAY, Director, World Surfaris

Noosa Festival of Surfing Event Manager

2 November 2021



Emissions Summary

Emissions is the term used to describe atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change which are emitted by various emission sources. Carbon dioxide equivalence is a standard measure that takes account of the global warming potential of different greenhouse gases and expresses the effect in a common unit being tCO₂-e. Year on year the festival aims to improve data collection methodology for relevant emission causing event activities and increase the percentage of emission sources that are covered by purchasing and retiring carbon credits with the aim of being a carbon neutral event. This year the event offset 70t.

The total activity data for electricity used for the festival was 1,042kWh and was provided by grid electricity. Energex, the wholesale provider for Queensland Councils, does not provide Green energy options. It is estimated that 20% of electricity is from renewable sources based on the Queensland grid average.

Excluded in the data calculations are associated events that took place during the festival period and public attendees at the event. Non-quantified activities were food vendors, merchandise or product sales, and non-competitor travel and accommodation. Where actual activity data is unavailable, data used in previous occurrences of this event has informed the preparation of the calculations and given this is absent then simply not included, no estimations, extrapolations or uplift factors have been applied.

Carbon emission calculations provided by Dee Cartmel.

Emissions Summary

Category	Post-event emissions totals (tCO ₂ -e)
Air Travel (competitors)	139.3
Land Travel (competitors)	31.8
Accommodation (85 attendees)	10.8
Food & Drinks	6.2
Electricity (Beach Bar & First Point)	0.9
Stationary Energy - liquid fuels (beach generator)	0.1
Total Emissions	189.1

Attendee Travel & Accommodation

Travel to and from the event is the largest emission source event activity for NFOS. In the lead up and during the festival we collected attendee travel data both from our enthusiastic team members walking around the festival conducting face to face interviews, self-service with people scanning QR codes dotted around and via the online competitor sign up forms. The key questions were how they travelled to Noosa and if they had accommodation. The following submissions made up the assumptions for the calculation of the event's overall footprint. No uplift or extrapolation has been included and we continue to improve our data collection year on year, and thank all of the participants for submitting to the survey.

- 615 survey results, and of those 323 were competitors. The remaining were identified as a sponsor, volunteer or family friend/parent or guardian of a competitor.
- 85 survey respondents reported booking accommodation, based on a review of the hotels from 2-5 stars we calculated the emission to be 10.8tCO₂-e.
- 2 NSW respondents reported travelling by plane, the others by car and all QLD respondents reported travelling by car.
- 1 competitor from the USA reported already offsetting their flight.
- There were 248 unique attendees in the datasets so the assumption was that attendee travel type from WA, SA, VIC would be a return domestic flight.
- Generally people in NSW drove and on average it was a medium to large car.

Based on the above information our future recommendations are:

- Data collection methods should be improved, with compulsory data collection in the entry form to assist in data accuracy for the purpose of carbon emission calculations, rather than relying on survey data.
- Encourage Attendees to offset their own emissions and/or participate in opting into the offsetting of the event, educating them on sustainable travel and accommodation options.

Emissions Offset & Certificate



We calculated more emissions and offset more than last year, and aim to increase this further in 2024. In 2023 37% of calculated event emissions were offset .

The Noosa Festival of Surfing is able to make this CO₂ offset with thanks to World Surfaris, who purchased carbon credits that have been invested with Mytrah Energy Wind Power Project, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. This project displaces fossil fuel fired power with a clean, renewable source of energy and contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We would like to thank World Surfaris for purchasing this offset,



Water Bottle Sponsor

Water is estimated by the Event Standard Calculator for 300 attendees, with the assumption of 36L/person/day across the nine day event. In previous years water data was provided in amount kL by the water van, the water van was not available this year so we calculated there to be 97.2KL water utilised, accounting for 0.21tCO2 in emissions.

Whilst in 2023 we didn't have the water van we didn't see an increase in disposable water bottles in the bins.

Many thanks to Hydro Flask for sponsoring our event and helping us to provide reusable drink bottles. We saved 162k water bottles based on the estimated attendees and water usage across the duration of the festival.



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Waste Minimisation/Resource Optimisation & Recycling



Our 2023 festival provided waste stations that were staffed across the three weekends with Waste Warriors who educated people on the multiple waste streams and how to use these correctly. The stations also provided information and a link to a feedback survey by the local council with regards to a residential composting scheme that they are looking to implement.

All food providers operating out of Solbar served food and hot drinks using compostable packaging. Cold beverages were supplied in reusable cups and Sol Bar had installed water efficient dish washers to ensure easy cleaning of the reusable cups.

Over the festival period Sol Bar served up a range of non-alcoholic, alcoholic and hot beverages. It was great to see people bringing their reusable cups for the coffee cart and the bar serving reusable cups, with a big thanks to our water bottle partner Hydroflask.

In 2023 the event again partnered with Plastic Free Noosa to be a "Plastic Free Event". This involved no sales of single use plastic water bottles whatsoever, and the sale of refillable water bottles, provision of water refill stations, banning of balloons, glitter and plastic disposable gifts and plastic bags. Beach clean ups were organised by Surfers for Climate, monitoring of beach vendors to use 100% compostable food ware and reusable cups at the bar.

The total emissions from food and drinks was 6.2tCO₂-e.

Waste Minimisation/Resource Optimisation & Recycling

From each waste stream we had the following data:

Area	Total tonne (t)	%
Recycling	0.95256	21.5
Municipal waste	2.75562	62.5
Paper & Cardboard	0.702	16
Total Waste	4.41018	100

Based on the above information our future recommendations are:

- The festival continues to work with waste contractors to ensure landfill diversion practices.
- To continue to encourage attendees to bring their own water bottles.
- To continue to encourage vendors to provide waste free services and products.
- And to provide green waste options to divert food waste from landfill at future events.

Competitor Trophies

Competitor trophies were created using 100% upcycled materials thanks to Owen Cavanagh at Owen Surf Art.



Sustainable Product Showcase

The Noosa Festival of Surfing 2023 saw sustainable surfboard manufacturer Varuna Surfboards provide numerous demo surfboards for community to use during the festival window. There are considerable pollution and carbon emissions from traditional surfboard manufacturing and showcasing sustainable consumer options such as those provided by Varuna Surfboards enhanced the sustainability engagement of the festival.



Beach Clean Ups

Daily beach clean ups were conducted daily thanks to the crew at Surfers for Climate. The positive news about the beach cleans was minimal plastic waste on the sand each day, which may be due to already great waste management of the area by Noosa Council, beach users choosing to act responsibly at the beach, and adequate provision of waste management infrastructure at the beach.



Charitable Events

The Noosa Festival of Surfing is positively and proudly supported by the local community, council and businesses and is regarded as an event that perfectly aligns with the region's values.

Each year, the Noosa Festival of Surfing opens with a Welcome to Country from representatives of the traditional owners and custodians of the land, the Kabi Kabi. A paddle out then takes place to honour and celebrate the coast where the event is held.

In 2023 the Festival gave back to the local and global community:

- We partnered with the local non-profit The Board Meeting Surf Charity through a charity dinner and auction fundraising event that included attendance by special guests Lauren Hill and Belinda Baggs. All funds raised by The Board Meeting support local children with disabilities.
- On the 8th of March Solbar hosted the International Women's Day Festival that included workshops, talks and an artist makers market.
- Collecting and donating over \$4k from Festival competitors to Surfaid and Surfers for Climate to support women and children in remote parts of Indonesia.
- A donation from containers collected and recycled was made to Plastic Free Noosa.
- Promoting all non-profit partners throughout the event messaging. The event also has a Purchasing Policy which prefers local, fair trade, products with "eco-credentials" as demonstrated by more than 50% local product purchased.

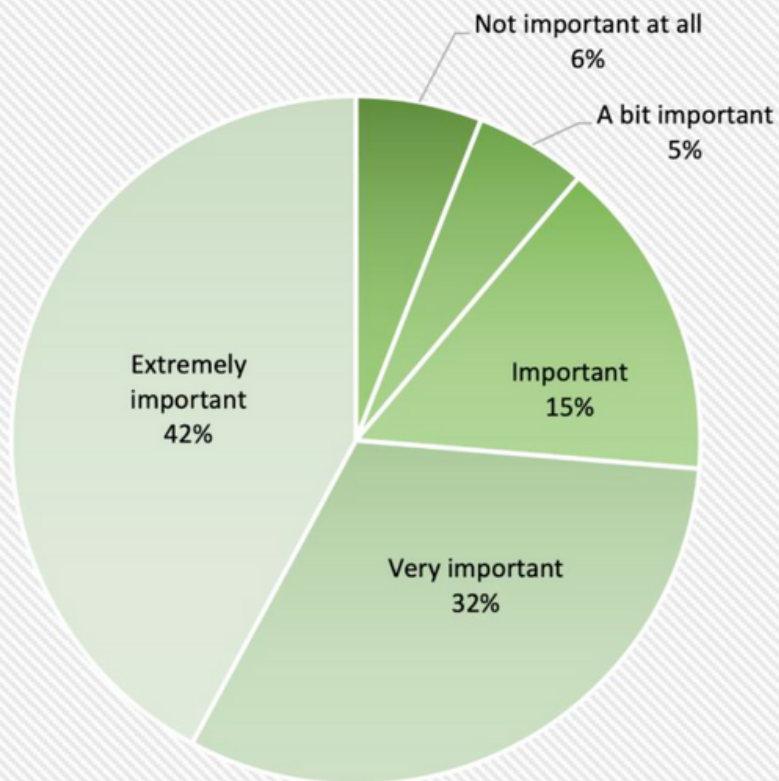


Attitudes Towards Climate Change

The Noosa Festival of Surfing took the opportunity to engage festival attendees on attitudes towards climate change for the first time since it began undertaking sustainability reporting.

This year's survey took a simple step in understanding basic attitudes to the issue, which asked how important climate change was to respondents. The responses show that a majority of respondents believe the issue matters to them, and this feedback can inform future programming for the event to fully engage on this important issue for our ocean and coastal communities.

Attitudes to Climate Change



ANNUAL BENCHMARKING COMPARISON DATA

YEAR	DATE	CRITERIA	RENEWABLES	CARBON OFFSETS	WATER CONSUMED	WATER BOTTLES SAVED	TOTAL WASTE	WASTE DIVERSION	COMPOST	RECYCLABLES	REFUNDABLES	TREES FOR TOURISM
2019	28/2-8/3	46%	0%	1771KG (+2.2t landfill methane)	6.14kL	9475	3.9t	46%	1.125t	0.5t	\$937	nil
2020	22/2-1/3	71%	0%	0%	2.87kL	4783	0.42t	58%	0.2t	0.04t	\$129.90	nil
2021	15/5-25/5	75%	0%	60 tonnes	0.54kL	908	0.28t	71%	0.02t	0.17t	\$71.40	\$306
2022	5/3-13/3	89%	0%	60.0t	0.4 kl (est)	666	0.81t	85%	0.12t	0.57t	\$306.80	\$368
2023	3/3-12/3	56.88%	0%	70tCO2-e	97.2kl (est)	162K	4.35t	38%	n/a	1.65t	n/a	n/a

DIVERSION OF WASTE FROM LANDFILL

- Achieved 2023 38% - Target was 65%.
- There was no compost option this year and we were unable to have contractors sorting the waste streams.

RENEWABLE ENERGY USE

- Zero increase in renewable energy use - Target was 15% - Target Not Achieved.

WATER CONSUMED

- Based on 300 competitors consuming 36 litres of water over nine days as our estimate, this is a much more robust estimate of water from previous years.

WATER BOTTLES SAVED

- Based on 600ml standard water bottles and the estimate attendee data, we would be saving 6 bottles of water per person attending the festival over nine days.

REFUNDABLES

- At the time of this report we had not heard back from our partners for the container recycling program so were unable to include this data.

TOTAL WASTE

- Waste data was estimated based on daily visual audits, not weight data provided by waste management as per last year.





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