



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025





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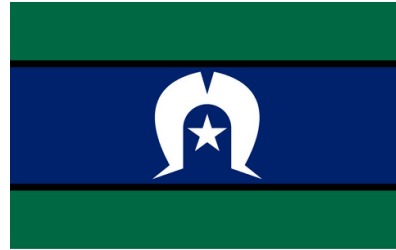
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OUR CUSTODIANS



We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi (Gubbi Gubbi) people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and sea where the Noosa Festival of Surfing is held. We honour their ongoing connection to this place - its surf breaks, waterways, forests, and skies - and we pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Noosa's beauty didn't begin with us, and it won't end with us. For thousands of years, this coastline has been cared for by the world's oldest continuous culture. As we gather here to celebrate surfing, we're reminded of our shared responsibility to protect and preserve the natural environment we're lucky to enjoy.

The Festival is proud to stand alongside local community groups, sponsors, volunteers, and Noosa Council in driving sustainable action. Together, we aim to tread lightly, act consciously, and leave these waves better than we found them.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR TEAM

At the Noosa Festival of Surfing, our mission is to celebrate surfing as a lifestyle, culture, and community event – all while protecting the natural environment that makes it possible. We are committed to responsible environmental and social practices that ensure a sustainable future for the Festival, the Noosa community, and the broader surfing culture.

Held over nine days at First Point, Main Beach and Sunrise Beach, the Festival is managed by World Surfing Events and Event Generals on behalf of the Noosa Malibu Club. It attracts over 400 competitors and thousands of visitors annually, taking place within the Noosa Biosphere Reserve and Noosa World Surfing Reserve – areas of deep cultural and environmental significance to the Kabi Kabi peoples.

Our sustainability commitments focus on key areas: reducing single-use plastics, improving waste diversion systems, offsetting emissions, and supporting local conservation efforts. Each year, we continue to measure and manage our environmental impact across energy, water, and waste, while aligning with the sustainability principles of Stewardship, Inclusivity, Integrity, and Transparency.

“Sustainability is our responsibility to the community, culture, and coastline that make this Festival possible.”



John Finlay - Event Chairman

THE FESTIVAL

The Noosa Festival of Surfing (NFOS) stands as one of the world's most celebrated and enduring surf festivals. Now in its 34th year, the Festival continues to attract surfers, creatives, musicians, and ocean-minded communities from across the globe. It is proudly delivered by World Surfaris Events on behalf of the Noosa Malibu Club, and operated under GoSea Pty Ltd.

The 2025 Festival ran from 14–23 March, activating iconic locations including First Point, Sunrise Beach, and the Noosa River mouth. Over the 9-day program, 395 unique registered competitors and including staff and volunteers – came together to celebrate surf culture, creativity, and connection to country.

Sustainability remains a driving force behind the Festival's evolution. Since 2021, NFOS has made ongoing commitments to reducing environmental impact through carbon footprint measurement, offsetting, and improved waste management.

This 2025 Sustainability Report offers a summary of the Festival's environmental performance, including the major emission sources and the actions taken to reduce and offset their impact.



SUSTAINABILITY SNAPSHOT

 **235t**

Co2-e emissions

 **100%**

Carbon Neutral

 **43%**

Diverted from landfill

 **7.5K**

Water bottles saved

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS



The CN Agency

Empowering businesses and events to lead with climate action and measurable impact.



**PLASTIC FREE
NOOSA**

Empowering local businesses, events and the public to practice going plastic free



Australia's leading total waste management solutions provider that have served Australia for over 50 years!



Surfers for Climate is an Australian charity dedicated to turning the tide on climate change



Proactively identify, designate and preserve outstanding waves, surf zones and surrounding environments around the world



The worlds best sustainable drinkware designed to keep your cold, cold and your hot, hot for longer!

OUR EMISSIONS

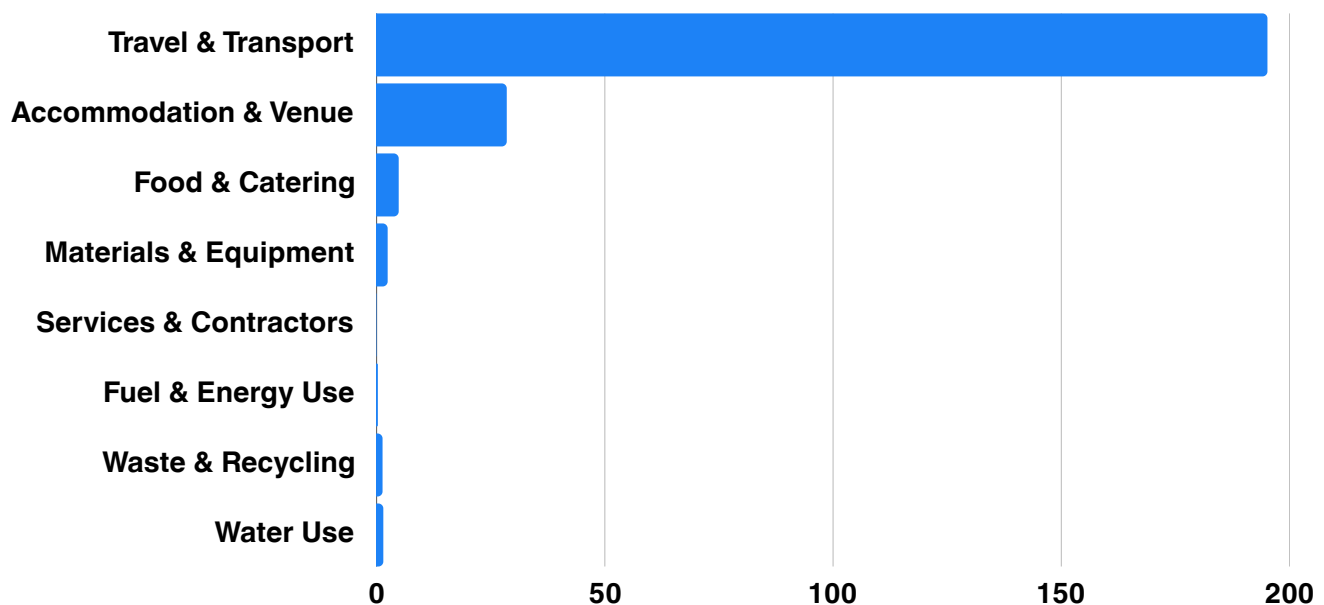
The Noosa Festival of Surfing has an established defined emissions boundary.

The boundary includes the operational activities for the surfing competition: electricity and fuel use for judging and vendor tents, travel and accommodation for competitors and staff, all waste generated at the primary surfing event sites and NFOS merchandise. This boundary excludes broader festival activities such as associated events, the beach bar, general public attendance, partner's merchandise sales and travel and accommodation for non-competitors. By narrowing the scope, we ensure data accuracy and integrity within the Festival operational control. All emission sources included in the boundary are part of the carbon neutral claim and were assessed for relevance using five key criteria: the size of emissions, the degree of influence event organisers have over them, the level of climate-related risk they present, the importance placed on them by stakeholders, and whether they stem from activities typically managed by the event.

Where actual data wasn't available, we used previous years' records if possible; otherwise, assumptions or estimates were used. Some very small sources may be excluded if they contribute less than 1% individually and under 5% combined, or if measuring them accurately would be disproportionately costly - in those cases, a standard uplift factor is applied. Emissions are calculated using the globally recognised unit of carbon dioxide equivalence (tCO₂-e), which allows us to combine various greenhouse gases into one consistent measure.

OUR FOOTPRINT

Emission Category	Total Emissions (t CO2-e)
Travel & Transport	195.15
Accommodation & Venue	28.52
Food & Catering	4.85
Materials & Equipment	2.43
Services & Contractors	0.05
Fuel & Energy Use	0.28
Waste & Recycling	1.31
Water Use	1.48
Total	234.07



YEAR ON YEAR

2024

 **253t**
Co2-e emissions

Food & Catering
8.1%



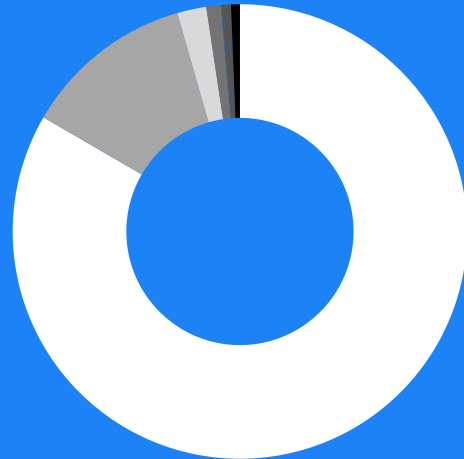
Travel & Transport
82.4%

 **-7.66%**

2025

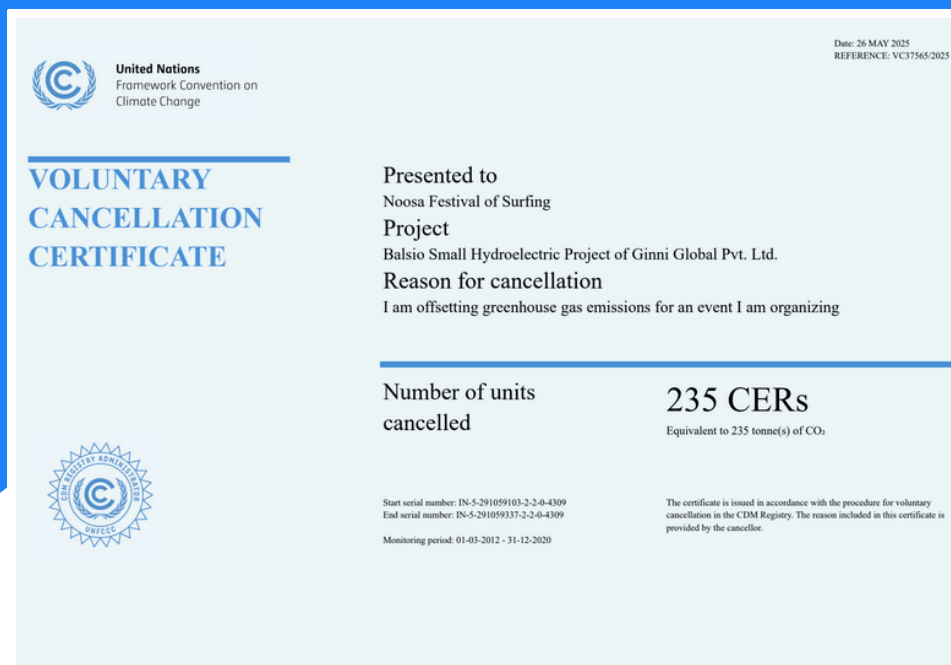
 **235t**
Co2-e emissions

Accommodation & Venue
12.2%



Travel & Transport
83.4%

OFFSET PROJECT



To offset this year’s Festival emissions, we supported the Balsio Small Hydroelectric Project in Himachal Pradesh, India. A clean energy initiative that generates over 21 GWh of renewable electricity annually from natural river flow. Environmentally, the project displaces fossil fuel-based power, preventing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving local ecosystems without impounding water or degrading natural resources. Socially, it brings meaningful benefits to the local community by creating jobs during construction and operation, improving regional infrastructure like roads and communications, and supporting long-term economic uplift. As a run-of-river project, it achieves this without displacing communities or harming the environment, making it a powerful example of climate action that also drives local development.

Project Name	Offset Type	Offset Quantity
Balsio Small Hydroelectric Project	CER's	235

OUR ACTION



Responsible Consumption and Production

We prioritise low-impact operations by embedding responsible consumption throughout the Festival. Single-use plastics have been eliminated through our partnership with Plastic Free Noosa, and Hydro Flask refill stations were placed across the event site, saving an estimated 7,500 plastic bottles this year alone. Food vendors are required to use compostable packaging. We also diverted 3047 bottles from landfill through the Containers for Change program, donating all refunds to the Noosa World Surfing Reserve. Across signage, volunteers, and vendor engagement, we promote sustainable choices and reduce material waste year after year. Thank you to the Hydro Flask team and Wallop Water.



OUR ACTION



Climate Action

As an ocean-focused event, climate leadership is core to our identity. Since 2021, we've measured the surfing event's full carbon footprint - including travel, accommodation, electricity, and food - and offset emissions through verified projects like SeaTrees and the Paroo River North Regeneration Project. In 2024, we achieved Climate Active carbon neutral certification. Travel data is now captured directly in competitor registration to ensure accurate reporting, and we support local reforestation through the Trees for Tourism initiative with Landcare and Tourism Noosa, restoring native habitats and contributing to long-term carbon drawdown. In 2025 we offset 100% of emissions supporting the Balsio Small Hydroelectric Project in Himachal Pradesh, India.

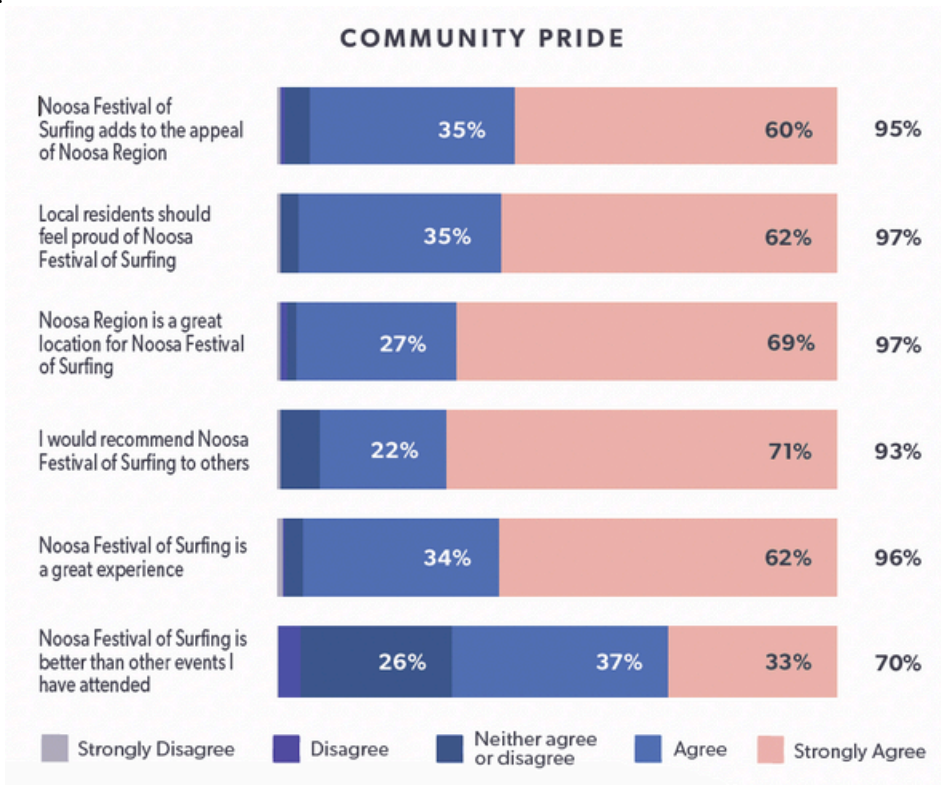


OUR ACTION



Sustainable Cities and Communities

The 2025 Noosa Festival of Surfing made a meaningful social impact by boosting local pride, enhancing community identity, and supporting sustainable regional tourism – aligning closely with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. According to the independent IER survey, 97% of attendees agreed that the Festival is a great experience, and 95% said it adds to the appeal of the Noosa region. The event also encouraged strong community engagement, with 93% of respondents saying they would recommend it to others. By drawing thousands of visitors without placing pressure on the environment, and by supporting local businesses through responsible tourism, the Festival fostered a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive community atmosphere that celebrates culture, sustainability, and place.



FOCUSED EVENT THINKING

Graph sourced from [IER](#)

OUR GOALS



Minimising and Managing Waste

We are committed to significantly reducing waste across the Festival by improving planning, systems, and accountability. Our goal is to divert over 75% of total waste from landfill through a clear, well-managed waste stream system that includes landfill, organics, recycling, and Containers for Change refundables.

In 2026, we will take on a more central managerial role in waste oversight – working directly with contractors, vendors, and volunteers to ensure bins are properly placed, labelled, and staffed. We'll also continue to promote reusables, reuse event infrastructure, and support waste-free vendor practices, while strengthening on-site education and clean-up initiatives in partnership with Plastic Free Noosa and local NGOs.



Expanding Scope & Engagement

In 2026, we are broadening our sustainability scope beyond Surf Festival operations to include partner activations, sponsor stalls, and vendor spaces. All participating partners will be encouraged to participate in sustainability reporting and align with our sustainability standards – including waste reduction, plastic-free practices, and responsible product sourcing.

We are also introducing a carbon offset option at attendee checkout, giving ticket holders the opportunity to voluntarily offset their travel emissions through verified environmental projects. This initiative not only supports our climate goals, but empowers our community to take personal action toward reducing their impact.

MEDIA



STRATEGIC PARTNERS





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