Surfing Events

Local Planning Policy 8

Application

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the appropriate location, size and number of surfing events that are permitted within Shire vested foreshore reserves within any calendar year.

Application of this Policy applies to organisations wishing to conduct a surfing event at local club level through to international events, on Shire managed foreshore reserves. A separate application process is required for surfing events utilising Department of Parks and Wildlife managed land and waters.

The policy also provides guidance for assessing permit applications to use a Shire reserve for situations where planning approval is not required.

Interpretations

'Surfing' for the purpose of this policy, applies to all forms of surf-riding including but not limited to surfboarding, body boarding, wind surfing, body surfing and wave skiing**.**

'Non-exclusive' means that a surfing events do not have exclusive rights of foreshore reserve infrastructure such as car parks and pathway access, including set up and dismantling stages.

'DPaW' means the WA Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Objectives

1. Provide opportunities for organisers to host surfing events in the Shire each year, providing local surfing breaks are retained for general use by recreational surfers, particularly popular surfing breaks such as Surfers Point.

2. Ensure the predominant use of foreshore reserves are retained for public recreation whilst providing limited opportunities for the exclusive use of reserves.

3. Ensure that surfing events of appropriate sizes are only supported in locations that do not result in access issues, avoid damage to, and promote the recovery of coastal dune systems.

4. Establish a Surfing Calendar of Events which will allow for local residents and recreational surfers to plan their leisure time beach activities around competition dates and also allow for organisations conducting events to coordinate their time schedules around other events.

5. Liaise with and work with State Government toward the suitable use and development of reserved land outside of the Shire's vesting authority.

Policy

EVENT CLASSIFICATIONS

Association of Surfing Professionals (ASP) Event Category

1. **Two** ASP events under this category organised in conjunction with Surfing WA, will be approved in any calendar year.

2. Up to 100 or more competitors and large spectator crowds will be permitted in this category as per planning approval and licensing agreements.

3. In consideration of the long standing Margaret River Surf Pro, preference will be given to this event where it is held in conjunction with Surfing WA.

4. Confirmation shall be provided at least 6 months prior to the event date, in order to assess the proposal and exclude other potential events.

5. Exclusive use of a foreshore reserve will only be permitted during the Margaret River Surf Pro held at Surfers Point providing suitable arrangements are made for an adequate portion of the foreshore reserve to be retained for public access during the set up and dismantling of event infrastructure.

Australian Surfing Titles

6. **One** Australian Surfing Titles surfing event will be permitted to be held in the Shire every seven years, providing it is organised in conjunction with Surfing WA.

7. Confirmation shall be provided at least 6 months prior to the event date, in order to assess the proposal and exclude other potential events.

8. Exclusive use of the foreshore reserve is permitted during running of any event providing suitable arrangements are made for an adequate portion of the foreshore reserve to be retained for public use during the set up and dismantling of event infrastructure.

Major Event Category

9. **One** major event consisting of no more than 120 competitors, organised in conjunction with Surfing WA will be permitted in any calendar year. Approval will be for a period of up to four continuous days in duration.

10. Approval will be for a period of up to four continuous days in duration on a non-exclusive use basis.

Large Event Category

11. Up to **two** large events consisting of no more than 90 competitors, and organised in conjunction with Surfing WA will be permitted in any calendar year.

12. Approval will be for a period of up to four continuous days in duration on a non-exclusive use basis.

Minor Event Category

13. Only **two** minor events consisting of no more than 70 competitors will be approved in any calendar year.

14. Approval will be for a period of up to four continuous days in duration on a non-exclusive use basis.

15. A 'Surfing Competition Ballot Application Form' must be submitted to the Shire by December 1st for the following calendar year. See 'Surfing Competition Ballot Application Form' (see attachments below). Applications will be assessed and successful applicants will be notified and requested to submit an event application or permit for the event.

Club Event Category

16. If Council is of the opinion that a proposed club event exceeds the scale of a normal 'low key' club contest (maximum 32 surfers), it reserves the right to assess the proposal as a Minor or Large contest under this policy.

17. Club events refer to surfing events operated by the Margaret River Boardriders Club (MRBRC), Cowaramup Boardriders Club (CBRC) or primary and high schools within the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.

18. The Shire shall be notified of all club events inclusive of dates, location and number of competitors. Organisers of club events are required to complete annually, a *'Surfing Club Beach Application Form'* for land managed and controlled by the Shire, outlining their seasonal calendar of events. Please see '*Surfing Club Beach Application Form'* (see attachments below).

Table 1 – Club event requirements

TYPE OF EVENT	MAXIMUM DURATION	MAXIMUM NO. OF EVENTS PER YEAR
Margaret River Boardriders Club	1 day per event	• Open division (6 events) • Junior division (6 events)
Cowaramup Boardriders Club	1 day per event	• Open division (4 events) • Junior division (4 events)
School events	1 day per event	• 4 events

Long-Established Community Event Category

19. These events will be assessed independent of the provisions set out in the above 'Event Classifications' on the basis that they are carried out in accordance with the following requirements.

Table 2 – Traditional surfing event requirements

NAME OF SURFING EVENT	MAXIMUM DURATION	MAXIMUM NO. OF COMPETITORS
Margaret River Single Fin Contest	1 day	40
Gracetown Grommets	1 day	80
Margaret River Surf Classic	3 days	120

20. Long-Established Community Events are the "Margaret River Classic", the "Gracetown Grommets" and the "Margaret River Single Fin" surfing events.

21. Organisers of these events are required to complete, a *'Surfing Club Beach Application Form'* annually for land managed and controlled by the Shire, outlining their seasonal calendar of events. Organisers are required to complete and lodge an application form with the Shire a minimum of six weeks prior to the event.

STANDARD PROVISIONS

22. Surfing events (other than the Margaret River Pro) will only be supported where it is demonstrated that foreshore access to the coast, including car parking and walkways, are available for public enjoyment for the duration of the surfing event.

23. Applications for surfing events must clearly demonstrate that the event will not result in:
    a) adverse impacts to native vegetation and coastal dune formations;
    b) traffic management issues; and
    c) any additional rubbish in foreshore reserves.

    As part of any proposal for a surfing event, event organisers are required to demonstrate how the surfing event will avoid environmental impacts, including minimizing impacts on dunes, vegetation, rubbish disposal and waste.

24. Planning approvals received for surfing events on State vested land will be assessed in accordance with the provisions of this Policy. The Shire will not support surfing events in the Shire where the total number of events held on both State reserve land and Shire reserve land exceed the total number of events permitted through this policy in any calendar year.

LOCATIONS

Whilst there are many surf locations throughout the Shire, many of these foreshore reserves are either not managed by the Shire or have inadequate facilities to successfully conduct a surfing event. The table below (Table 3) identifies nominated sites and the event types that can be accommodated at each location in one calendar year:

Table 3 - Nominated surfing event sites at Shire of Augusta-Margaret River managed foreshore reserves

LOCATION	TYPE OF EVENT							REQUIRED ACTIONS
	Long-Established Community Event	**CLUB**	**MINOR**	**LARGE**	**MAJOR**	**AUSTRALIAN SURFING TITLES**	**ASP EVENTS (limited to Margaret River Pro plus one specialised event)**	
Surfers Point/ Southsides	✓ (2 events) - Margaret River Classic - Single Fin contest	✓ (2 events) organised by MRBRC	✓ (1 event)	✓ (1 event)	✓ (1event)	✓	✓ (Margaret River Pro)	Additional infrastructure to be provided as directed by the Shire.
The Box			✓	✓	✓		✓ (Margaret River Pro)	Additional infrastructure to be provided as directed by the Shire.
The Bombie							✓ (specialised event)	To be run from boat only
Boatramp							✓ (specialised event)	To be run from boat only
North Point *(subject to DPAW support)*		✓	✓					Taping off dunes/sensitive areas, rubbish/environmental control, toilets providing (depending upon event size)
South Point *(subject to DPAW support)*		✓	✓	✓				Rubbish/environmental control
Huzzas *(subject to DPAW support)*	✓ (Gracetown Grommets	✓	✓	✓				Rubbish/environmental control
Rivermouth		✓	✓	✓				Rubbish/environmental control
Sewers			✓					Toilets, rubbish/environmental control, taping off dunes/sensitive areas
Gas Point		✓	✓					Toilets, rubbish/environmental control, taping off dunes/sensitive areas
Grunters		✓						Toilets, rubbish/environmental control, taping off dunes/sensitive areas

Approvals

Requirements for Club and Long-Standing Community events

1. A permit must be lodged for all surfing events located on Shire reserve land, including use of car parks, infrastructure and access ways.

2. The applicant is advised that in the interest of efficiency that organisers should submit one application, consistent with this Policy addressing all proposed contests they propose to hold in one calendar year

3. The permit is to be submitted with a beach application form, Insurance Certificate of Currency, a Risk Management Plan and site plans of the event area.

4. Approval must be obtained from the Department of Transport and lodged with the application for a permit from the Shire.

5. Planning approval is not required for Club and Long-Standing Community events providing they meet the provisions set out in the policy.

Requirements for all other surfing events

6. A permit to use a Shire reserve needs to be obtained from the Shire prior to any surfing event taking place.

7. A planning application will also need to be submitted to the Shire in the following circumstances:
   a) Surfing events which are longer than 48 hours in duration; and
   b) Where a surfing event results in development such as scaffolding platforms/stages, and temporary structures such as sheds, sea containers and other similar infrastructure not considered to be of a low key nature.

8. Prior to the start of a new calendar year, organisers of surfing events to which this policy is applicable, shall provide to the Shire their proposed event calendar for consideration and assessment under this Policy.

General requirements

9. Organisers are to provide details with any permit or planning approval for the proposed surfing event the following information:
   a) Previous relevant experience of the applicant(s);
   b) Details of type of contest to be held;
   c) Preferred location of contest (with 1 alternative);
   d) Hours and dates of contest;
   e) All details with regard to the use of any vehicles on the beach (if applicable);
   f) Details of environmental protection of the dunes and surrounding areas; and
   g) Details of areas designated for car parking, traffic management, toilets, proposed structures, beach patrol and promotional signage.
   h) Intended safety measures - i.e. marker buoys, rescue boats, signs etc;
   i) Insurance – Certificate of Currency;
   j) Risk Management Plan;
   k) Department of Transport Approval;
   l) Approval and permits from various agencies and department (if applicable); and
   m) Liquor licensing permit (if applicable)

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