Frequently asked questions

Narrawneck Reef Renewal

Q: Why was the Narrawneck Artificial Reef built?
A: The Narrawneck Artificial Reef was built to protect the vulnerable, exposed and narrow stretch of foreshore. Before the reef was constructed in 1999, Narrawneck had a history of high-level erosion during storms.

Q: Has the Narrawneck Artificial Reef been effective?
A: Coastal monitoring shows that the reef has been an effective coastal protection asset that has increased the resilience of Narrawneck beach against the impacts of storm events and large ocean swell.

Q: How does the artificial reef protect the beach at Narrawneck?
A: The reef lessens erosion impacts of large waves. As these waves cross the reef, their intensity becomes less threatening to the beach. The reef also promotes a build-up of sand near the structure and this sand acts as a buffer to protect the beach during storms.

Q: Why is the reef being renewed?
A: Like any piece of infrastructure, the reef has a design life and requires renewal to ensure the structure continues to function.

Q: Is the reef renewal considering surfing amenity?
A: While the primary purpose of the Narrawneck Reef is to function as a coastal protection structure, the City recognises the importance of surfing on the Gold Coast, and surfing amenity is being considered in accordance with the Gold Coast Surf Management Plan. Surfing outcomes are being considered as part of the design for the renewal works, which includes scale model testing to assess wave breaking.

Q: What do the renewal works involve?
A: The renewal works will involve placing additional geotextile sand containers on the existing artificial reef using a specialised vessel. The containers will be constructed using the latest geotextile fabric.

Q: What is the project schedule?
A: Tenders for the renewal works were called in February 2017, and the contract was awarded in June 2017. Renewal construction works are scheduled to occur between August and December 2017.
Q: How was the reef renewal funded?
A: Narrowneck Reef Renewal is a joint initiative of the City of Gold Coast, the Queensland Government and the Australian Government. The project is partly funded through the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, a joint State and Australian Government funding program.

Q: Which City of Gold Coast strategy does this project support?

Q: Will the reef be renewed with a different material?
A: The project aims to renew the existing artificial reef in line with the original design intent and will therefore use Geotextile Sand Containers.

Q: Will the geotextile sand containers be more durable than that previously used?
A: The Geotextile Sand Containers will be constructed using the latest geotextile fabrics and sand container designs, which are more durable than what has been used in previous construction of the Narrowneck artificial reef.