Gold Coast beach nourishment

The Gold Coast’s most vulnerable beaches will benefit from a major beach nourishment project between May and October 2017. The project will involve dredging of our offshore sand reserves to nourish Palm Beach and the northern Gold Coast beaches from Miami to Main Beach.

Coastal erosion

Our beaches have endured a number of storms including the events from May 2009 and the more recent events in January 2013, resulting in significant coastal erosion and the need for an increase in sand volume to protect our coastline and maintain beach amenity.

The project objective

The key objective of the beach nourishment project is to increase beach sand volume along vulnerable sections of our coastline to increase the available sand volume buffers that provide protection against future coastal erosion.

The method

In 2017, a specialised dredge vessel will transfer sand from our approved offshore sand reserves and this sand will be placed in the wave breaking zone. Natural coastal processes such as waves and tides will then distribute this sand across the beach. This technique is called nearshore beach nourishment. Nearshore nourishment has a proven successful history on Gold Coast beaches.

The vessel will operate 24 hours a day for approximately three to four months. This technique will have minimal impact on beach users. However, some temporary and localised beach closures may be required for safety reasons.

Ocean Beaches Strategy 2013 - 2023

The Gold Coast Beach Nourishment Project is part of the Ocean Beaches Strategy 2013-2023, ensuring our beaches are clean, healthy, safe and accessible now and into the future. The nourishment will also have the benefit that our beaches will be in the best possible condition during the 2018 Commonwealth Games™.
An international tender has been called in October 2016 and the City is working towards awarding a contract in early 2017.