



Queensland

COAST SAFE REPORT

2025 / 26



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2,774

TOTAL RESCUES

25.43

AVERAGE AGE OF
ALL RESCUES

14.6%

OF CHILDREN RESCUED WERE
UNDER THE AGE OF 12 YEARS

83%

OF THE PEOPLE RESCUED
IDENTIFIED AS AUSTRALIAN

55%

VS

42%

MALES VS FEMALES RESCUED

44%

RESCUES WERE PERFORMED DURING
DECEMBER AND JANUARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) is Queensland's peak aquatic safety authority and a community service organisation dedicated to saving lives. For more than 90 years, our organisation has remained steadfast in its vision of zero preventable deaths in Queensland public waters.

Today, SLSQ is one of Australia's largest volunteer-based community service organisations, with more than 38,000 members contributing their time, skills and commitment to keeping Queenslanders and visitors safe. While our foundations are built on volunteer surf lifesaving, the organisation has evolved significantly to deliver a diverse range of services, including lifesaving and lifeguard operations, membership services, training and education, community awareness programs, commercial training, emergency management support and disaster response. These services extend well beyond the beach and continue to play a vital role in protecting communities across Queensland.

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, SLSQ lifesavers and lifeguards welcomed and protected more than 20 million visitors across Queensland's 6,973 kilometres of mainland coastline. Throughout the season, our volunteer and professional lifesaving services responded to the needs of local communities, interstate travellers and international visitors alike, supported by a comprehensive network of operational resources. In addition to beach patrols, these resources included the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service, the State Operations Communication Centre, Rescue Water Craft, roving beach patrols and Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Together, these capabilities enhance surveillance, improve response times and provide critical coverage at identified coastal blackspot locations.

Over the past two decades, SLSQ has continued to strengthen Queensland's lifesaving capability through investment in people, technology and evidence-based prevention strategies. Identifying and addressing aquatic risk remains a core priority, with the annual Coast Safe Report providing valuable insight into emerging trends, high-risk locations and vulnerable demographics.

Despite these ongoing efforts, 26 people tragically lost their lives in coastal drowning incidents across Queensland during 2025/26. Males continued to be disproportionately represented, with the average age of victims being 57 years. SLSQ lifesavers and lifeguards also performed 2,774 rescues throughout the season, with 79 per cent occurring outside the red and yellow flags—an increase from the previous year and a reminder that many beachgoers continue to underestimate coastal hazards and choose to swim outside supervised areas.

Beyond the coastline, a further 25 drowning deaths occurred at inland aquatic locations and other public waterways across Queensland during

the reporting period, with males accounting for 56 per cent of these fatalities. Every drowning death is a tragedy, and every life lost reinforces the importance of continued investment in prevention, education and community awareness.

The findings presented in this report provide more than statistics—they identify opportunities for action. By understanding where, how and why drownings and rescues occur, SLSQ can continue to develop targeted education campaigns, strengthen operational capability, expand lifesaving services and work collaboratively with government, local councils and community partners to reduce aquatic risk.

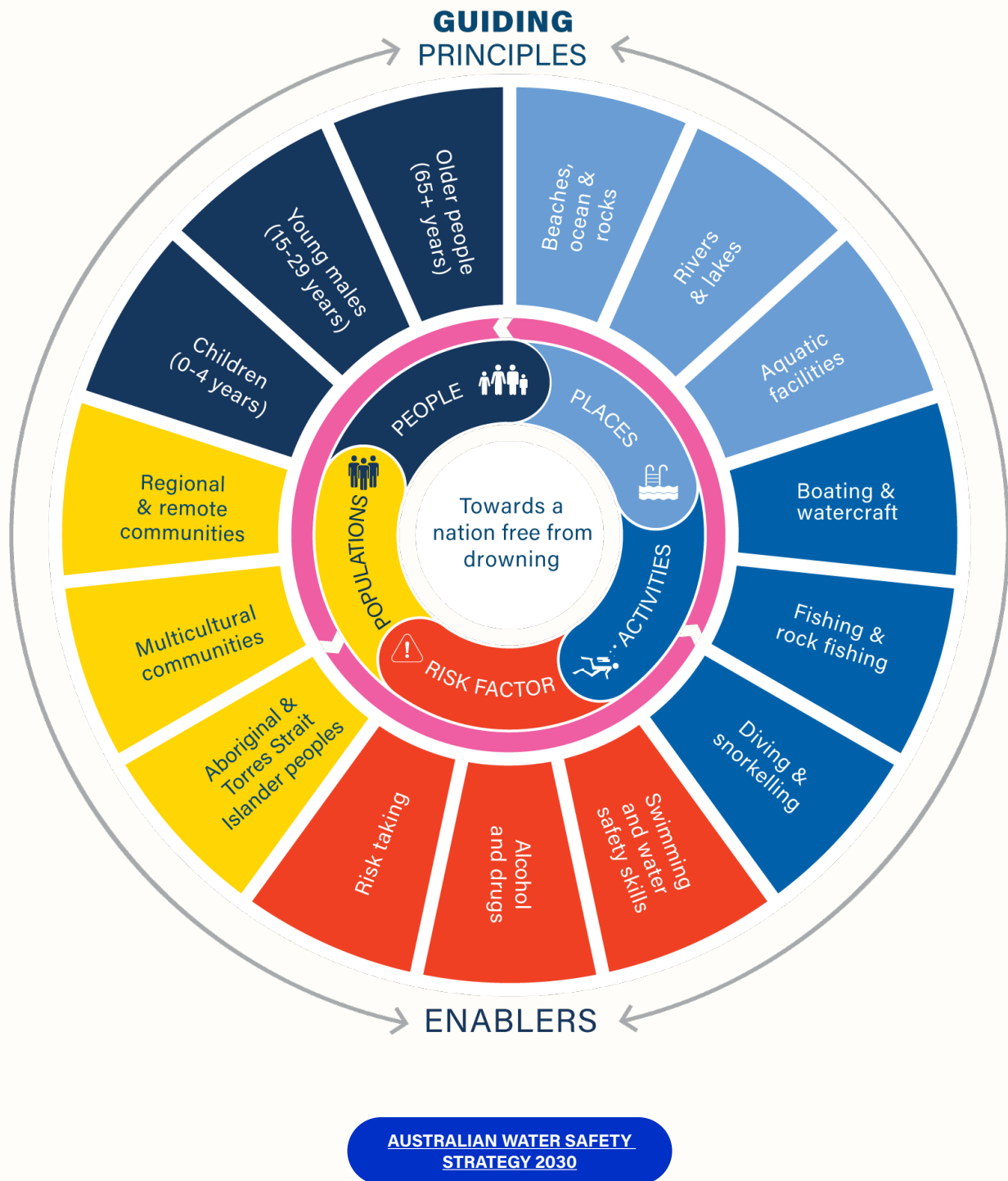
As Queensland's population continues to grow and more people choose to enjoy our beaches, rivers, lakes and waterways, our commitment remains unchanged. Through innovation, collaboration and the dedication of our volunteers, members and staff, Surf Life Saving Queensland will continue working towards our vision of **zero preventable deaths in Queensland public waters**.





SAFTEY AND STRATEGIES

SLSQ has embraced the Australian Water Safety Strategy for 2030 in relation to reducing drowning deaths. Over the coming years SLSQ will work to align key objectives with the priority and focus areas identified in the strategy.



TOTAL SERVICE PLAN 2026-2031

SLSQ's ability to fulfil this purpose is guided by a strong strategic framework, underpinned by the SLSQ Strategic Plan and supported by the Total Service Plan.

Together, these documents provide a comprehensive approach to understanding and responding to the dynamic coastal environment. They incorporate detailed analysis of current service delivery, emerging and existing risks, workforce capability and movement, and future demand projections through to 2031.

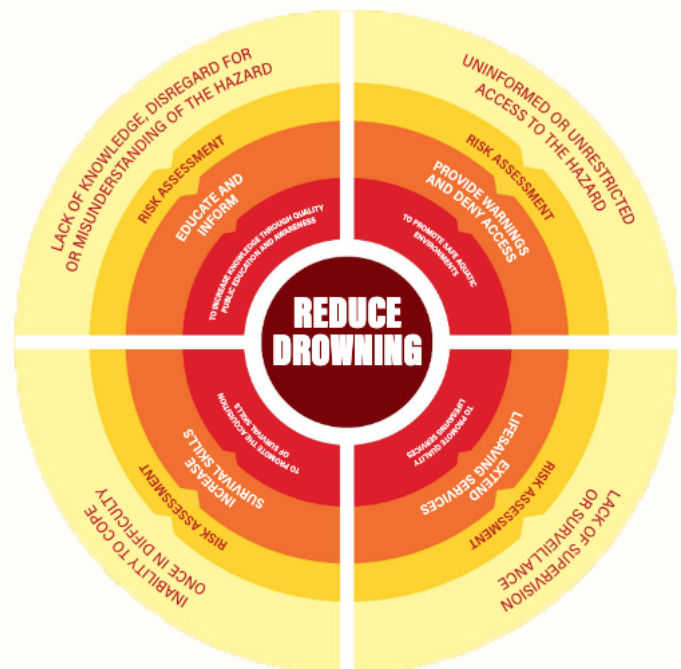
The plan outlines a clear and forward-thinking plan to ensure SLSQ continues to meet the evolving needs of Queensland's diverse coastline and the communities who live, work, and visit these areas. It acknowledges the increasing complexity of coastal safety, driven by population growth, tourism, environmental change, and shifting patterns of beach and waterway usage.

Through targeted planning, data-driven decision-making, and a continued commitment to volunteer and professional workforce development, SLSQ will remain agile and responsive. This plan ensures the organisation is well-positioned to sustain and enhance its lifesaving capabilities, maintain community trust, and continue its legacy of saving lives well into the future.

Total service plan will establish a strategic, evidence-based framework to ensure services are effectively aligned with current and emerging risks, community needs, and organisational priorities. This plan will continue to be iterated in order for it to remain contemporary and enhanced as new data and analysis is completed. It will:

- Respond to changing risk profiles, including drowning and injury trends
- Address population growth, demographic shifts, and tourism impacts
- Incorporate the influence of extreme weather and environmental factors
- Identify gaps in current service delivery and coverage
- Ensure future planning is proactive, consistent, and data-driven
- Align Queensland's approach with national frameworks and benchmarking data

Ultimately, the plan aims to ensure lifesaving services remain effective, sustainable, and responsive to evolving community expectations and risks.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

RESCUES

During the 2025/26 season, SLSQ members performed a total of 2,774 rescues across Queensland beaches, reflecting the continued and significant demand placed on our volunteer and lifeguard workforce throughout the patrol period.

The average age of those rescued was 25 years, highlighting that beach-related incidents are not limited to any one age group. Children under the age of 12 accounted for 14.6% of all rescues, reinforcing the importance of close supervision of young beachgoers and ongoing public education around water safety.

Of those rescued, 83% identified as Australian, with males accounting for 55% of rescues compared to 42% female. These figures are consistent with broader trends in beach rescue data and continue to inform how we target our public safety messaging.

A significant and ongoing concern is the proportion of rescues occurring outside of the flagged swimming area, which rose slightly to 79%, representing a 1% increase on the previous year. This figure underscores the critical importance of swimming between the flags and the need for sustained public awareness campaigns to drive behavioral change at the beach.

As anticipated, rescue activity was heavily concentrated during the peak of the summer period, with 44% of all rescues taking place during December and January. While this represents a 1% decrease on the prior season, it remains clear that this period places the greatest demand on our patrol resources and highlights the importance of adequate resourcing and member readiness heading into the peak patrol months.





2,774
TOTAL RESCUES

25.43
AVERAGE AGE OF
ALL RESCUES

83%
OF THE PEOPLE RESCUED
IDENTIFIED AS AUSTRALIAN

A YEAR IN REVIEW

COASTAL DROWNING DEATHS

During the 2025/26 season, there were 26 coastal drowning deaths recorded in Queensland. Coastal drowning is defined as any drowning occurring on the coast or in the ocean up to two nautical miles offshore. These figures are a sobering reminder of the ongoing risks present in our coastal environment and the critical role that surf lifesaving plays in protecting the community.

The majority of drowning deaths, 85%, occurred during patrol hours, with 11% occurring outside of patrol hours. While this may appear counterintuitive, it reflects the significantly higher volume of people present in coastal areas during patrolled periods and reinforces that even a strong patrol presence cannot eliminate all risk.

Age was a significant factor in this season's drowning data. Those aged between 40 and 69 accounted for 58% of all coastal drowning deaths, with an average age of 57.8 years. People in their 60s alone represented 28% of fatalities, highlighting a concerning trend of older community members being disproportionately represented in coastal drowning statistics. This

data should inform how we target prevention efforts and public safety messaging toward this demographic.

Nationality data revealed a notable pattern, with only 23% of those who drowned identifying as Australian, while 69% were internationally born and 8% were of unknown nationality. Despite this, 62% were Australian residents, suggesting that many victims may have been living in Australia but lacked familiarity with local coastal conditions and safe practices. This reinforces the need for targeted multicultural water safety education and community outreach.

In terms of activity at the time of the incident, 46% of those who drowned were swimming. Seasonally, drowning deaths were most prevalent in Spring, accounting for 35% of fatalities, followed by Autumn at 27%. Notably, 69% of deaths occurred during the week rather than on weekends, a pattern that warrants further consideration in how patrol resources and public safety messaging are deployed.

*Where the location of the drowning is on the coast, in the ocean up to two nautical miles (2NM) offshore.



26
**TOTAL COSTAL
DROWNING
DEATHS**

58%
**AGED BETWEEN 40 - 69
(AV AGE 57.8)**

70%
**OF RESCUES OCCURRED
DURING THE WEEK**

46%
**WERE SWIMMING/WADING
AT THE TIME**

81%
WERE MALES

69%
WERE INTERNATIONALLY BORN

A YEAR IN REVIEW

BEACH RELATED DROWNING DEATHS

During the 2025/26 season, there were 19 beach drowning deaths recorded in Queensland. Of these, 84% occurred more than 100m or more from a flagged service location. This data strongly reinforces the life-saving importance of swimming between the flags and highlights that proximity to a patrol zone does not guarantee safety when people choose to swim outside of designated areas.

The overwhelming majority of beach drowning deaths, 89%, occurred during patrol hours, again reflecting the higher concentration of beach activity during these periods rather than any failure of the patrol system itself.

Males accounted for 74% of beach drowning deaths, with an average age of 43.7 years, reaffirming their continued status as a high-risk demographic. Notably, only 5% of males who drowned were Australian born, which is a striking figure that points to a significant gap in water safety awareness and beach familiarity among male beachgoers from non-Australian backgrounds.

The overall average age across all beach drowning deaths was 44.84

years, with those aged between 40 and 69 accounting for 47% of fatalities and an average age of 60 within that group. As with the broader coastal drowning data, this reinforces a concerning pattern of older beachgoers being disproportionately represented in drowning statistics.

In terms of activity at the time of the incident, 63% of those who drowned were swimming or wading. Rip currents or possible rip-related conditions were identified as a contributing factor in 63% of beach drowning deaths, underlining once again that rip awareness remains one of the most critical areas of focus for both public education and patrol operations.

Seasonally, Spring accounted for the highest proportion of beach drowning deaths at 35%, followed by both Autumn and Summer at 26% each. As with the broader coastal data, the weekly distribution is notable, with 74% of deaths occurring during the week and only 26% on weekends. This pattern continues to challenge assumptions about when and where beach safety resources and public messaging need to be concentrated.

*All beach related drowning deaths: when a person enters the water from a beach environment. These incidents do not include intentional self-harm.



19

**TOTAL BEACH RELATED
DROWNING DEATHS**

79%

**OCCURRED OVER 200 METERS
FROM A FLAGGED AREA**

37%

OCCURRED IN SPRING

26%

**OCCURRED IN SUMMER AND
AUTUMN**

63%

**WERE SWIMMING/WADING
AT THE TIME**

63%

**WERE RIP/POSSIBLE RIP RELATED
DROWNING DEATHS**

CASE STUDY 1

BEACH 2 BUSH

COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAM – BRINGING WATER SAFETY EDUCATION TO REGIONAL AND REMOTE QUEENSLAND

For many children living in rural and remote Queensland, a visit to the beach can be an exciting experience, but one that comes with unfamiliar risks. Surf Life Saving Queensland's Beach to Bush program helps bridge this gap by delivering essential water safety education directly to regional communities, ensuring students have the knowledge and confidence to stay safe around Queensland's waterways before they ever reach the coast.

Each year, during one dedicated week of delivery, Surf Life Saving Queensland deploys six touring teams from Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Wide Bay (Bundaberg), North Barrier (Townsville), and North Queensland (Cairns) to deliver engaging, interactive water safety education to schools across Queensland. Travelling thousands of kilometres, the program reaches communities that may otherwise have limited access to structured water safety education.

Students participate in practical, age-appropriate learning experiences that build knowledge of beach and inland water hazards, rip currents, beach flags and signs, sun safety, emergency response and safer decision-making around all aquatic environments.

Beach to Bush directly supports the objectives of the Australian Water Safety Strategy 2030 and the National Water Safety Framework by improving access to quality water safety education, reducing inequity for regional and remote communities, and empowering children with the knowledge and skills to make safer choices around water. Through education, the program contributes to the long-term goal of reducing drowning and improving water safety outcomes for all Australians.

The program is proudly supported by the Ash Barty Foundation, whose funding helps remove barriers for regional schools and enables Surf Life Saving Queensland to provide the program free of charge to participating schools.

More than a school education initiative, Beach to Bush creates lasting community impact. Every kilometre travelled represents another community reached, another classroom engaged and another opportunity to equip young Queenslanders with life-saving knowledge. By ensuring location is not a barrier to education, the program is helping build safer communities and contributing to a future where every child has the opportunity to enjoy Queensland's waterways safely.





CASE STUDY 2

THE GROWTH OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE & CAPABILITY

GROUPS, TRAINING AND INCREASING NUMBERS - SERVICES BEYOND THE FLAGS

Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) has continued to deliver on its core mission — to save lives, build better communities, and provide Queenslanders with safer public waters. SLSQ continues to contribute year and year out through its people and provision of core lifesaving services to the community. The red and yellow flags remain central to the organisation's relevance, representing its primary lifesaving role.

Beyond patrolled areas, the organisation continues to extend its services across the coastline through rescue services, lifeguards and other specialist rescue resources. Based on this firm foundation, SLSQ's intent in a disaster or large-scale emergency incident is to extend further and support all agencies during the preparation, response and recovery phases. SLSQ continues to work proactively with all emergency services and provide its capabilities to ensure the Queensland public is kept safe during these times whilst maintaining critical beach and coastal safety services.

SLSQ has an increasing presence beyond the red and yellow flags, with long standing capabilities in Emergency Response Groups (ERGs), helicopters and Rescue Water Craft (RWCs) and Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). These capabilities are delivered by SLSCs and at a State-level to provide a 24 hour and 365 response capability to support emergency services and communities where those services are in place.

To support both between and beyond the flags operations, SLSQ has established a 365 day a year State Operations and Communications Centre (SOCC) operating at two locations on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. It provides the backbone of the SLS Emergency Response System (13SURF) and utilises the Government Wireless Radio Network (GWN) and Coastal Safety Network (CSN) of beacons and cameras to provide constant monitoring and coordination of SLSQ services. In addition to this, Duty Officers provide overnight and on scene response leadership in support of our emergency service partners.

The Flood Response Groups within SLSQ is growing vastly. SLSQ has already commenced adoption of frameworks implemented by Surf Life Saving Tasmania's (SLST) Centre of Excellence (COE) for Flood Water Rescue. To date, significant progress has been made to plan for and commence implementing the flood responder and flood boat operator standards, including the acquisition and disbursement of gear and equipment to support trained personnel in the field.

Continuation of the capability development is essential to meet community and stakeholder expectations and continue to equip our members to

respond. Further, it is imperative that movement towards self-sustainability is achieved, local partnerships are strengthened (e.g. Queensland Fire Department, State Emergency Service) and long-term reliance on the SLST COE is reduced. The goal is to establish a flood response capability that adapts and builds on the aquatic rescue skills and abilities of our people to enable safe and effective response in the flood environment. Members from across Queensland are given the opportunity to express their interest in completing the Flood Water Rescue course in Tasmania, sharing their experience and knowledge with their Region and Club to increase the number of responders throughout the State.

The UAV capability within SLSQ has gone from strength to strength through development of advanced platforms within Uncrewed Aviation (UA). This platform provides an enormous opportunity to leverage this for the benefit of developing the SLSQ volunteer capability that continues to grow through implementation of the Club Drone Program and the reset of the Operations Support UAV services. In alignment to the UA Remotely Piloted Air Operations Certificate (ReOC), UAV capability will evolve to include multi-category drone operations across emergency response and counter disaster operations and provide specialist options that includes thermal imaging, public and mission critical communications, device deployment and night operations. SLSQ's goal is to establish an Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) capability that adapts and builds on existing SLSQ capabilities to provide a diverse and flexible uncrewed aerial response for emergencies and disaster events.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ROADMAP 2026-2030





CASE STUDY 3

CORY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

MANIKINS GRANT

The Cory Charitable Foundation supports organisations that strengthen Queensland communities, including Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ). Through its generous support, SLSQ secured funding to purchase QCPR (Quality Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training manikins to enhance the quality, consistency and accessibility of CPR training for volunteers across Queensland.

The project focused on supporting surf life saving clubs with limited revenue and access to advanced training resources. The QCPR manikins feature sensor technology that provides real-time feedback on compression depth, rate, recoil and hand positioning, enabling participants to improve their technique while providing trainers with valuable performance and assessment data.

CPR is a fundamental component of SLSQ training and is mandatory across qualifications including the Surf Rescue Certificate, Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques and First Aid. Access to high-quality training equipment ensures volunteers can develop and maintain the skills and confidence required to respond effectively during emergencies. In the 2025/2026 financial year, 1,016 lifesavers were trained in CPR.

The manikins will be distributed to selected surf life saving clubs across Queensland for use in member education, skills maintenance, qualification courses and community CPR awareness initiatives. The investment will strengthen volunteer capability, promote greater equity in training opportunities and support SLSQ's ongoing commitment to operational excellence, innovation and community safety.



CASE STUDY 4

BEACH DROWNING BLACKSPOT REDUCTION PROGRAM

COASTAL BEACON INITIATIVE

The Beach Drowning Blackspot Reduction Program, delivered through the Coastal Beacon Initiative, introduced purpose-built smart poles at four identified coastal drowning blackspots: Stumers Creek, Noosa North Shore, Alexandria Bay and Frenchman's Beach. The initiative was designed to provide an additional layer of safety and emergency response capability at remote, unpatrolled locations where traditional beach safety measures and mobile coverage may be limited.

Each Coastal Beacon was equipped with an emergency call point, remote public announcement (PA) system, rescue tube, PTZ camera, real-time monitoring capability and independent solar power. Together, these technologies provided a multi-layered approach to drowning prevention, combining targeted safety messaging, proactive intervention, emergency communication and access to rescue equipment.

Site selection was informed by Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) coastal drowning data, with particular consideration given to locations associated with drowning incidents, high-risk behaviours and informal four-wheel-drive access. The Beacons were strategically positioned at remote access tracks, entry points and parking areas to engage beach users before they reached the water and influence safety decisions at the point of entry.

The initiative incorporated high-visibility, action-oriented messaging, including direct instructions such as "CALL 000", supported by prominent hazard signage and icon-based rescue tube instructions. Integrated cameras and PA systems enabled the State Operations Communications Centre (SOCC) to monitor locations and issue real-time warnings or instructions, while the emergency call point provided direct two-way communication with SOCC. Starlink connectivity further supported reliable communication in areas with limited mobile coverage.

The Coastal Beacons also incorporated solar power, allowing the infrastructure to operate independently of mains electricity and supporting deployment in remote coastal locations.

The initiative represented a shift from traditional passive drowning prevention measures towards a proactive, technology-enabled approach. By combining targeted messaging, surveillance, emergency communication, rescue equipment and real-time intervention, the program provided an additional layer of protection at identified drowning blackspots where conventional patrol services were unavailable.

SLSQ would like to acknowledge Surf Life Saving Australia and the Federal Government for funding support committed over 2024-2026 as a part of the Beach Drowning Blackspot Reduction Program.



2025/26 BEACH RELATED DROWNINGS

REPORT BY REGION

	NORTH QUEENSLAND	NORTH BARRIER	WIDE BAY CAPRICORN	SUNSHINE COAST	BRISBANE	GOLD COAST
12 MONTHS RESCUES	71	41	115	1048	764	758
2025/26 SEASON	1	1	2	6	2	7
2024/25 SEASON	4	1	5	3	2	6
MALES	100%	100%	-	83%	100%	86%
FEMALES	-	-	100%	17%	-	14%
AVERAGE AGE	55- 75	25 - 45	25 - 45	44.5	61.5	38
RESIDENTS / INTERNATIONAL	100% INTERNATIONAL	100% INTERNATIONAL	50% RESIDENTS & 50% INTERNATIONAL	83% RESIDENTS & 17% INTERNATIONAL	50% RESIDENTS & 50% INTERNATIONAL	43% RESIDENTS & 57% INTERNATIONAL
MONTH	OCTOBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY & NOVEMBER	JANUARY, MARCH, JULY, OCTOBER & NOVEMBER	APRIL & OCTOBER	JANUARY, MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER & NOVEMBER
WEEKDAY / WEEKEND	WEEKDAY	WEEKDAY	WEEKDAY	75% WEEKDAY & 25% WEEKEND	WEEKEND	60% WEEKDAY & 40% WEEKEND
ACTIVITY	SNORKELLING	ATTEMPTED RESCUE	SWIMMING / WADING	ATTEMPTED RESCUE, RIDING CRAFT & SWIMMING / WADING	SWIMMING / WADING & UNKNOWN	SWIMMING / WADING & UNKNOWN
DISTANCE FROM FLAGS	> 3001M	> 3001M	< 100M & > 3001M	> 201M	< 600M	< 600M
5 YEARS RESCUES	264	182	341	6511	3584	3187
5 YEARS DROWNINGS	6	2	7	24	8	26
10 YEARS RESCUES	1018	501	750	12742	6756	7837

	NORTH QUEENSLAND	NORTH BARRIER	WIDE BAY CAPRICORN	SUNSHINE COAST	BRISBANE	GOLD COAST
10 YEARS DROWNINGS	13	41	115	1048	764	758
SHARK INTERACTIONS 12 MONTHS	2 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	0 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	1 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	0 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	0 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	0 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL
SHARK INTERACTIONS 5 YEARS	4 INJURED, 1 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	2 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	4 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	0 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	2 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	1 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL
SHARK INTERACTIONS 10 YEARS	8 INJURED, 1 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	14 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	7 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 3 FATAL	3 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL	2 INJURED, 3 UNINJURED & 0 FATAL	1 INJURED, 0 UNINJURED & 1 FATAL
CROCODILE ATTACKS 12 MONTHS	1 NON-FATAL & 0 FATAL	1 NON-FATAL & 0 FATAL	-	-	-	-
CROCODILE ATTACKS 5 YEARS	10 NON-FATAL & 5 FATAL	4 NON-FATAL & 0 FATAL	-	-	-	-
CROCODILE ATTACKS 10 YEARS	19 NON-FATAL & 7 FATAL	4 NON-FATAL & 0 FATAL	-	-	-	-
MAJOR MARINE STINGS	4	18	5	14	4	15



CASE STUDY 5

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RISK PREDICTION

DETERMINING LIFESAVER REQUIREMENTS FOR A SURF CLUB PATROL GROUP

SLSQ is constantly improving its approach to calculating service requirements in order to manage public safety risk and prevent drowning and injury.

A mid-sized surf life saving club located on a popular coastal beach undertook an assessment to determine the appropriate number of lifesavers required for each patrol group throughout the year. The club experienced significant fluctuations in beach visitation, including seasonal increases, school holiday surges and higher attendance during special events such as surf carnivals. To ensure adequate patrol coverage and maintain an appropriate level of public safety, the club utilised the Lifesaving Service Level Calculator to assess its operational requirements.

The Lifesaving Service Level Calculator considered seven core criteria: ABSAMP Beach Hazard Rating, average visitation levels, incident likelihood, incident history, current services, coverage area and the remoteness of the location.

The beach was classified as ABSAMP Hazard Rating 6 (Moderately Hazardous), primarily due to the presence of rips, shifting sandbanks and occasional strong lateral currents. Visitor numbers varied considerably throughout the year, with approximately 300 visitors per day on winter weekdays, increasing to approximately 2,000 visitors per day on summer weekends. During school holiday periods, visitation could reach up to 3,500 people per day.

Incident history indicated a consistent requirement for lifesaving services. Over the previous 12 months, the club recorded 18 rescues, 42 first aid treatments and three major incidents requiring ambulance assistance. The likelihood of minor incidents was also assessed as high during peak visitation periods, further supporting the need for appropriate patrol staffing during these times.

The club's existing services included one flagged swimming area, an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) crew, a Side-by-Side Vehicle (SSV) and a patrol tower providing elevated visibility across the beach. Patrol operations covered approximately 800 metres of beachfront; however, adjacent unpatrolled areas attracted overflow swimmers, creating an additional consideration for patrol planning and surveillance.

The club was located within an urban environment, with relatively accessible emergency services and an estimated ambulance response time of 8–12 minutes. Additional operational support was also available from neighbouring surf life saving clubs when required.

Based on the combined assessment of beach hazards, visitation patterns, incident history, existing lifesaving services, coverage requirements and access to emergency support, the Lifesaving Service Level Calculator provided a structured basis for determining appropriate patrol staffing levels. The assessment also highlighted the importance of adjusting patrol numbers and resources in response to seasonal visitation, school holidays and special events to ensure adequate coverage during periods of increased public use and elevated incident risk.





OUR PARTNERS

FUNDING SUPPORT



**Queensland
Government**

SLSQ acknowledges and thanks the Queensland and Federal Governments for their continued support and funding of our organisation and its vision of saving lives.

MAJOR NATIONAL PARTNERS



MAJOR STATE PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS



SPORT PARTNERS





GLOSSARY

ALSQ | Australian Lifeguard Service Queensland.

AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT | Areas such as coastal and inland beaches and waterways, swimming pools and their facilities, and other bodies of water, slurry and other agricultural and industrial liquids storage.

BEACH-RELATED DROWNING DEATH | A death by immersion or submersion that has occurred in a beach environment up to two nautical miles (2NM) offshore.

BLACKSPOT | An area with a high concentration of coastal/coastal incidents and a high probability/risk of ongoing recurrence.

COASTAL DROWNING DEATH | Where the location of the drowning is on the coast, in the ocean up to two nautical miles (2NM) offshore.

DROWNING | The process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid; outcomes are classified as death, morbidity and no morbidity.

FIRST AID | Assessments and interventions that can be performed by a bystander (or by the victim) with minimal or no medical equipment.

INLAND | An area that is beyond the high waterline or within a landward distance of 5 times the width of the coastal inlet/river mouth and is an aquatic influenced environment located within land boundaries.

INTERNATIONAL | An individual who is confirmed to reside overseas and/or is a temporary visitor to Australia.

IRB | Inflatable rescue boat.

LIFEGUARD | An individual who undertakes patrols at a beach or another aquatic environment. This is a salaried member, qualified in public safety and aquatic rescue.

SURF LIFESAVER | An individual who undertakes patrols at a beach or another aquatic environment. This is a volunteer member.

LIFESAVING SERVICE | A coordinated group that exists to provide aquatic safety services to the public. This includes surf life saving clubs, lifeguards, SOCC, drones, disaster management response, rescue watercraft, inflatable rescue boats, helicopters, ATVs and 4WDs.

LIMSOC | Lifesaving Incident Management System and Operational Console.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (LGA) | Also known as local councils, LGAs include cities, towns, shires, municipalities or boroughs.

NCIS | National Coronial Information System.

OCEAN DROWNING DEATH | Where the location of the drowning is in the ocean further than 2NM offshore, but no further than 12NM.

OFFSHORE | Beyond the surf zone.

OPEN OCEAN | The seabed, water and air space above the water between 2NM and 12NM (the Australian territorial waters limit) offshore.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT | Rapid response rescue units, not affiliated to any specific Surf Life Saving Club.

PATROL | Service undertaken to monitor activities in/around an aquatic environment and respond accordingly through other preventative actions or rescue operations.

PREVENTATIVE ACTION | Direct action taken to reduce or eliminate the probability of a specific rescue, first aid or other reportable incident from happening in the future.

Note: A preventative action will be recorded as the singular activity taken (i.e. clearing the water for lightning will be one action. The number of people warned/alerted as a result of this action will be recorded separately as a warning).

PREVENTION | Where intervention by a lifesaving resource averts a person/s from getting into a potentially life threatening situation.

PUBLIC WATERS | Any freely accessible waterway including, but not limited to, beaches, rivers, creeks, dams, lakes, lagoons and streams; this excludes commercial and private swimming pools, private property dams/waterways, as well as household waters such as bath tubs, sinks and backyard containers.

RESCUE | Retrieving a person in distress, delivering them to a place of safety and the application of first aid and basic life support as may be required.

RESCUE WATER CRAFT (RWC) | A powered water craft (e.g. jetski) used by lifesavers and lifeguards for performing rescues and preventative actions.

RESUSCITATION | Preservation or restoration of life by establishing and maintaining a person's airway, breathing and circulation.

RIDING CRAFT | A piece of non-powered recreational and/or sporting equipment used in the surf and other aquatic environments including surfboards and boogie boards.

RIP CURRENT | A seaward flowing current of water moving through a surf zone.

SERVICE SEASON AND HOURS | Vary between regions due to climatic factors, but in the context of this report, the season is for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

SLSA | Surf Life Saving Australia.

SLSQ | Surf Life Saving Queensland.

SOCC | State Operations and Communications Centre.

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB (SLSC) | An SLS-affiliated not-for-profit organisation which has volunteer members who provide coastal safety services to the community.

SURFCOM | SLS radio communications centre which assists in managing the communications of lifesaving operations and data collection.

Undetermined | Cases that are not associated with a closed Coroner's report on NCIS are often left 'undetermined' until an official cause of death has been determined. Some examples are cases where bodies have been found washed up on the beach; reports of individuals struggling in coastal environments are made and the bodies are not

found; or a suspected heart attack in a coastal environment where their death due to drowning was not officially confirmed and the incident classification determinations are made accessible.

UNPATROLLED LOCATION | An area that has no service, is not monitored or not patrolled.

UNPOWERED CRAFT | A piece of non-powered recreational and/or sporting equipment used in the surf and other environments. Examples include kayaks and canoes.

WATERCRAFT | A piece of non-powered recreational equipment used in the water. Examples include surfboards, stand-up paddle boards, boogie boards, windsurfers or kayaks.

While all care is taken to ensure all statistical information included within this report is accurate, it is important to note that data may be amended over time following the outcome of coronial investigations remain ongoing at the time of print.

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