



**2025 Surfing Queensland AGM
Tallebudgera Recreation Centre
25 June 2026**

Chair's Report

I am pleased to present a report that highlights a significant turnaround in financial performance, organisational growth, improved staff satisfaction, and our ongoing commitment to advancing the sport of surfing across Queensland.

The beginning of 2025 presented several challenges, including management and staffing changes, coupled with the impact of historical financial performance. Recognising the need for decisive action, the Surfing Queensland Board prioritised the recruitment of a new Chief Executive Officer and appointed Luca Liussi to lead the organisation.

With the organisation operating in a negative financial position since 2020 and staff turnover above industry benchmarks, our new CEO was tasked with a clear objective to restore a surplus and stability. I am pleased to report that this directive was successfully delivered, resulting in a surplus budget for 2026 and almost zero staff turnover.

One of the most important challenges identified through consultation with clubs, members and surfers across the state was a lack of clarity around what Surfing Queensland stands for. The answer is simple: we stand for all surfing. Whether it is Longboard, Shortboard, SUP or Bodyboard, Surfing Queensland exists to support and grow every discipline of our sport. This clarity provided the Board and management team with a strong foundation to redevelop the organisation's strategic plan and future direction.

During 2025, Surfing Queensland successfully delivered 17 supported surfing events, including an upgraded World Surf League QS4000 event at the iconic Burleigh Heads. The team also delivered two 10,000-point junior events on the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast, attracting more than 500 competitors. The Parko event alone welcomed over 300 participants, reinforcing that the Sunshine Coast is every bit as much a surfing heartland as the world-famous Gold Coast.

Queensland's junior surf team once again demonstrated its strength by claiming victory at the Australian Surf Championships in Wollongong, New South Wales. Our Open and Age Division athletes also produced outstanding individual performances at the championships in Port Macquarie, showcasing the depth of surfing talent across the state.

With a record 47 affiliated clubs and membership numbers at an all-time high, Surfing Queensland has committed to introducing a new membership model in 2026, alongside additional staffing resources to better support clubs and members across Queensland.

Despite the challenges faced in early 2025, the transformation achieved during the second half of the year has been exceptional. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Surfing Queensland Board for its dedication and commitment over the past 18 months. In particular, I would like to recognise Julian Blanchardt, who served as Chair until June 2025, for his leadership and countless hours of voluntary service in helping steer the organisation through a critical period.

Together, the Board, management team, staff, clubs, members and volunteers have rewritten the future of Surfing Queensland. The organisation is now on a strong and sustainable path, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for surfing throughout our state.

Thank you for your continued support of Surfing Queensland.

Paul Peterson
Chair Surfing Queensland