



Media Release

28 July 2011

Local lifesavers embrace extra beach safety weapon

Local surf lifesavers now have an extra beach safety weapon in their arsenal, with the recently installed beach surveillance cameras at Kelly's Beach in Bundaberg now in operation.

Surf Life Saving Queensland Chief Operations Officer George Hill welcomed the highly advanced technology, saying it would be a vital tool for surf lifesavers as they seek to improve safety and prevent drownings on the region's beaches.

"From a lifesaving perspective, the camera technology will substantially boost our ability to save lives on the beach, providing an additional set of eyes around the clock," Mr Hill said.

"Obviously our lifesavers would love to be in all places at once, but that's simply not possible. This camera has been strategically positioned to monitor activity at Kelly's Beach, both in and out of the designated flagged areas, and will enable greater response times to any emergency situations that may arise.

"Importantly, as part of a broader state-wide camera network, it will also provide SLSQ with an invaluable opportunity to review footage and assess the performance of our lifesavers during peak periods, patrols and rescues as part of our commitment to continuous improvement across all areas of surf lifesaving," he said.

The camera is a joint initiative between Surf Life Saving Queensland and the Gladstone Ports Corporation, with the Corporation generously providing a funding grant for the supply and installation costs of the technology.

Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO Leo Zussino said the Kelly's Beach web camera would provide real benefits to the ocean loving community of the Bundaberg region.

"This camera will not only assist in the saving of lives on one of our most popular beaches but also allow the local community to check out surf conditions," Mr Zussino said.

"I encourage residents to check out the live streaming from the web camera on our website www.gpcl.com.au."

Surf Life Saving Queensland already operates 22 coastal cameras across Queensland, which are strategically positioned in identified high risk and high population areas. The two new cameras will take the tally to 24.

The camera system has the capability to store up to 14 days of archived vision.

As a long term safety measure, the camera system will be able to provide tsunami alerts to beachgoers (which has already been trialled in California) and monitor surf conditions, such as wave heights.

The cameras will be used in addition to SLSQ's regular volunteer lifesaving patrols and lifeguard service.

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