Hunter report card 2019–20

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming in the Hunter region of New South Wales. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Zenith Beach to Caves Beach and estuarine areas in Port Stephens.

Best beaches

Zenith Beach, Box Beach, Fingal Beach, One Mile Beach, Birubi Beach, South Stockton Beach, Nobbys Beach, Newcastle Beach, Bar Beach, Merewether Beach, Burwood North Beach, Burwood South Beach, Glenrock Lagoon Beach, Dudley Beach, Redhead Beach, Blacksmiths Beach and Caves Beach.

These sites had excellent water quality and were suitable for swimming almost all of the time.

Estuarine and lake/lagoon swimming sites did not perform as well as ocean beaches due to lower levels of flushing which increase the time needed to disperse and dilute pollution inputs, taking longer to recover from stormwater events.

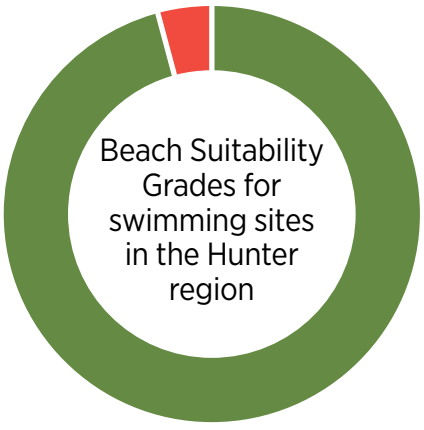
18	Ocean beaches
6	Estuarine sites
0	Lake/Lagoon sites
0	Ocean baths

Rainfall impacts

Rainfall is the major driver of pollution to recreational waters, generating stormwater runoff and triggering discharges from the wastewater treatment and transport system.

Monitoring in the Hunter region

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the Hunter region since 1996 by Hunter Water Corporation as a requirement of Environment Protection Licences, and by Port Stephens Council since 2004 under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership Program.



23	Very good/Good
0	Fair
1	Poor/Very poor

Beachwatch issues daily beach pollution forecasts to enable beach goers to make informed decisions about where and when to swim.

For additional information see the *State Of The Beaches 2019–20 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches

Beachwatch
Hunter report card 2019–20

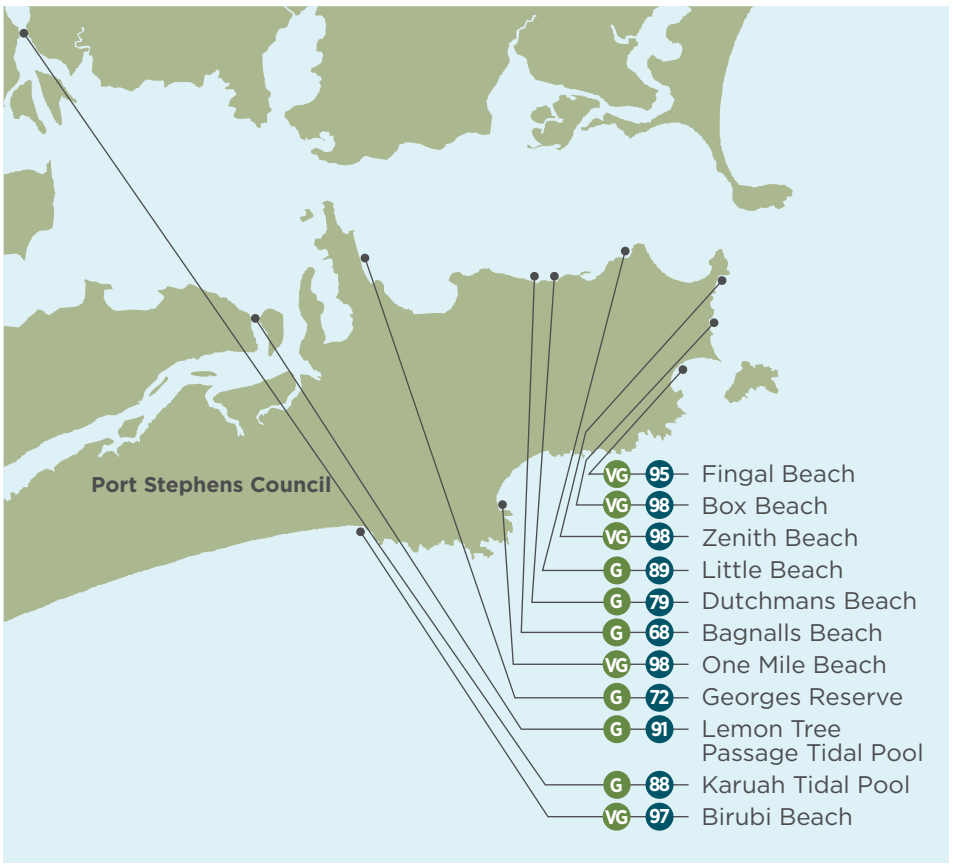
96% swimming sites graded Good or Very good

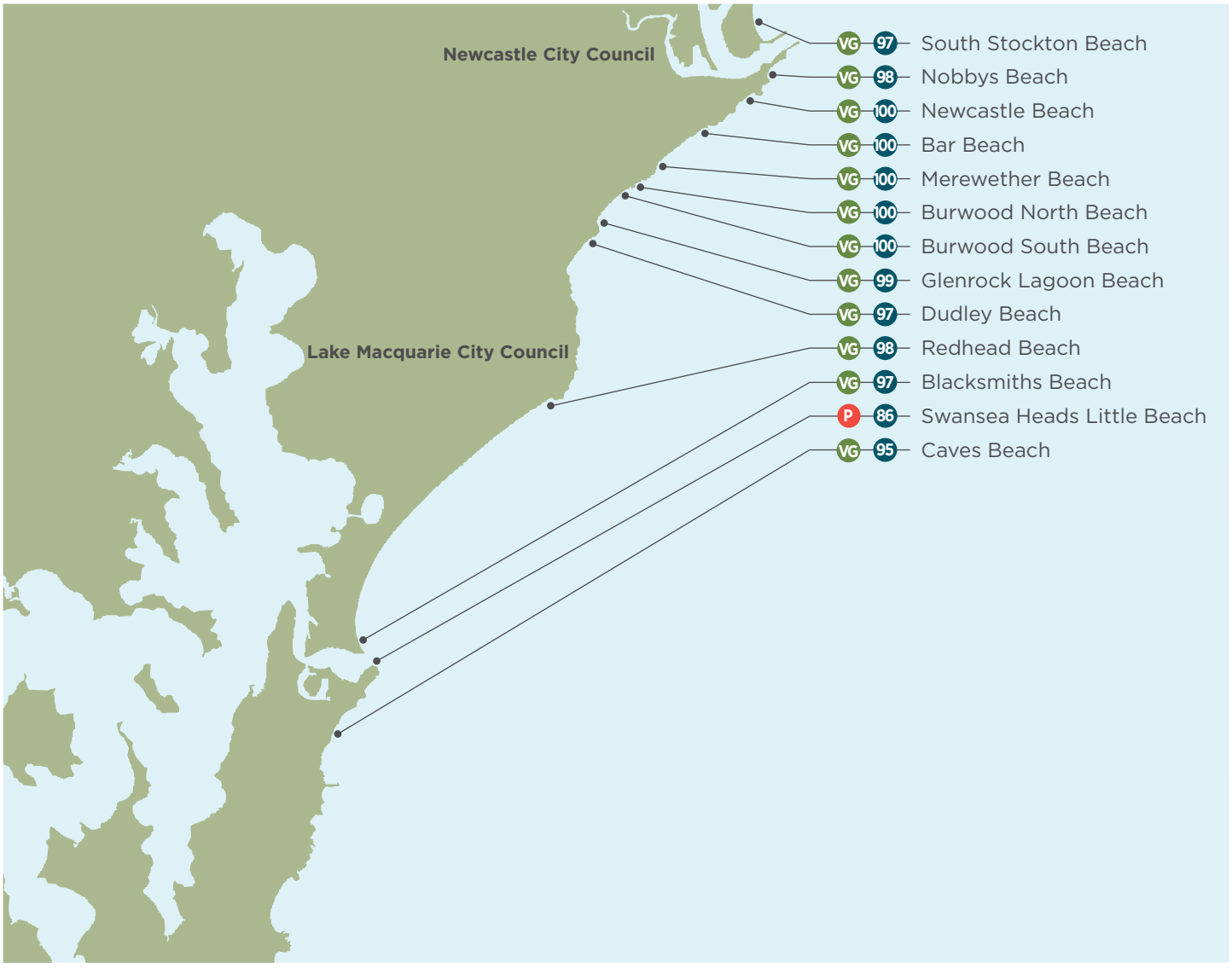
Beach suitability grade

- VG Very good
- G Good
- F Fair
- P Poor
- VP Very poor

Dry weather swimmability

100 Percentage (%) of dry weather samples within the safe swimming limit





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