

South Coast report card 2018-19

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming on the South Coast of New South Wales. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Shoalhaven Heads Beach to Cocora Beach, an ocean bath, estuarine areas in Bermagui Harbour, Merimbula Lake and Pambula River, and lake sites in Mogareeka Inlet.

Best beaches

Shoalhaven Heads Beach, Tilbury Cove, Warrain Beach, Collingwood Beach, Cudmirrah Beach, Mollymook Beach, Rennies Beach, Bawley Point Beach, Merry Beach, Cookies Beach, Malua Bay Beach, Bengello Beach, Brou Beach, Narooma Main Beach, Camel Rock Beach, Horseshoe Bay (Bermagui), Beares Beach, Mogareeka Lions Park, Tathra Beach, Main Beach (Merimbula), Pambula Beach and Aslings Beach.

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

Estuarine and lake/lagoon swimming sites generally do 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.

Rainfall impacts

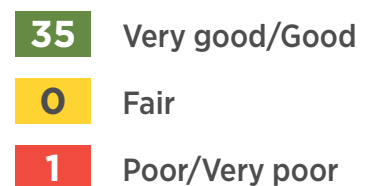
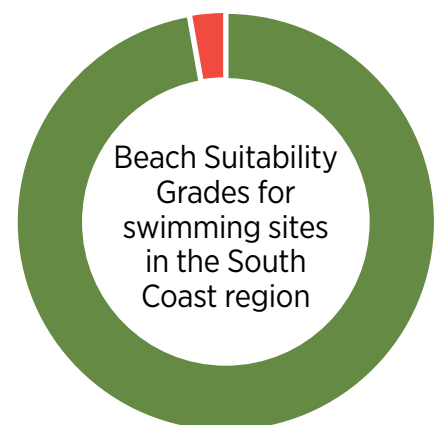
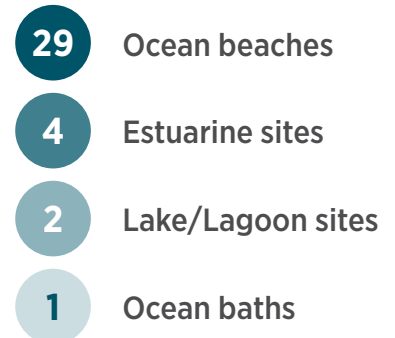
Rainfall is the major driver of pollution to recreational waters, generating stormwater runoff and triggering discharges from the wastewater treatment and transport system.

Monitoring on the South Coast

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the South Coast region since 2002 by Shoalhaven City Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council and Bega Valley Shire Council under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership Program.

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

For additional information see the *State Of The Beaches 2018-19 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches



Beachwatch

South Coast

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97%
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

