

Beachwatch

Central Coast report card 2020-21

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming on the Central Coast of New South Wales. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Lakes Beach to Umina Beach, ocean baths, estuarine areas in Brisbane Water, designated swimming areas in Lake Macquarie, Lake Munmorah and Tuggerah Lakes, and four coastal lagoons.

Best beaches

Lakes Beach, Cabbage Tree Bay Rockpool, Soldiers Beach, North Entrance Beach, The Entrance Beach, The Entrance Ocean Baths, Toowoona Bay, Shelly Beach, Summerland Point Baths, Wamberal Beach, North Avoca Beach, Avoca Beach, Copacabana Beach, MacMasters Beach, Killcare Beach, Ocean Beach, Umina Beach and Pearl Beach Rockpool.

These sites had good water quality and were suitable for swimming most 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.

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 Central Coast

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the Central Coast region by Central Coast Council since 2002 under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership Program. The overall performance of the Central Coast region is influenced by a large proportion of monitored sites being in lagoons and estuaries, where the impacts of rainfall are more apparent with reduced dilution and flushing of pollution inputs.

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 2020-21 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches



15

Ocean beaches

4

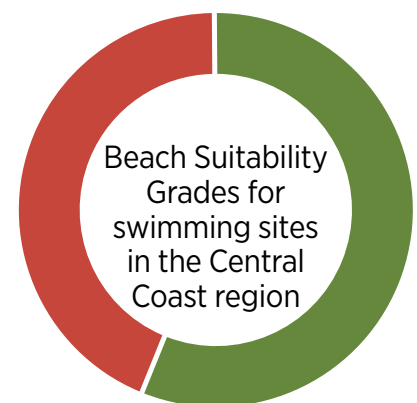
Estuarine sites

10

Lake/Lagoon sites

3

Ocean baths



18

Very good/Good

0

Fair

14

Poor/Very poor

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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

56%
swimming sites graded
Good or Very good

