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If you need any more information or assistance in relation to assessment and management of microbial risks in recreational waters, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[Contact us](#)

Summer is here!

Looks like we are in for great beach weather this summer! According to the Bureau of Meteorology, NSW east coast is heading for a warmer and drier than average summer. The Beachwatch team have kicked off the summer sampling, and are looking forward to meeting with our Partnership Councils.

The Beachwatch Program is run by the Office of Environment and Heritage to monitor and report on the water quality at popular swimming locations in the Sydney region. We also report water quality results for the Hunter and Illawarra regions, as well as a number of partnership councils along the NSW coast during summer. We also issue daily pollution forecasts for the Sydney, Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra regions to enable beachgoers to make informed decisions about where and when to swim.

Beachwatch Partnership Program



The Beachwatch Partnership Program (BPP) is underway with many councils already collecting samples, and more to commence shortly. This year, 11 councils are collecting samples from almost 130 swimming sites along the NSW coast. It's a fantastic effort by council to provide invaluable information to residents and visitors to their beaches. The councils involved are: Ballina Shire Council, Richmond Valley Council, Kempsey Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Wyong Shire Council, Gosford City Council, Wollongong City Council, Kiama Municipal Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Shoalhaven City Council and Bega Valley Shire Council.

The Beachwatch team will be visiting councils soon to review their programs, and offer any advice or assistance. It's not too late for any councils interested in monitoring their beaches this summer - please [contact](#) Beachwatch to discuss further. For more information on the Beachwatch Partnership Program, check [here](#).

State of the Beaches Report



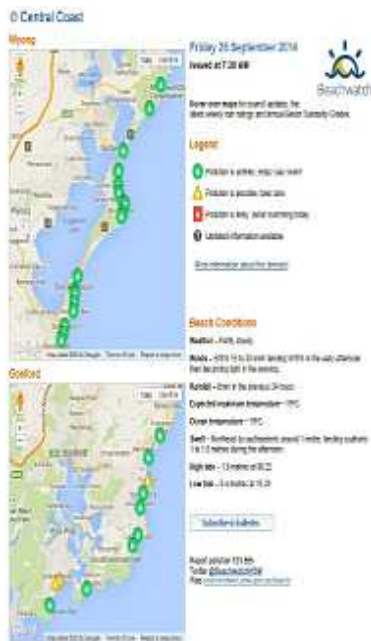
The latest State of the Beaches Report has just been released! The report findings reflect the relatively dry weather conditions along the NSW Coast. In fact, summer in 2013-2014 was the driest summer in almost 30 years.

Some key findings are:

- Of the 249 monitored swimming locations 83% were graded as Very Good or Good, indicating they were suitable for swimming most or almost all of the time.
- The beach suitability grades improved at 29 swimming sites.
- The performance of the estuarine, lake/lagoon and ocean bath sites were not as good as the ocean beaches, primarily due to the limited flushing.

A copy of the report is available on the Beachwatch [website](#).

Central Coast Daily Pollution Forecasts



As of October this year, Beachwatch has expanded our pollution forecasts to the NSW Central Coast, providing residents and visitors information about when it is safe to swim.

The Central Coast pollution forecast covers twenty-nine ocean beaches in the Wyong Shire and Gosford council areas. Each beach is given a daily pollution rating of unlikely, possible or likely, based on recent rainfall. Additionally, throughout the summer months, beach condition updates (such as beach closures, presence of stingers and lagoon openings) are provided on the forecast.

In the Wyong Shire the beaches include: Frazer, Birdie, Budgewoi, Lakes, Hargraves, Jenny Dixon, Cabbage Tree, Lighthouse, Gravelly, Soldiers, North Entrance, Entrance Channel, The Entrance, Blue Bay, Toowoona Bay, Shelly, Blue Lagoon and Bateau Bay.

Beaches in the Gosford council area are: Forresters, Wamberal, Terrigal, North Avoca, Avoca, Copacabana, MacMasters, Killcare, Pearl, Umina and Ocean.

Beach pollution forecasts can be accessed via the Beachwatch [website](#), mobile [app](#), [email](#) updates, [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Take the Pledge!



This summer Keep NSW Beautiful is keeping litter off our beaches with 'Take the Pledge', an anti-litter campaign. On Saturday 1st November, beachgoers will see Keep NSW Beautiful volunteers at the beaches asking visitors to pledge that their rubbish will end up in the bin, not on our beaches. Get your photo taken with the pledge sign, and spread the word by posting to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag [#HeyTosser](#) and tag [@knswb](#).

If you are interested in helping out on the day, find out more [here](#).

Let's keep our beaches litter free!

Happy 25th Birthday Beachwatch!



Hip Hip Hooray! The Beachwatch Program has achieved an amazing milestone - 25 years old! The Beachwatch Program has come a really long way since its inception in 1989, following community outrage at sewage pollution affecting Sydney's beaches.

The program has tracked dramatic improvements in the water quality of Sydney's ocean and harbour beaches, and has expanded along the NSW coast in partnership with local councils. As of this year, recreational water quality is uniformly monitored at 249 sites across 32 local government areas!

The routine sampling conducted by Beachwatch continues to assist water authorities and local councils to identify problem areas, and prioritise stormwater and wastewater maintenance to improve recreational water quality.

See you at the beach soon!

How are we doing?



Beachwatch is committed to monitoring the quality of the services and products we provide, as part of an ongoing improvement process.

We would appreciate some feedback on our performance, so if you haven't already, please take 2 minutes to complete this short survey online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S3JWTyp>

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For more information about Beachwatch and how we forecast, please visit [our website](#)

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