



## Beachwatch Partnership Program News – Winter 2008

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### Introduction

Welcome to the Winter 2008 edition of the Beachwatch Partnership Program newsletter.

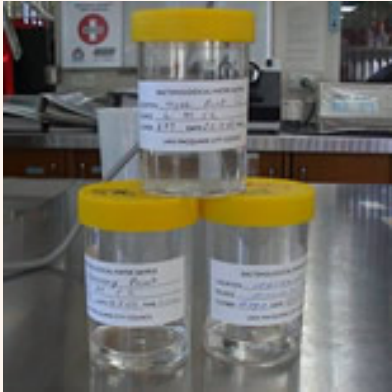
*The Department of Environment and Climate Change's [Beachwatch Program](#) routinely monitors and reports on the recreational water quality of swimming sites in Sydney, the Hunter and the Illawarra. Beachwatch also provides advice and support to local councils in developing and implementing water quality monitoring in regional areas.*



## Summer Beachwatch Partnership Program 2007-2008

All councils involved in the Beachwatch Partnership Program have now officially completed their water sampling program for the 2007-2008 summer season, as the months have started to get much cooler. This year, we had 12 coastal councils continuing to participate in conducting their Beachwatch style recreational water quality programs. The councils involved were: Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley, Kempsey, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Wyong, Gosford, Shoalhaven, Bega Valley and Eurobodalla. The combined efforts of councils ensured that almost 150 swimming locations were monitored according to Beachwatch guidelines for pollution on the NSW coast.

We would like to thank the excellent efforts of councils in conducting such a worthwhile program - ensuring the health and safety of the community and visitors to their popular swimming locations. A summary of the results from all councils will be released in early October 2008, in the *Beachwatch Partnership Program State of the Beaches Report 2007-2008*.



## Beachwatch Partnership Program Councils Interlaboratory Comparison Study

Councils involved in the Beachwatch Partnership Program participated in the interlaboratory comparison study. A number of Bioballs™ (with known faecal coliform and enterococci bacterial densities) were sent to council laboratories for analysis in the 2007-2008 summer season. Most laboratories performed very well, with most results reported within the acceptable limits. Participation in the interlaboratory comparison study by partnership councils ensures measures are taken to maintain consistency and accuracy of results reported between councils. This quality assurance process allows the community to be confident in the results reported of their local swimming locations.



## New Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) Website

The new NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) website was launched during February this year. You can access information on Beachwatch under Environmental issues in the water portfolio. Beachwatch has dramatically enhanced the information available on our website, <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beach/>. Our website includes current information about our Beachwatch, Harbourwatch and Partnership programs, access to our latest monthly reports, downloadable annual State of the Beaches reports, and water pollution information and advice. Please take a look and see what you think!





## Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge

The Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge promotes and recognises environmental awareness and civic pride of beachside communities. The NSW state winner for the 2008 Overall Clean Beach Award went to Tathra Beach on the South Coast. Highly commended went to Iluka Bluff Beach on the North Coast, and Toowoomb Bay on the Central Coast. This award recognised a holistic approach to beach management, including beach tidiness, litter prevention, visitor friendliness and hospitality, conservation and waste management, and local government and community involvement. Congratulations to these winners, and all other regional and state winners across all award categories for taking part in the clean beach challenge and making a difference.

Beaches nominated in the 2009 Clean Beach Challenge will be visited shortly by regional Clean Beach Challenge judges. Judges will meet with beach representatives to discuss and assess the beach during the week of 15-19 September 2008. The regional award winners will be announced in November 2008, and they will then progress to the State Clean Beach Challenge. To view details of the Clean Beach Challenge and a full list of the 2008 state and regional winners, visit the NSW Keep Australia Beautiful website at: <http://www.kabnsw.org.au/Whatcanyoudo/CleanBeaches.aspx>.





## Further Information and Assistance

If you require further information and assistance in relation to recreational water quality monitoring, please contact Beachwatch Programs, via email [beachwatch@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:beachwatch@environment.nsw.gov.au), or by contacting the Beachwatch office directly on (02) 9995 5344.

### For Further Information

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