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How are we doing?

Another summer is underway!

Our summer season has started and so has the water sampling at many of NSW's swimming spots! The weather outlook is for mild summer temperatures and

above-average rainfall, so make sure you keep an eye on your local beach conditions, and check our pollution forecasts for daily advice on when and where to swim.



As part of the Office of Environment and Heritage, Beachwatch monitors and reports beach water quality at popular swimming sites in the Sydney region.

Our program also reports water quality results for beaches in the Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra regions, as well regional NSW swimming locations monitored by partnership councils during summer.

Each morning we 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



This year, 10 regional councils are regularly monitoring 117 swimming sites along the NSW coast, from Seven Mile Beach (Ballina) in the north, to Cocora Beach (Bega) in the south.

The councils involved are:

<i>Ballina Shire Council</i>	<i>Richmond Valley Council</i>
<i>Port Stephens Council</i>	<i>Lake Macquarie City Council</i>
<i>Central Coast Council</i>	<i>Wollongong City Council</i>
<i>Kiama Municipal Council</i>	<i>Shoalhaven City Council</i>
<i>Eurobodalla Council</i>	<i>Bega Valley Shire Council</i>

Our field officers are currently planning visits with partnership councils for the next few months. During the visits, our officers accompany council staff to their beaches, reviewing their sampling and reporting procedures, and offer any advice or assistance if necessary. Many of our partnership councils have been involved in this program for many years, and have shown they are more than competent! It is wonderful that councils are continuing to show a strong commitment to monitor and report beach water quality to the community.

If you have any questions about the Partnership Program please [Contact us](#) or check [Partnership Program](#) for more details.

2015-16 State of the Beaches results are out



The latest State of the Beaches Report is out, and the annual scorecard showed overall good results with 83% of swimming sites monitored rated as Good or Very Good, same as the previous year. Good or Very Good ratings means the sites were suitable for swimming most or almost all of the time.

Of the 248 swimming sites monitored along the NSW Coast:

- **97% of 140 ocean beaches were rated Good or Very Good,**
- **74% of 77 estuarine swimming sites were rated Good or Very Good,**
- **39% of the 28 lake and lagoon swimming sites were rated Good or Very Good,**
- **All 3 ocean baths were graded as Good.**

Several storms and heavy rainfall (including the wettest January in Sydney since 1988), meant stormwater and wastewater affected many swimming sites, with the impacts more apparent at the less-flushed estuarine, lake and lagoon swimming sites.

View the [2015-16 State of the Beaches Report](#)

Out and about with our team



Our field officers have been out and about at the beach and on the harbours with our summer sampling in full swing.

Adam, Chris, Josh and Joel are busy collecting water samples from almost 100 swimming sites across Sydney. As well as this, they are working hard compiling our pollution forecasts early each morning, and supporting our partner councils.

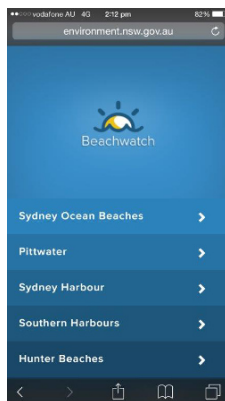
Joel is our new Beachwatch field officer and will be with us over summer to help us manage the busy sampling season. Joel has Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management, and is really enjoying being out and about in the field.

Want to know more about what we do?

Our 'Day in the life of a Beachwatch field officer' video is coming soon. It shows our field officers in the office and out in action at the beach and on the harbour. It should be available on our website really soon!

Keeping in touch

Have you got the latest beach water quality conditions at your fingertips?



Make sure you check the latest beach pollution conditions on our [Beachwatch app](#). It's updated throughout each day, and includes the pollution forecast, weather conditions and latest beach closures. For quick access, just add our mobile app to your phones home screen!

Keep us posted with what's going at your beach, share your beach photos, or have a chat with us.

Catch us at [#BeachwatchNSW](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

See you at the beach soon!



How are we doing?



We are committed to monitoring the quality of our services and products to ensure our program is always improving.

If you have any feedback on our performance, please take 2 minutes to do our [survey](#).

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