

Newcastle Council

Ocean baths: Merewether Main Pool, Merewether Learners Pool, Canoe Pool and Newcastle Baths.



Local government area description

Newcastle City Council covers an area of 183 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 140 000 people.

Land uses within the region are varied and include residential, rural, commercial, recreational, industrial and bushland.

Program outline

Newcastle Council routinely monitors four ocean baths. These are Merewether Main Pool, Merewether Learners Pool, Canoe Pool and Newcastle Baths.

Merewether Main Pool and Newcastle Baths are monitored weekly throughout the year, but only data from the summer swimming season (October 2007 to April 2008) are included in this report.

Faecal coliform results were assessed against the NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines to determine suitability for swimming. In months where four samples were collected, the closest sample in time from an adjacent month was 'borrowed' to provide the five samples necessary for the compliance calculation. In some months only three samples could be collected due to pool closures for cleaning.

Council presented water quality data at open community meetings throughout the

summer season, and issued joint media releases with DECC.

Seven ocean beaches in the Newcastle City Council area are monitored by Hunter Water Corporation as part of the Beachwatch program. This information is provided as weekly star ratings in local newspapers and on Hunter Water Corporation's website, and data are also presented in the *Beachwatch and Harbourwatch State of the Beaches* report series.

Rainfall

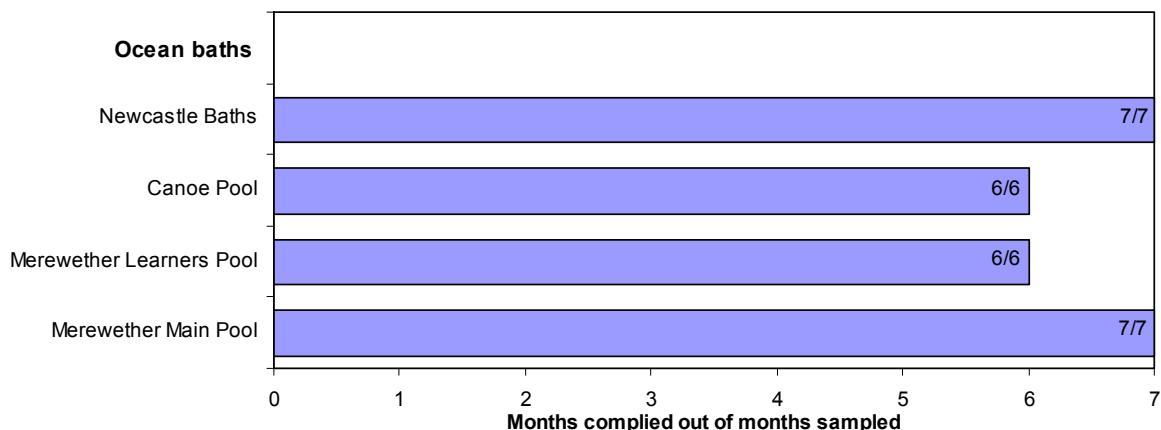
Rainfall data presented in the timeseries plots were obtained from Hunter Water Corporation's gauge at Burwood Beach.

Ocean baths

All four locations complied with NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines in all months in which sufficient samples were collected during the 2007–2008 summer swimming season (Figure 8).

Very low levels of faecal coliforms were recorded at Newcastle Ocean Baths and Canoe Pool throughout the monitoring period. A single slightly elevated faecal coliform result was recorded at Merewether Main Pool in December 2007 during wet weather conditions.

Figure 8: Summary of compliance with NHMRC (1990) microbiological guidelines for swimming at Newcastle Council swimming sites during the 2007–2008 summer swimming season



Merewether Main Pool

See page 84 for key to map

Description Merewether Main Pool is located at the southern end of Merewether Beach, adjoining Merewether Learners Pool. Council inspectors patrol the pool from October to April. The baths are emptied, cleaned and refilled on a weekly basis throughout the whole year.

Pollution sources Stormwater from streets and the residential area of Merewether may be a source of contamination after heavy rain. Burwood Beach wastewater ocean outfall is 1.7 kilometres out to sea and two kilometres to the south of Merewether, and could affect the pool in extreme conditions.

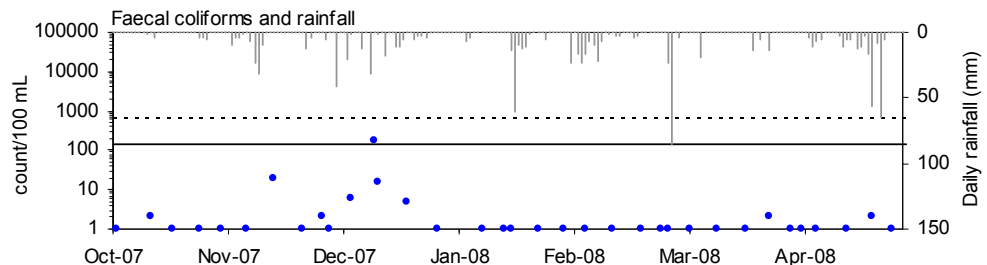
Compliance Merewether Main Baths was monitored between October 2007 and April 2008, and complied with the NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines in all seven months.



Compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines at Merewether Main Baths

	OCT '07	NOV '07	DEC '07	JAN '08	FEB '08	MAR '08	APR '08
FC	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

Timeseries plots Levels of faecal coliforms remained generally very low over the monitoring period, with a single elevated result recorded in December 2007 following rainfall.



See page 5 for key to graph

Merewether Learners Pool

See page 84 for key to map

Description

Merewether Learners Pool is located at the southern end of Merewether Beach, adjoining Merewether Main Pool. Council inspectors patrol the pool from October to April. The baths are emptied, cleaned and refilled on a weekly basis throughout the whole year.



Pollution sources

Stormwater from streets and the residential area of Merewether may be a source of contamination after heavy rain. Burwood Beach wastewater ocean outfall is 1.7 kilometres out to sea and two kilometres to the south of Merewether, and could affect the pool in extreme conditions.

Compliance

Merewether Learners Baths was monitored between October 2007 and April 2008, and complied with the NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines in all six months in which sufficient samples were collected to assess compliance.

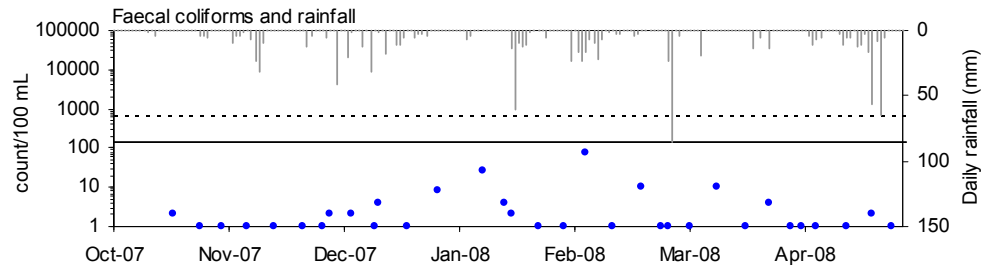
Compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines at Merewether Leanners

	OCT '07	NOV '07	DEC '07	JAN '08	FEB '08	MAR '08	APR '08
FC	**	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

** Insufficient samples to calculate compliance were collected in this month.

Timeseries plots

Levels of bacteria were generally low over the monitoring period, remaining below the guideline levels.



See page 5 for key to graph

Newcastle Ocean Baths

See page 84 for key to map

Description Newcastle Ocean Baths is located at the northern end of Newcastle Beach, and is adjacent to Canoe Pool. Council inspectors patrol the pool from October to April. The baths are emptied, cleaned and filled weekly throughout the year.

Pollution sources Stormwater from the surrounding hard-surface walkways may be a source of pollution during and after heavy rainfall.

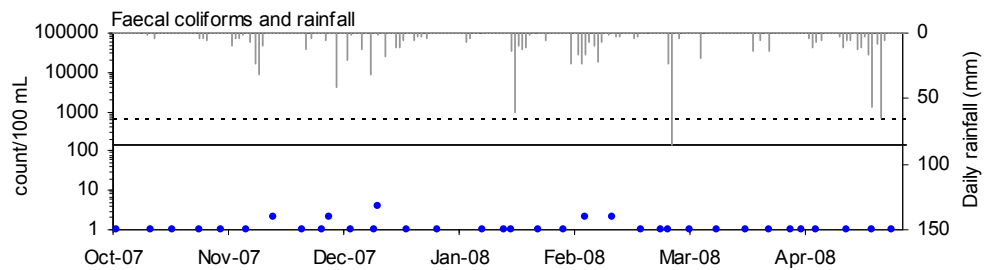
Compliance Newcastle Baths was monitored between October 2007 and April 2008, and complied with the NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines in all seven months.



Compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines at Newcastle Baths

	OCT '07	NOV '07	DEC '07	JAN '08	FEB '08	MAR '08	APR '08
FC	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

Timeseries plots Levels of bacteria remained very low throughout the monitoring period.



See page 5 for key to graph

Canoe Pool

See page 84 for key to map

Description Canoe Pool is located on the rock platform at the northern end of Newcastle Beach and adjoins Newcastle Ocean Baths. Lifeguards from the beach and ocean baths patrol the pool from October until April. The pool is emptied, cleaned and refilled each week during the summer season.



Pollution sources Stormwater from the surrounding hard-surface walkways may be a source of pollution during and after heavy rainfall. Bather shedding of bacteria may also be a source of contamination during the summer months, when the pool is very popular.

Compliance Canoe Pool was monitored between October 2007 and April 2008 and complied with the NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines in all six months in which sufficient samples were collected to assess compliance.

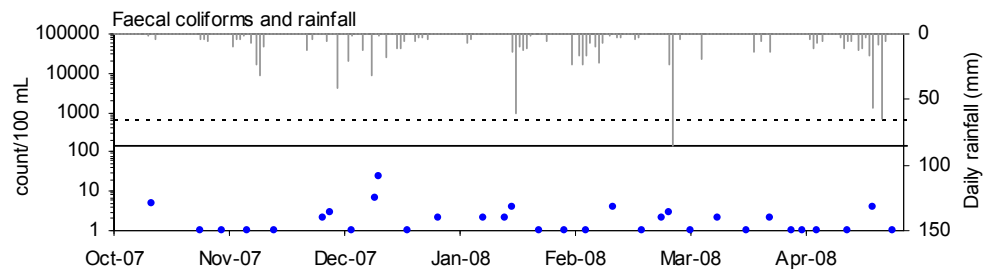
Compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming guidelines at Canoe Pool

	OCT '07	NOV '07	DEC '07	JAN '08	FEB '08	MAR '08	APR '08
FC	**	PASS*	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS	PASS

* Only four samples were collected in this month. An additional data point was borrowed from an adjacent month to calculate compliance.

** Insufficient samples to calculate compliance were collected in this month.

Timeseries plots Levels of bacteria remained low throughout the monitoring period.



See page 5 for key to graph