Central Sydney report card
2017-18

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming in the Central Sydney region. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Bondi to Little Bay, a rockpool and estuarine areas in Sydney Harbour, lower Parramatta River and lower Lane Cove River.

Best beaches
Clovelly Beach, Camp Cove and Nielsen Park.
These sites had excellent water quality and were suitable for swimming almost all of the time.
Estuarine 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 in Sydney
Recreational water quality has been monitored in the Sydney region since 1989 by the Office of Environment and Heritage’s Beachwatch Program.

Beachwatch issues daily beach pollution forecasts to enable beach goers to make informed decisions about where and when to swim.
For additional information see the State Of The Beaches 2017-18 Report at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/beaches/reporting