

Illawarra report card 2017-18

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a beach is for swimming in the Illawarra region of New South Wales. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Stanwell Park Beach to Seven Mile Beach (Gerroa) and a designated swimming area in Lake Illawarra.

Best beaches

Stanwell Park Beach, Coledale Beach, Austinmer Beach, Woonona Beach, Wollongong City Beach, Coniston Beach, Fishermans Beach, Warilla Beach, Shellharbour Beach, Boyds Jones Beach, Bombo Beach, Werri Beach and Seven Mile Beach (Gerroa).

These sites had excellent water quality and were suitable for swimming almost all of the time.

Lake/lagoon swimming site 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 the Illawarra

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the Illawarra region since 1996 by Sydney Water Corporation as a requirement of Environment Protection Licences, and by Wollongong City Council and Kiama Municipal Council since 2011 under the Office of Environment and Heritage's Beachwatch and Partnership programs.

Beachwatch issues daily beach pollution forecasts to enable beachgoers 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



20

Ocean beaches

0

Estuarine sites

1

Lake/Lagoon sites

0

Ocean baths



21

Very good/Good

0

Fair

0

Poor/Very poor

Beachwatch

Illawarra

report card 2017-18

100%
swimming
sites graded
Good or
Very good

Beach suitability grade

- VG** Very good
- G** Good
- F** Fair
- P** Poor
- VP** Very poor

Dry weather swimmability

- 100** Percentage (%) of dry weather samples within the safe swimming limit

