

Northern Sydney report card 2017-18

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming in the Northern Sydney region. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Palm Beach to Shelly Beach, estuarine areas in Pittwater and sites in Narrabeen Lagoon.

Best beaches

Palm Beach, Whale Beach, Avalon Beach, Bilgola Beach, Newport Beach, Bungan Beach, Mona Vale Beach, South Curl Curl Beach, The Basin and Great Mackerel Beach.

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

Estuarine and lagoon 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.



20

Ocean beaches

10

Estuarine sites

2

Lake/Lagoon sites

0

Ocean baths



32

Very good/Good

0

Fair

0

Poor/Very poor

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

Beachwatch

Northern Sydney

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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

