

South Coast report card 2017-18

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming on the south coast of New South Wales. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Shoalhaven Heads Beach to Cocora Beach, an ocean bath, estuarine areas in Bermagui Harbour, Merimbula Lake and Pambula River, and a lake site in Mogareeka Inlet.

Best beaches

Shoalhaven Heads Beach, Tilbury Cove, Warrain Beach, Collingwood Beach, Cudmirrah Beach, Mollymook Beach, Rennies Beach, Bawley Point Beach, Merry Beach, Cookies Beach, Malua Bay Beach, Bengello Beach, Brou Beach, Narooma Main Beach, Camel Rock Beach, Big Blue Pool, Beares Beach, Tathra Beach, Short Point Beach, Main Beach (Merimbula) and Pambula Beach.

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

Estuarine and lake/lagoon swimming sites generally do 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 on the South Coast

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the South Coast region since 2002 by Shoalhaven City Council, Eurobodalla Shire Council and Bega Valley Shire Council under the Office of Environment and Heritage's Beachwatch Partnership Program.



29

Ocean beaches

4

Estuarine sites

1

Lake/Lagoon sites

1

Ocean baths



35

Very good/Good

0

Fair

0

Poor/Very poor

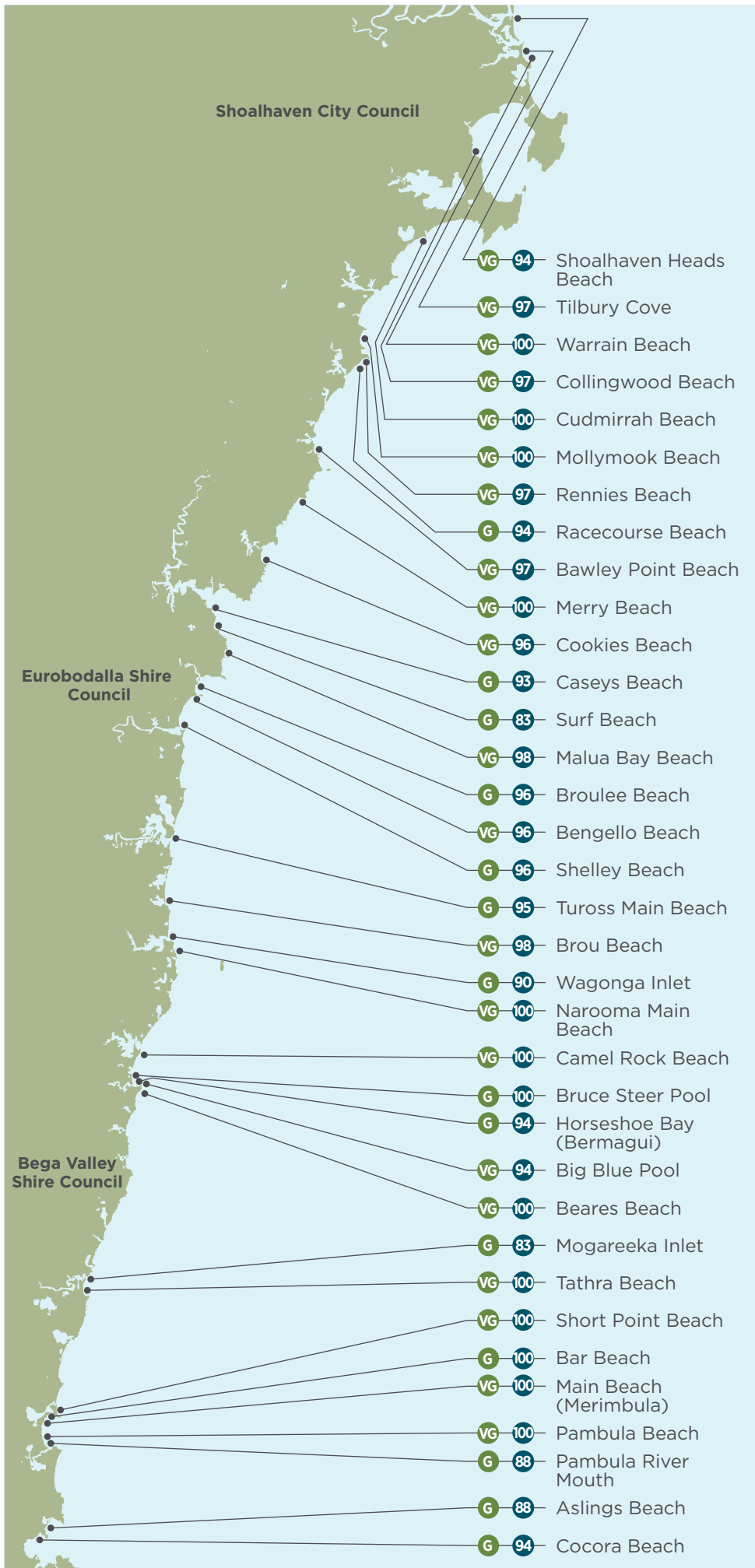
For additional information see the *State Of The Beaches 2017-18 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/beaches/reporting

Beachwatch

South Coast

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