

North Coast report card 2018-19

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a site is for swimming on the North Coast of New South Wales. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Seven Mile Beach to Shark Bay, estuarine areas in Shaws Bay, North Creek and Evans River, and swimming sites in Lake Ainsworth.

Best beaches

Seven Mile Beach, Lighthouse Beach, Airforce Beach, Main Beach and Shark Bay.

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

Estuarine and lake 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

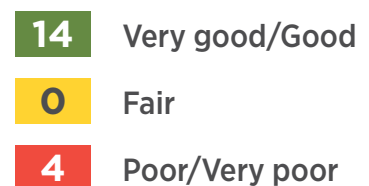
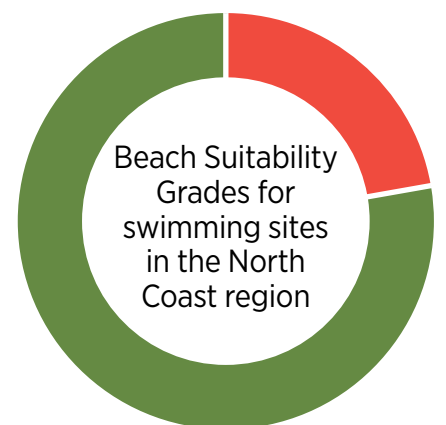
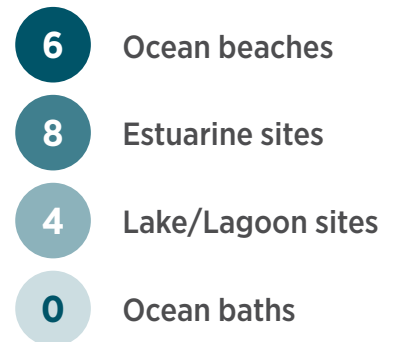
Rainfall is the major driver of pollution to recreational waters, generating stormwater runoff and triggering discharges from the wastewater treatment and transport system.

Monitoring on the North Coast

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the North Coast region by Ballina Shire Council since 2002 and Richmond Valley Council since 2006 under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership 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 2018-19 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches



Beachwatch

North Coast

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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

