

South Coast report card 2019-20

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, Horseshoe Bay (Bermagui), Beares Beach, Mogareeka Lions Park, Tathra Beach, Main Beach (Merimbula), Pambula Beach and Aslings Beach.

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

Catastrophic bushfires affected most of the South Coast region between December 2019 and February 2020, with ash and debris washed from burnt areas to many beaches. Physical hazards such as floating or submerged objects in addition to reduced water clarity made some waterways unsuitable for swimming during this time.

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 Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership Program.

For additional information see the *State Of The Beaches 2019-20 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches



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Ocean beaches

4

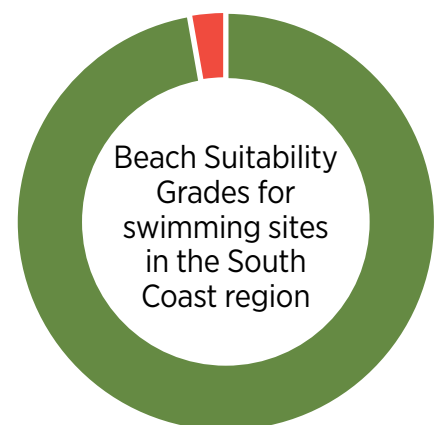
Estuarine sites

2

Lake/Lagoon sites

1

Ocean baths



35

Very good/Good

0

Fair

1

Poor/Very poor

Beachwatch

South Coast

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97%
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

