

## Beachwatch

# North Coast report card 2020-21



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 Main Beach (Byron Bay) to Shark Bay, estuarine areas in Brunswick River, Simpsons Creek, Shaws Bay, North Creek and Evans River, and swimming sites in Lake Ainsworth.

### Best beaches

Main Beach (Byron Bay), Tallow Beach (Suffolk Park), Seven Mile Beach, Shelly Beach, Lighthouse Beach and Shark Bay.

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

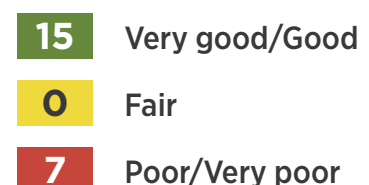
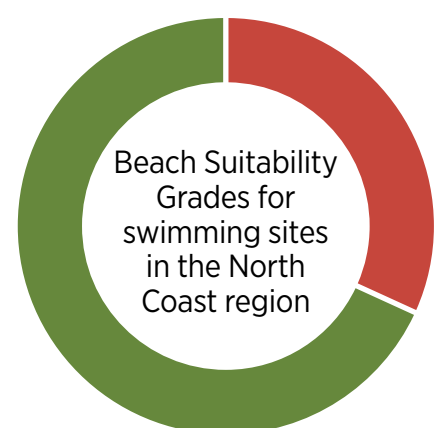
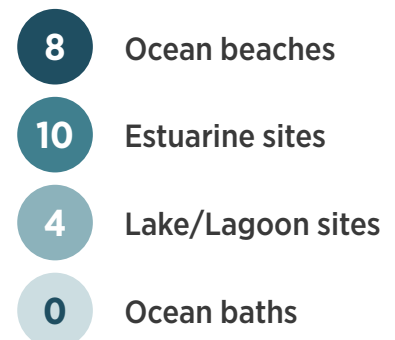
Estuarine and lake swimming sites did not perform as well as ocean beaches due to lower levels of flushing which increase the time needed to disperse and dilute pollution inputs, taking longer to recover from stormwater events.

### 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 Byron Shire Council from 2009 to 2013 and since 2020, Ballina Shire Council since 2002, and Richmond Valley Council since 2006 under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership Program.

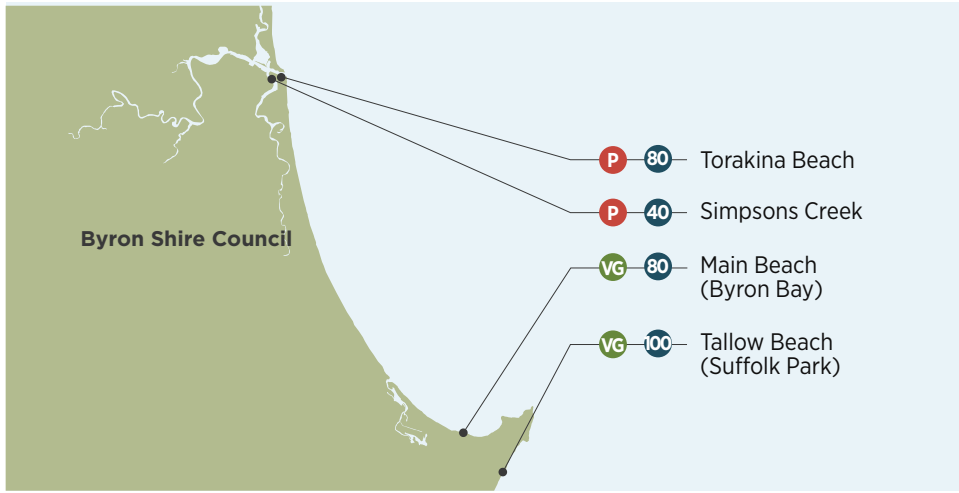
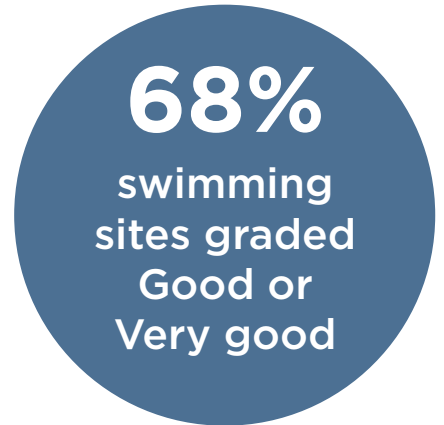


For additional information see the *State Of The Beaches 2020-21 Report* at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches)

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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