

# Chapter 2

## Beachwatch Partnership Programs

### Summary of findings

This section provides a summary of key findings from the Beachwatch Partnership Program during 2008–2009. Detailed results for each council area are provided in the following sections and supported by individual beach pages for each site.

#### Ballina Shire Council

Nine swimming locations were monitored in the Ballina Shire Council area between November 2007 and February 2008. Faecal coliform and enterococci samples were collected from all locations to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines.

A high level of compliance was recorded at all locations:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Seven Mile Beach	4	4
Shelly Beach	4	4
Lake Ainsworth South	3	4
Lake Ainsworth West	3	4
Lake Ainsworth East	3	4
Shaws Bay West	4	4
Shaws Bay East	4	4
Shaws Bay North	3	4
The Serpentine	3	4

#### Richmond Valley Council

Faecal coliform and enterococci samples are collected from four swimming locations in the Richmond Valley Council area throughout the year, but only data from the summer swimming season (October 2008 to April 2009) are included in this report.

A high level of compliance with the NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines was recorded at all locations:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Airforce Beach	7	7
Main Beach	7	7
Shark Bay	7	7
Evans River	6	7

#### Clarence Valley Council

Ten swimming locations were monitored in the Clarence Valley council area during summer 2008–2009. Enterococci samples were collected between November 2007 and March 2008 to assess compliance with the NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines. Sufficient samples to assess compliance were collected in only four months at Kolora Lake.

The level of compliance varied:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Iluka Bay	4	6
Wooli Estuary North	6	6
Wooli Estuary South	6	6
Kolora Lake	3	4
Maclean Jetty	3	6
Lawrence	6	6
Ulmarra Jetty	6	6
Prince Street	4	6
Grafton Sailing Club	0	6
Corcoran Park	1	6

#### Coffs Harbour City Council

Seven swimming locations were monitored in the Coffs Harbour City Council area between the end November 2008 and February 2009. Enterococci samples were collected from all locations to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines. Compliance was calculated for December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009.

A high level of compliance was recorded at all locations:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Woolgoolga Main Beach	3	3
Emerald Beach	3	3
Diggers Beach	3	3
Park Beach	3	3
Jetty Beach	3	3
Mid Sawtell Beach	3	3
Sawtell Rockpool	3	3

### Kempsey Shire Council

Enterococci samples were collected from ten swimming locations in the Kempsey Shire Council area between October 2008 and April 2009. Sufficient samples to assess compliance with the NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines were not collected in all seven months.

A consistently high level of compliance was recorded at the ocean beaches, with varying levels of compliance at the estuarine and creek locations:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Grassy Head Beach	4	4
Horseshoe Bay	4	4
Trial Bay	4	4
Hat Head Beach	4	4
Killick Beach	5	5
Stuarts Point	3	4
Back Creek	2	5
Killick Creek	3	6
Saltwater Creek	0	4
Korogoro Creek	4	5

### Port Stephens Council

Seven swimming locations were monitored in the Port Stephens Council area between October 2008 and April 2009. Faecal coliform and enterococci samples were collected from all locations to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines.

High levels of compliance were recorded at all sites:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Birubi Beach	7	7
Little Beach	7	7
Bagnalls Beach	7	7
Dutchmans Beach	7	7
Georges Reserve	6	7
Karuah Tidal Pool	6	7
Lemon Tree Passage	7	7

### Newcastle City Council

Newcastle City Council routinely tests water quality at four ocean baths. Faecal coliform samples are collected year-round at two sites, but only data collected over the 2008–2009 summer swimming season are presented in this report.

A high level of compliance with the NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines was recorded at all sites:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Newcastle Baths	7	7
Canoe Pool	4	4
Merewether Learners Pool	4	4
Merewether Main Pool	7	7

Due to pool closures for cleaning, insufficient samples to assess compliance were collected from Canoe Pool and Merewether Learners Pool in three months (February, March and April 2009).

### Wyong Shire Council

Twenty-nine swimming locations were monitored in the Wyong Shire Council area between October 2008 and April 2009. Enterococci samples were collected from all locations to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines.

With the exception of three locations, high levels of compliance were recorded:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Frazer Beach	7	7
Birdie Beach	7	7
Budgewoi Beach	7	7
Lakes Beach	7	7
Hargraves Beach	7	7
Jenny Dixons Beach	7	7
Cabbage Tree Bay	7	7
Lighthouse Beach	7	7
Gravelly Beach	7	7
Soldiers Beach	7	7
North Entrance	7	7
The Entrance	7	7
Blue Bay	7	7
Toowoona Bay	7	7
Shelly Beach	7	7
Blue Lagoon	7	7
Bateau Bay Beach	7	7
Summerland Point	7	7
Gwandalan	7	7
Chain Valley Bay	7	7
Elizabeth Bay	7	7
San Remo	7	7
Toukley Aquatic	7	7
Canton Beach	6	7
The Entrance Channel	7	7
Long Jetty	7	7
Wyong River	2	7
Ourimbah Creek	2	7
Tumbi Umbi Creek	0	7

Swimming at Wyong River, Ourimbah Creek and Tumbi Umbi Creek should be avoided at all times.

Wyong Shire Council has erected warning signs at Tumbi Umbi Creek, Ourimbah Creek and several estuarine swimming

locations where there has been a history of failure to meet swimming guidelines. Council has also undertaken faecal sterol testing to identify the source of contamination and has conducted additional sampling around Tuggerah Lake.

#### **Gosford City Council**

Twenty-two swimming locations were monitored in the Gosford City Council area between October 2008 and April 2009.

Faecal coliform samples were collected at all sites to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines.

High levels of compliance were recorded at all ocean beaches and most estuarine swimming locations:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Forresters Beach	7	7
Wamberal Beach	7	7
Terrigal Beach	7	7
North Avoca Beach	7	7
Avoca Beach	7	7
Copacobana Beach	7	7
McMasters Beach	7	7
Killcare Beach	7	7
Umina Beach	7	7
Pearl Beach	7	7
Wamberal Lagoon	7	7
Terrigal Paddleboats	5	7
Terrigal Sailboards	5	7
Avoca Lake	7	7
Bulbararing	7	7
Cockrone Lagoon	7	7
Ettalong Channel	4	7
Pretty Beach Baths	5	7
Pearl Beach Rockpool	7	7
Woy Woy Baths	6	7
Davistown Baths	5	7
Yattalunga Baths	6	7

#### **Shoalhaven City Council**

Ten ocean beaches were monitored in the Shoalhaven City Council area. Faecal coliform and enterococci samples were collected from all locations between December 2008 and February 2009 to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines.

High levels of compliance were recorded at all locations:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Shoalhaven Heads Beach	3	3
Tilbury Cove	3	3
Warrain Beach	3	3
Collingwood Beach	3	3
Cudmirrah Beach	3	3
Mollymook Beach	3	3
Rennies Beach	3	3
Racecourse Beach	3	3
Bawley Point Beach	3	3
Merry Beach	3	3

#### **Eurobodalla Shire Council**

Enterococci samples were collected from 11 swimming locations in the Eurobodalla Shire Council area during the 2008–2009 summer swimming season.

High levels of compliance with the NHMRC (1990) swimming water quality guidelines were recorded at all but one site:

Site	Number of Months	
	Complied	Sampled
Cookies Beach	7	7
Casey Beach	7	7
Surf Beach	4	7
Malua Bay Beach	7	7
Broulee Beach	7	7
Bengello Beach	7	7
Shelley Beach	7	7
Tuross Main Beach	7	7
Brou Beach	7	7
Narooma Main Beach	7	7
Wagonga Inlet	7	7

Surf Beach failed the swimming guidelines in December 2008, February 2009 and April 2009. In each case, the geometric mean enterococci level only just exceeded the guideline limit.

#### **Bega Valley Shire Council**

Faecal coliform samples were collected from 20 swimming locations in the Bega Valley Shire Council between the end of November 2008 and early February 2009.

Sufficient samples to assess compliance with NHMRC (1990) guidelines were collected from Cuttagee Inlet in December 2008 and Bar Beach in January 2009. Both sites complied with the guidelines in those months.

There were insufficient samples to assess compliance at the remaining 19 sites, however, levels of faecal coliforms measured at these locations were generally low.