

26th November 2010



Council Tests the Water

Shoalhaven Council has announced it will again be monitoring and reporting on water quality of beaches this summer.

Senior Environmental Health Officer, Shane Pickering said 10 local beaches will be monitored in accordance with NSW Department of Environment Climate Change and Water (DECCW) Beachwatch Protocols.

“The Council is testing for bacteria known as enterococci which indicate if water is polluted with stormwater or sewage and may be unsafe for swimming.

The results are posted on Council’s website and can also be viewed on the DECCW website by following the link <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/beach/starratingshoalhaven.htm>.”

“A variety of sites will be monitored including Shoalhaven Heads, Tilbury Cove, Warrain Beach, Collingwood Beach, Cudmirrah Beach, Mollymook Beach, Rennies Beach, Racecourse Beach, Bawley Point and Merry Beach” he said.

Beachwatch Program Manager, Cris Hickey, congratulated the Council for their commitment to keep tabs on the quality of their recreational swimming water, and to keep the public informed.

“The South Coast is justly renowned for its spectacular beaches, bays, estuaries, coastal lakes and rivers,” she said.

“For the most part, these swimming spots are as clean as they are beautiful. However, people need to be confident about the quality of the water they’re swimming in. They need informed advice about any potential health impacts and whether it might be sensible to avoid swimming at certain times.

“While most coastal swimming sites enjoy excellent water quality, some experience stormwater pollution after rain. As a general rule, we encourage people to avoid swimming for a day after rainfall at coastal beaches, and for up to three days in estuarine areas,” she said.

“There are many things the community can do to complement the work being conducted by the Council. By placing litter in the bin, composting garden waste and not using the hose as a broom, we can all help ensure pollution stays out of the stormwater system and our waterways remain clean,” said Shane Pickering.

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