



Media Release



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water

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Local beaches in great shape

Beaches in the Shoalhaven have received an excellent report card, with water quality at all monitored sites suitable for swimming for the majority of the summer season, according to results released by Shoalhaven City Council and the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change and Water's (DECCW) Beachwatch Program.

Beachwatch Manager Cris Hickey said that all 10 swimming locations performed well under the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) recreational water quality guidelines, which uses the bacterial indicator enterococci to assess swimming water quality.

The sites tested in the program are:

Shoalhaven heads beach, Tilbury Cove, Warrain beach, Collingwood beach, Cudmirrah Beach, Mollymook beach, Rennie's beach, Racecourse beach, Bawley Point beach, and Merry beach.

"The best performing swimming sites were Shoalhaven Heads Beach, Tilbury Cove, Cudmirrah Beach, Rennie's Beach, Warrain Beach and Bawley Point Beach. Enterococci levels at these sites indicated no adverse health risk to swimmers, remaining below 40 cfu/100mL on all sampling occasions," Mr Hickey said.

Collingwood Beach, Racecourse Beach and Merry Beach also performed well, with low bacterial levels recorded on all but one sampling occasion. Elevated bacterial levels were recorded at these sites following heavy rainfall.

Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer Shane Pickering said monitoring was conducted by Council over the 2009–2010 summer season to provide the community and visitors alike with information on beach water quality.

"The results for this summer confirm that our region's beaches are amongst the cleanest in the State," said Mr Pickering.

"Water quality has been good at most beaches, with low bacterial readings showing no evidence of sewage contamination. However, we do recommend that people avoid swimming for a day or so after rainfall due to the impacts of stormwater discharges.

"There are many things that the community and visitors to the area can do to help keep our beaches clean. By placing litter in the bin or taking it home with you and picking up pet droppings, we can all help ensure pollution stays out of the stormwater and our waterways remain clean," said Mr Pickering.

For further information contact Council's Environmental Services section on (02) 4429 3513

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