

# Water Safety

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| <b>Adoption Date:</b>  | 27/01/2010                                 |
| <b>Amendment Date:</b> | 23/11/2012, 13/06/2017, 20/09/2022         |
| <b>Minute Number:</b>  | MIN10.23, MIN12.1267, MIN17.498, MIN22.648 |
| <b>Review Date:</b>    | 01/12/2024                                 |
| <b>Directorate:</b>    | City Lifestyles                            |
| <b>Record Number:</b>  | POL22/66                                   |

## 1. Purpose

This Policy defines Council's water safety management of:

- Shoalhaven Swim Sport Fitness supervised and unsupervised aquatic facilities
- Holiday Haven Tourist Parks aquatic facilities
- Council-managed beach access ways and foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways, where swimming is encouraged
- Professional seasonal beach patrol services

## 2. Statement

The Policy is guided by the Department of Local Government Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety and relevant industry guidelines.

## 3. Provisions

Council's water safety management of these assets is delegated to the following Departments within the City Lifestyles and City Services directorates:

### 3.1. Supervised Aquatic Facilities – Shoalhaven Swim Sport Fitness Department, City Lifestyles

The management of these facilities will be guided by:

- Department of Local Government - Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety
- Royal Life Saving Society of Australia (RLSSA) – Guidelines for Safe Pool Operation (GSPO)
- NSW Health Department – Public Health Regulation 2012 – Swimming Pools & Spa Pools (Public)
- Statewide Mutual – “Signage as Remote Supervision” - Best Practice Manual Version 10 (2019)
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

Council's supervised Swim Sport Fitness aquatic facilities are at the following locations:

- Kangaroo Valley Village Pool
- Berry Village Pool
- Shoalhaven Heads Village Pool
- Greenwell Point Village Pool
- Milton Village Pool
- Bomaderry Aquatic Centre
- Nowra Aquatic Park
- Bay & Basin Leisure Centre
- Sussex Inlet Aquatic Centre
- Ulladulla Leisure Centre

### 3.2. Unsupervised Aquatic Facilities – Shoalhaven Swim Sport Fitness Department, City Lifestyles

The management of these facilities will be guided by:

- Department of Local Government - Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety
- Statewide Mutual – “Signage as Remote Supervision” - Best Practice Manual Version 10 (2019)
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

Based on requests from the community for increased seasonal access to Sea Pools, and in consideration of funding constraints that prohibit Council providing a fully supervised service at these facilities, the following Sea Pools are managed on an unsupervised basis:

- Huskisson Sea Pool & Wading Pool
- Ulladulla Sea Pool

Council reserves the right to provide supervision of Huskisson Sea and Wading Pools and Ulladulla Sea Pool in future.

### **3.3. Unsupervised Holiday Haven Aquatic Facilities – Commercial Services Department, City Services**

The management of these facilities will be guided by:

- Department of Local Government - Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety
- Statewide Mutual – “Signage as Remote Supervision” - Best Practice Manual Version 10 (2019)
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

Council’s Commercial Services Department manages Holiday Haven Tourist Parks and is responsible for aquatic facilities within their parks which are managed on an unsupervised basis.

This policy applies to all current and potential future Holiday Haven Tourist Parks’ unsupervised aquatic facilities, currently at the following locations:

- Shoalhaven Heads
- Culburra Beach
- Currarong
- Huskisson Beach
- Swan Lake
- Bendalong
- Lake Conjola
- Ulladulla
- Burrill Lake
- Lake Tabourie

Council reserves the right to provide supervision of Holiday Haven aquatic facilities in future.

### **3.4. Unsupervised Beach Access Ways and Foreshore Reserves adjacent to Beaches and Waterways – Works and Services, and Commercial Services Departments, City Services**

The management of these facilities will be guided by:

- Department of Local Government - Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety
- Statewide Mutual – “Signage as Remote Supervision” - Best Practice Manual Version 10 (2019)

Council-managed unsupervised beach access ways and foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways are maintained for public use. Maintenance within the water for

swimmer safety purposes is outside Council's management responsibility. The safety of the waterway will not be managed by Council.

Where Council-managed land areas provide access to beaches and waterways known to be used for swimming and there is a demonstrated community need, and / or a risk assessment has shown that there is a need, signage may be placed on or adjacent to these beach access ways or foreshore reserves.

### **3.5. Professional Seasonal Beach Patrol Services – Shoalhaven Swim Sport Fitness Department, City Lifestyles**

The management of these professional services during the hours of the Beach Patrol Service will be guided by:

- Department of Local Government - Practice Note 15 (July 2012) – Water Safety
- Standards Australia – Design & Application of Water Safety Signs – AS2416
- Statewide Mutual – “Signage as Remote Supervision” - Best Practice Manual Version 10 (2019)
- National Aquatic and Recreational Signage Style Manual

Professional seasonal beach patrol services are provided at designated areas for the periods of time that Council specifies and for which funding availability permits – typically for the New South Wales School Summer Holiday period.

- Shoalhaven Heads
- Culburra Beach
- Currarong
- Huskisson Beach
- Swan Lake
- Bendalong
- Lake Conjola
- Ulladulla
- Burrill Lake
- Lake Tabourie

## **4. Implementation**

The City Lifestyles Directorate will administer the Water Safety Policy.

The City Lifestyles Directorate manages the implementation of the Policy for these assets:

- Shoalhaven Swim Sport Fitness Department
  - supervised and unsupervised aquatic facilities
  - professional seasonal beach patrol services

The City Services Directorate manages the implementation of the Policy for these assets:

- Commercial Services Department
  - unsupervised aquatic facilities at Holiday Haven Tourist Parks
  - foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways
- Works and Services Department
  - beach access ways and foreshore reserves adjacent to beaches and waterways

**5. Review**

To be reviewed within one (1) year of the election of a new Council.