

# Narrawallee Inlet

## Estuary Ecosystem Health Report Card 2021-22

### Estuary Health

Monthly water quality monitoring was undertaken by Council at two sites between June 2021 and August 2022. The overall estuary health grade for Narrawallee Inlet was fair, based on microscopic algae and water clarity as key indicators. Microscopic algae levels and water clarity were graded fair to good across the period.

These estuary health grades provide an insight into the water quality of Narrawallee Inlet for the year 2021-22. Council will continue water quality monitoring to assess estuarine ecosystem health and public health.

#### Algae

**Chlorophyll a** indicates the amount of microscopic algae, called phytoplankton, growing in the waterway. Algae can grow quickly when high levels of nutrients are present. Nutrients can enter an estuary through urban stormwater, agricultural runoff, sewage and sediment runoff from the land. An increase in chlorophyll a can lead to algal blooms and detrimental impacts on aquatic plants and animals.

#### Water clarity

Water clarity is determined by **turbidity**, a measure of how much material, such as sediment or organic matter, is suspended in water. Turbidity can increase from sediments in catchment runoff, shoreline erosion, increased microscopic algae, and resuspension driven by wind (in shallow systems). High levels of turbidity may indicate poor water quality, which can have negative impacts on aquatic ecosystems.

Grades:

**A**

Very Good

**B**

Good

**C**

Fair

**D**

Poor

**E**

Very Poor

**C**

Overall Grade

Croobyar Creek

**C**



Algae  
C  
Water clarity  
C

Narrawallee Creek

### Estuary Information

Catchment area (km<sup>2</sup>): 80.9

Estuary area (km<sup>2</sup>): 1.0

Estuary volume (ML): 636.4

Entrance: Permanently open

Major tributaries: Narrawallee Creek & Croobyar Creek

Avg Yearly Rainfall: 1242.6mm

(Stn No:68229) 2021: 1489.6mm (total)

Narrawallee Inlet

**B**



Algae  
B  
Water clarity  
B

Estuary Mouth



Scan for more information



Shoalhaven City Council



This report card is an initiative of Shoalhaven City Council, with financial and technical assistance from the NSW Government through the Coastal Management Program.