

Beachwatch

Illawarra report card 2021-22

This report card provides a long-term assessment of how suitable a beach is for swimming in the Illawarra region of NSW. Monitored locations include ocean beaches from Stanwell Park Beach to Seven Mile Beach (Gerroa) and a designated swimming area in Lake Illawarra.

Best beaches

Stanwell Park Beach, Austinmer Beach, Woonona Beach, Wollongong City Beach, Coniston Beach, Fishermans Beach, Shellharbour Beach and Werri Beach.

These sites had excellent water quality and were suitable for swimming almost all of the time.

The lake/lagoon swimming site did not perform as well as the ocean beaches due to lower levels of flushing which increase the time needed to disperse and dilute pollution inputs, taking longer to recover from stormwater events.

Rainfall impacts

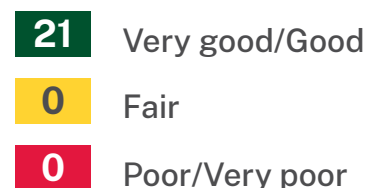
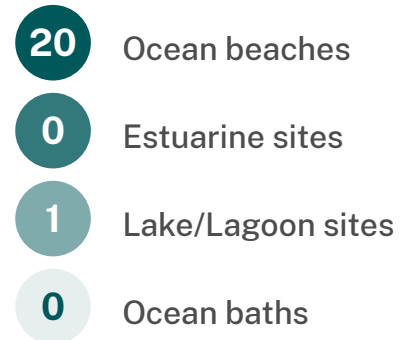
Rainfall is the major driver of pollution to recreational waters, generating stormwater runoff and triggering discharges from the wastewater treatment and transport system.

Monitoring in the Illawarra

Recreational water quality has been monitored in the Illawarra region since 1996 by Sydney Water Corporation as a requirement of Environment Protection Licences, and by Wollongong City Council and Kiama Municipal Council since 2011 under the Department of Planning and Environment's Beachwatch Partnership programs.

Beachwatch issues daily beach pollution forecasts to enable beachgoers to make informed decisions about where and when to swim.

For additional information see the *State of the Beaches 2021-22 Report* at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/state-of-the-beaches



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Beach suitability grade

- VG** Very good
- G** Good
- F** Fair
- P** Poor
- VP** Very poor

Dry weather swimmability

- 100** Percentage (%) of dry weather samples within the safe swimming limit

