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Great scores for the Hunter's beaches and swimming sites

The Hunter has some of the best beaches and swimming sites in New South Wales, according to the latest 'State of the Beaches' report.

Beachwatch's annual scorecard has graded 84 per cent of swimming sites in the Hunter as 'Good' or 'Very Good' – an improvement of five percent compared to last year. Beachwatch is the recreational water quality monitoring program of the New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage.

The report summarises the performance of 38 swimming sites across the region, which have been monitored since 1996 by Hunter Water, Port Stephens Council and Lake Macquarie City Council. The swimming sites include ocean beaches, estuarine areas in Port Stephens and designated swimming sites in Lake Macquarie.

The report shows grades of 'Good' or 'Very Good' for 32 out of the 38 monitored swimming sites in the Hunter, with all sites either improving or maintaining their water quality.

Hunter Water's Chief Investment Officer Darren Cleary welcomed the results.

"It's great to see these positive scores which reflect ongoing efforts towards the preservation and improvement of swimming sites along our coastline.

"Newcastle has been able to keep its perfect score of 100 percent, while Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie have recorded significant improvements. These are great outcomes and we will continue to work with local Councils and state agencies to protect and improve the quality of our waterways.

"Our wastewater systems have performed well over the last year. Initiatives like the upgraded UV disinfection treatment process at Burwood Wastewater Treatment Works have contributed to the excellent water quality results at Newcastle beaches," said Mr Cleary.

To view the full 2017-2018 report head to: www.environment.nsw.gov.au