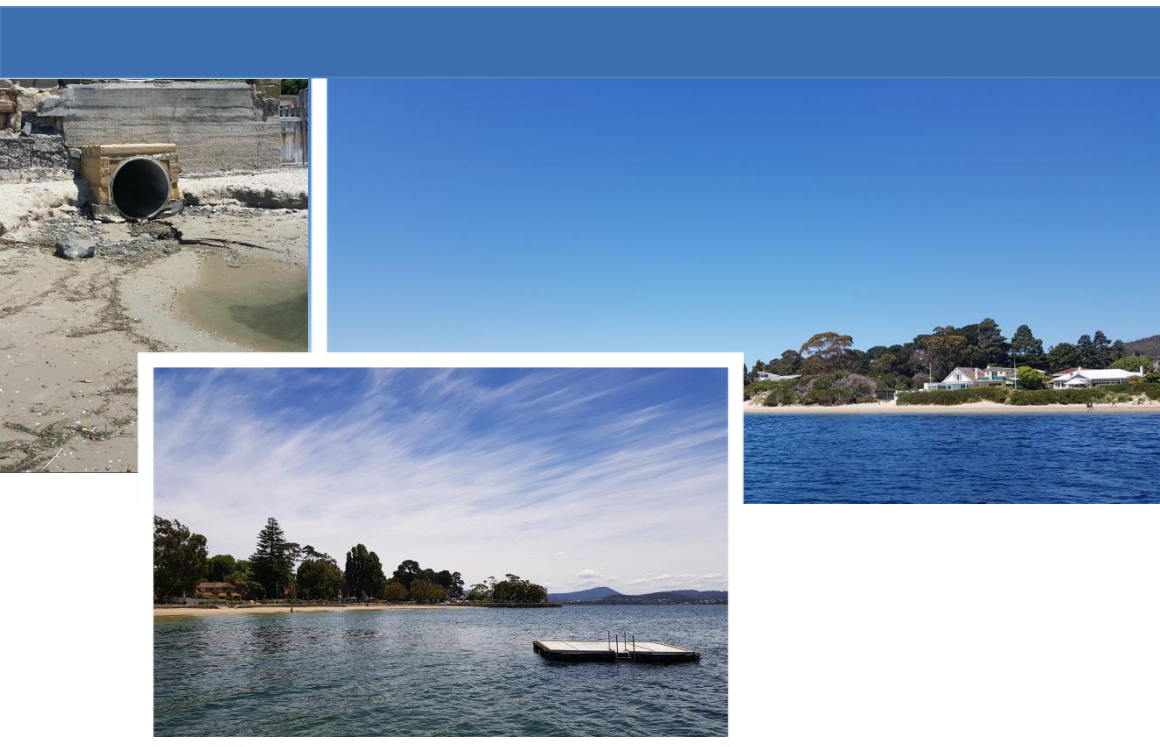


Derwent Estuary Recreational Water Quality Program

Annual Report 2025-26



Derwent Estuary
Program

The Derwent Estuary Program pays respect to the traditional and original owners of this land and acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the continuing custodians.

The Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) is a regional partnership between local governments, the Tasmanian State Government, businesses, scientists, and community-based groups to share science for the benefit of our estuary. The DEP was established in 1999 and has been nationally recognised for excellence in coordinating initiatives to reduce water pollution, conserve habitats and species, monitor river health and promote greater use and enjoyment of the foreshore.

Our major sponsors include Brighton, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough councils, the Tasmanian State Government, TasWater, Tasmanian Ports Corporation, Norske Skog Boyer, Nyrstar Hobart Smelter, Hydro Tasmania, EPA Tasmania, NRM South.



Contents

1	Executive summary	4
1.1	Season follow-ups	5
1.1.1	Beach Watch website wording changes	5
2	Introduction.....	5
2.1	Pathogens and health risks	6
2.2	Sources of contamination	6
2.3	Recreational water quality guidelines	6
3	Recreational Water Quality Program.....	7
3.1	Swimming and Environmental sites	7
3.2	Inter-calibration exercise	8
4	2024-25 RWQ season results	9
4.1	Long-term site classification	9
4.2	Site results	11
4.2.1	Swimming Sites	11
4.2.2	Environmental Sites.....	12
4.3	Water Quality Forecasting	14
4.4	Rainfall	16
4.4.1	Rainfall vs enterococci.....	17
5	Specific investigations.....	19
5.1	Kingborough Council	19
5.2	Clarence beaches	19
6	Special studies	20
6.1	Cornelian Bay Sampling	20
6.2	Field testing Rapid Enterococci Test (ZiP Diagnostics).....	21
7	Communications	22
7.1	Website	22
7.2	Signage	22
8	Acknowledgements.....	23
9	References	23
	APPENDIX A - Intercalibration report, RWQ season 2025-26	24
	APPENDIX B – Rainfall data across the Derwent Estuary	29
	APPENDIX C – 2025-26 enterococci results	30

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the Derwent Estuary Recreational Water Quality (RWQ) Program for the 2025–26 season. The program is a collaborative initiative involving six local councils, the Tasmanian Government, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Tasmania, and the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP). Weekly water samples were collected at 38 sites between 1 December 2025 and 31 March 2026 and analysed for enterococci, a key faecal indicator bacteria.

Water quality results indicate ongoing challenges. Exceedances of the recreational water quality trigger level (140 MPN/100 mL) remained elevated, with 32 exceedances recorded at swimming sites, slightly higher than the 30 recorded in 2024–25. Several sites experienced downgrades in their long-term ratings.

At the end of the season, eight swimming sites were classified as Good, eight as Fair, and three as Poor, with several sites experiencing rating changes. Detailed results are provided in Figure 4-1.

Water quality at 19 environmental sites also declined slightly compared to the previous season, with 45 exceedances recorded (up from 43 in 2024–25). The mid-river Derwent site continued to exhibit the best water quality, followed by Montagu Bay.

Forecasting was reintroduced as a permanent component of the program in 2025–26. Forecast accuracy was comparable to interstate programs, with 80.1% appropriate advice, 2.8% missed alarms, and 16.3% false alarms. However, a slight decrease in accuracy compared to last year suggests the influence of additional or less predictable contamination sources.

Environmental conditions likely influenced results. The 2025–26 summer was notably dry, with Hobart receiving only 51% of its long-term average rainfall, contributing to persistently dry and warm conditions across the region.

1.1 Season follow-ups

The following are issues which individual EHOs have raised with DEP during the season, which are worthwhile clarifying.

1.1.1 Beach Watch website wording changes

Consultation with RWQ stakeholders identified concerns about the current wording used for the “Likely Pollution” classification, which is presently communicated as “Water Quality is Unsuitable for Swimming.” The “Likely” status is determined using site-specific pollution thresholds, resulting in varying recovery times across locations. This variability may be contributing to confusion both within the community and among internal communication teams.

To improve clarity and consistency, the following wording updates have been proposed:

- Include additional explanatory text in the forecasting legend:
“Daily predicted pollution based on recent rainfall and other available information, including catchment size and spill information.”
- Revise the poor rating description to read:
“Temporarily unsuitable for swimming.”

These changes will be implemented prior to the start of the 2026 – 27 season.

Please do let the DEP team know if you have suggestions for website improvements.

2 INTRODUCTION

Water quality monitoring of beaches and bays in the Derwent Estuary is coordinated by the DEP in collaboration with Department of Health (DoH), EPA Tasmania and the six councils that border the estuary (Brighton, Clarence, Derwent Valley, Glenorchy, Hobart and Kingborough). The primary objectives of the program are to coordinate monitoring, support investigations and assist councils and the DoH in managing human health risks associated with poor water quality. The DEP’s role in the program is to:

- Coordinate recreational water quality monitoring in the Derwent Estuary.
- Compile and analyse data, including classification of beaches and bays, annual reporting and analysis of long-term trends (using methods outlined Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 (DoH, 2007).
- Share water quality data, ratings and forecasts publicly on the DEP website.
- Support and encourage site specific investigations into poor or deteriorating water quality at targeted sites.

The water quality data is made publicly available via the DEP website and Facebook page on a weekly basis throughout the summer (December-March), to allow the community to make informed decisions as to where and when to swim. This data is also used to inform decision-making processes, by identifying stormwater and wastewater assets that require investigating.

2.1 Pathogens and health risks

Water contaminated by sewage and animal faeces may contain pathogenic micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses, protozoa), which pose a health hazard when the water is used for primary contact recreation, such as swimming. Infection may occur by swallowing, inhaling or by direct contact of contaminated water with ears, nasal passages, mucous membranes, and cuts in the skin, which allow the pathogens to enter the body (N.Z. Ministry for the Environment, 2002). The most common health conditions associated with primary contact recreation in contaminated water are gastrointestinal disorders, respiratory illnesses, eye, nose and throat infections and skin disorders.

Direct detection of pathogens is not a feasible option for routine assessments since they occur intermittently and are difficult to recover from water. Thus, water samples are analysed for the concentration of more easily detected microorganisms, which may indicate the presence of pathogens, referred to as faecal indicator bacteria (refer to (DEP, 2015 for more information). In the Derwent Estuary, enterococci are sampled as the key faecal indicator bacteria, as required by the Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 (DoH, 2007).

2.2 Sources of contamination

Key sources of faecal contamination in coastal waters can include untreated sewage, or faecal contamination from a catchment transported via the stormwater system, animal faeces, or resuspension of contaminated sediments:

- Stormwater systems in urban areas can be contaminated with sewage. The source for this contamination can be caused by a failure in the wastewater (sewage) system, including infrastructure damage or blockages (tree roots, wet wipes etc) causing overflows, overflows during high rainfall events, or direct cross-connections, leakages, or animal faeces in low rainfall (or non-rainfall) events.
- Direct contamination can occur from animal faeces. High density animal aggregations, such as birds or dogs, on beaches can contribute to contamination.
- Resuspension of contaminated sediments by wind or wave action is also a possible source of contamination.

Differentiating between contaminant sources can be very difficult, however regular (and case-based) sanitary surveys, possibly combined with specialist laboratory techniques, such as sterols can help advance our understanding. Systematic investigation is critical to locate a pollution source. See the DEP Source Tracking Framework and Toolkit https://www.derwentestuary.org.au/assets/Source_Tracking_Framework_and_Toolkit_Mar2020.pdf.

2.3 Recreational water quality guidelines

Swimming and environmental sites in the Derwent Estuary are graded as Good, Fair or Poor. This is in accordance with the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines for Tasmania (DoH, 2007), which are largely based on the national Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water (NHMRC, 2008). The guidelines are based on aseptic grab sample analysis for the faecal indicator microbial group enterococci, and the Tasmanian guidelines adopt a three-tiered approach to classifying the long-term quality of a site based on five years of data. The tiers are:

- *Good*: rolling 5-year 95th Hazen percentile value of < 200 enterococci MPN (Most Probable Number) 100 mL⁻¹.

- *Fair*: rolling 5-year 95th Hazen percentile value of 200 - 500 enterococci MPN 100 mL⁻¹.
- *Poor*: rolling 5-year 95th Hazen percentile value of > 500 enterococci MPN 100 mL⁻¹. In this case, water at these sites is considered a threat to public health in the event of primary contact recreation and local councils are required to advise the general public and to erect warning signs.

In addition to long-term site classification, trigger levels have been set to manage public exposure to episodic or emerging water quality issues. If a sample exceeds 140 enterococci MPN 100 mL⁻¹, the council is required to resample as soon as possible, and if two consecutive samples return enterococci results above 280 MPN 100 mL⁻¹, the public must be advised directly via signage on the beach in question. This signage can only be removed by Council's Authorised Officer in consultation with DoH.

3 RECREATIONAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

3.1 Swimming and Environmental sites

Aseptic grab samples are collected each Tuesday by Council and the EPA/DEP throughout the Derwent Estuary, during summer and early autumn each year (from 1 December to 31 March). Sites are categorised as either swimming sites or

environmental sites, as described below, and locations are shown in

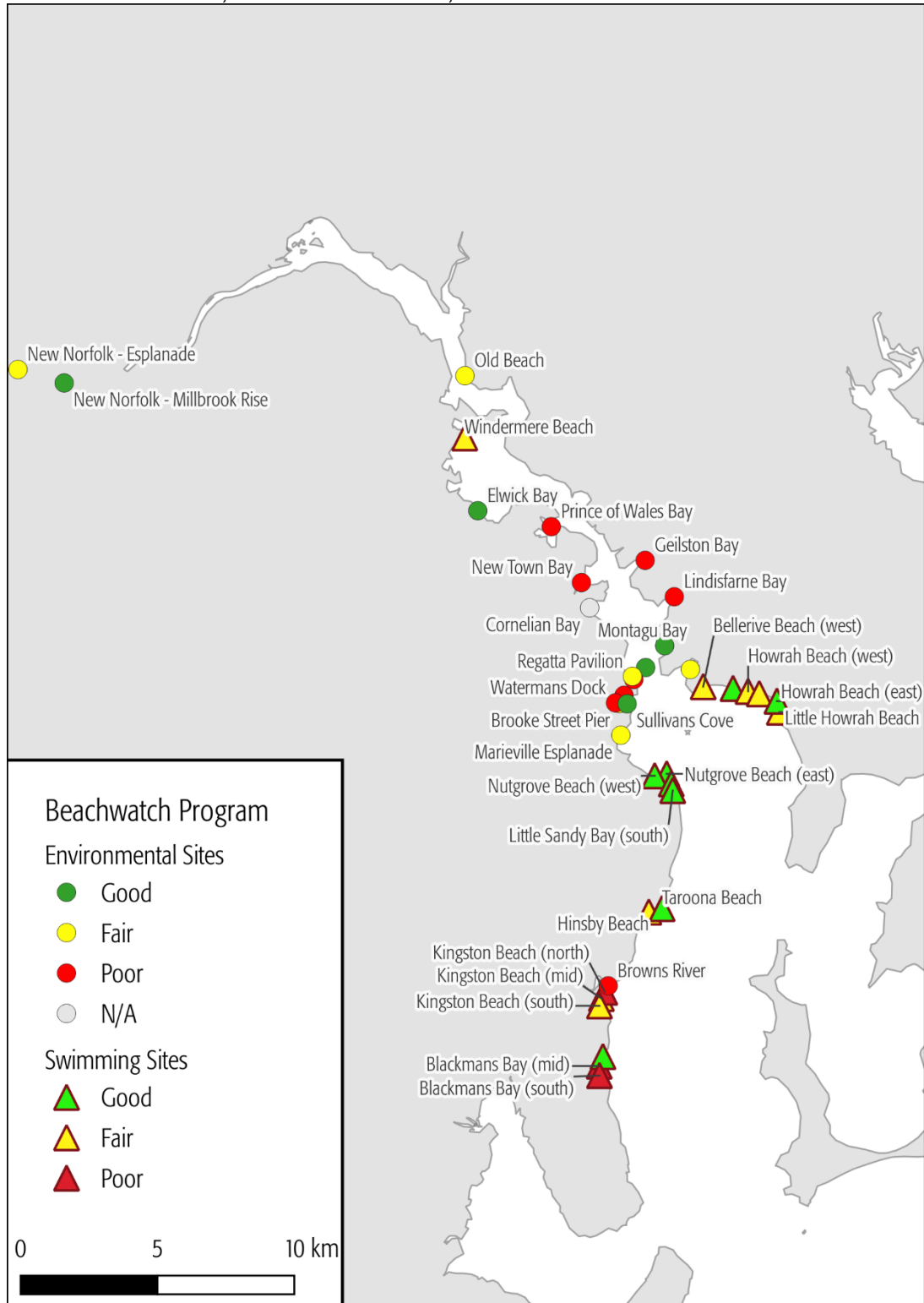


Figure 3-1.

- The 19 swimming sites monitored this season are in locations where a significant number of people swim or conduct other primary contact recreation. Primary contact refers to where recreational water is used for whole-body contact, i.e., where there is a risk of swallowing water (NHMRC, 2008). These sites are sampled by councils.
- The 20 environmental sites monitored this season, sampled by either councils or EPA/DEP were selected using the following rationale:

- Bays and coves that are frequently used for secondary contact recreation and/or have foreshore parks. Secondary contact refers to incidental contact, i.e., activities where only the limbs are regularly wet and in which greater contact (including swallowing water) is unusual, such as boating and fishing (NHMRC, 2008).
- Areas with potential sources of faecal contamination.
- Sites with relatively low risk of contamination, sampled to contextualise swimming site results.
- Sites associated with major swimming events, such as the Trans-Derwent Swim.

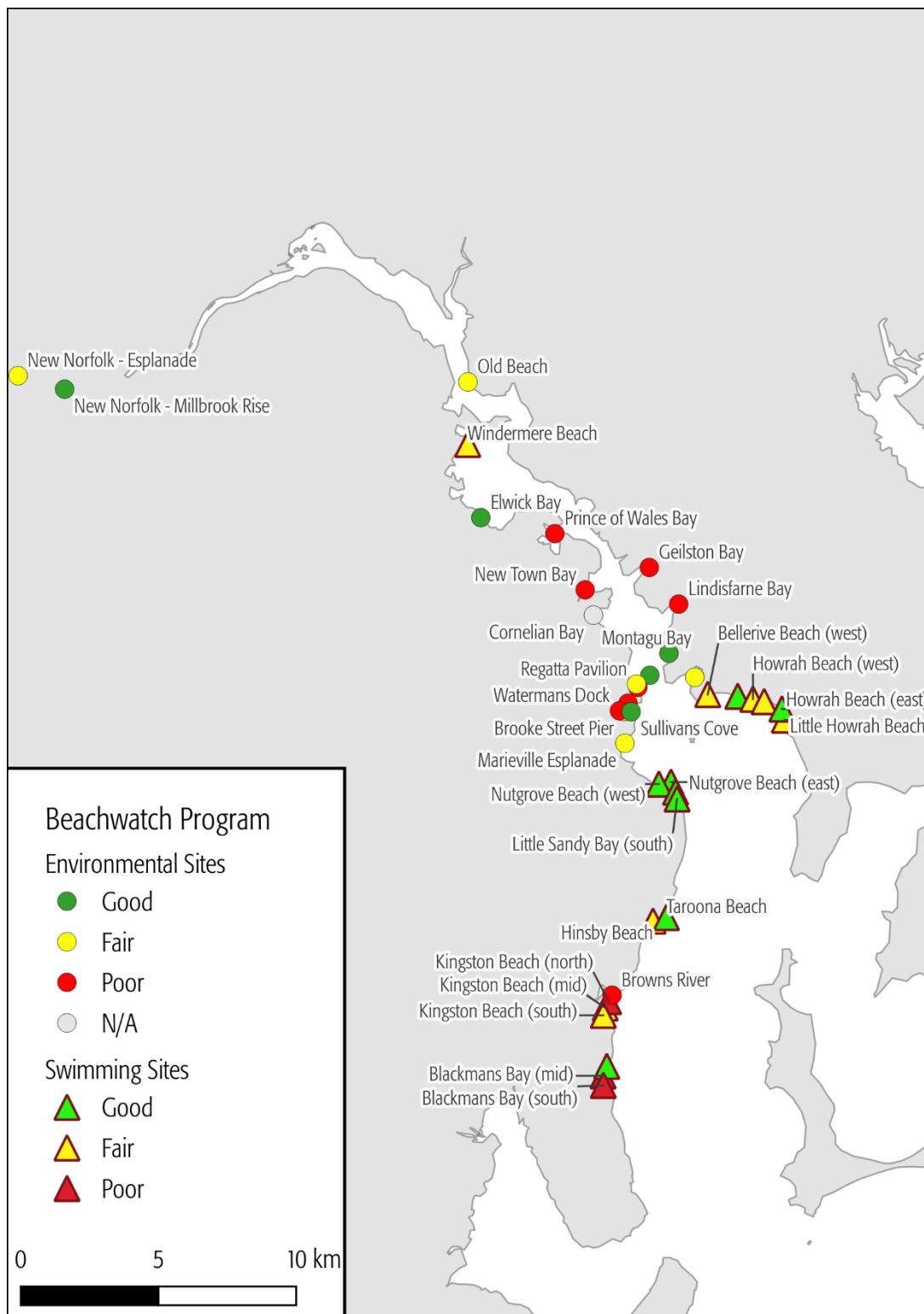


Figure 3-1. Recreational Water Quality sampling sites (swimming and environmental sites) with their current water quality classification based on data collected in the summer months between December 2021 and March 2026.

3.2 Inter-calibration exercise

An inter-calibration exercise is organised by the DEP at the start of each season to ensure that all sampling officers are using the same protocols, thus minimising sampler bias. The sampling method is demonstrated, associated protocols are reviewed, and participants simultaneously sample from a designated location. Results are compared to

identify any sampler bias and are also useful to better understand the degree of variability between water samples collected from a given site and/or between sites.

The exercise is also a good opportunity to talk about any concerns and finer details of sampling both by new and more experienced samplers, and good questions are always brought up for discussion. For a full report on this season's inter-calibration exercise, see Appendix A.

The next inter-calibration exercise will be conducted in November 2026.

4 2024-25 RWQ SEASON RESULTS

4.1 Long-term site classification

After each RWQ season, a new long-term rating is calculated for all swimming and environmental sites. This calculation is based on the immediate previous five seasons of sampling data for each site. Table 1 below shows the updated rating after the 2024-25 season. The colours refer to Tasmanian *Recreational Water Quality Guidelines* (DoH, 2007), calculating a rolling 5-year 95th Hazen percentile for enterococci, where green denotes Good (< 200 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), yellow denotes Fair (200 - 500 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), and red denotes Poor (> 500 MPN 100 mL⁻¹). The number of samples with enterococci results between 140 and 280 MPN 100 mL⁻¹, > 280 MPN 100 mL⁻¹, > 140 and total number of samples, for the same 5-year period are also shown.

Table 1. Updated long-term ratings for all swimming and environmental sites as calculated after the 2025-26 RWQ season.

		Updated long-term rating	5-year 95 th Hazen percentile	Total number of samples
Swimming sites	<i>Bellerive Beach (east)</i>	<i>Good</i>	106	82
	<i>Bellerive Beach (west)</i>	<i>Fair</i>	201	82
	<i>Blackmans Bay Beach (mid)</i>	<i>Poor</i>	706	82
	<i>Blackmans Bay Beach (north)</i>	<i>Good</i>	183	83
	<i>Blackmans Bay Beach (south)</i>	<i>Poor</i>	1328	83
	<i>Hinsby Beach</i>	<i>Fair</i>	223	83
	<i>Howrah Beach (east)</i>	<i>Good</i>	183	82
	<i>Howrah Beach (mid)</i>	<i>Fair</i>	331	82
	<i>Howrah Beach (west)</i>	<i>Fair</i>	260	81
	<i>Kingston Beach (mid)</i>	<i>Fair</i>	429	83
	<i>Kingston Beach (north)</i>	<i>Poor</i>	619	83
	<i>Kingston Beach (south)</i>	<i>Fair</i>	252	83
	<i>Little Howrah Beach</i>	<i>Fair</i>	220	81
	<i>Little Sandy Bay Beach (north)</i>	<i>Good</i>	105	84
	<i>Little Sandy Bay Beach (south)</i>	<i>Good</i>	100	85
	<i>Nutgrove Beach (east)</i>	<i>Good</i>	44	83
	<i>Nutgrove Beach (west)</i>	<i>Good</i>	145	85
	<i>Taroona Beach</i>	<i>Good</i>	164	83
	<i>Windermere Beach</i>	<i>Fair</i>	254	79
Environmental sites	<i>Brooke Street Pier</i>	<i>Fair</i>	444	72
	<i>Browns River</i>	<i>Poor</i>	5186	83
	<i>Elwick Bay</i>	<i>Good</i>	95	78
	<i>Geilston Bay</i>	<i>Poor</i>	953	72
	<i>Hobart Rivulet</i>	<i>Poor</i>	1219	72
	<i>Kangaroo Bay</i>	<i>Fair</i>	235	72
	<i>Lindisfarne Bay</i>	<i>Poor</i>	1776	72
	<i>Marievile Esplanade</i>	<i>Fair</i>	340	85
	<i>Mid-river swim</i>	<i>Good</i>	83	71
	<i>Montagu Bay</i>	<i>Good</i>	85	71
	<i>New Norfolk (Esplanade)</i>	<i>Fair</i>	318	70
	<i>New Norfolk (Millbrook Rise Jetty)</i>	<i>Good</i>	199	70
	<i>New Town Bay</i>	<i>Poor</i>	508	72
	<i>Old Beach Jetty</i>	<i>Fair</i>	313	68
	<i>Prince of Wales Bay</i>	<i>Poor</i>	578	72
	<i>Regatta Pavilion</i>	<i>Fair</i>	414	72
	<i>Sullivans Cove</i>	<i>Good</i>	134	72
	<i>Victoria Dock</i>	<i>Poor</i>	622	72
	<i>Watermans Dock</i>	<i>Poor</i>	821	72

4.2 Site results

4.2.1 Swimming Sites

This season again saw no new swimming sites added to the sampling regime. All sites now have at least 5 years of data and have all been assigned a long-term rating. A new long-term rating was determined for Blackmans Bay North, Blackmans Bay Middle, Bellerive Beach West, Little Howrah Beach and Windermere Bay.

The water quality at the swimming sites declined compared with the previous two seasons. This season saw 31 exceedances (enterococci >140 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), compared with 30 last summer and 16 the previous season (Table 2). See the full list of enterococci results and exceedances for all swimming sites in the 2025-26 season in Appendix C.

Table 2. List of the number of swimming sites from the last nine RWQ seasons triggering a retest under the Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines by exceeding enterococci >140 MPN 100 mL⁻¹ (DoH, 2007).

RWQ season	Number of exceedances
2025 - 26	32
2024-25	30
2023-24	16
2022-23	22
2021-22	49
2020-21	28
2019-20	5
2018-19	52
2017-18	23

At the end of this season, eight sites were graded as Good, eight sites graded as Fair, and three as Poor. Five sites saw a rating change which are expressed in the Figure 4.1.

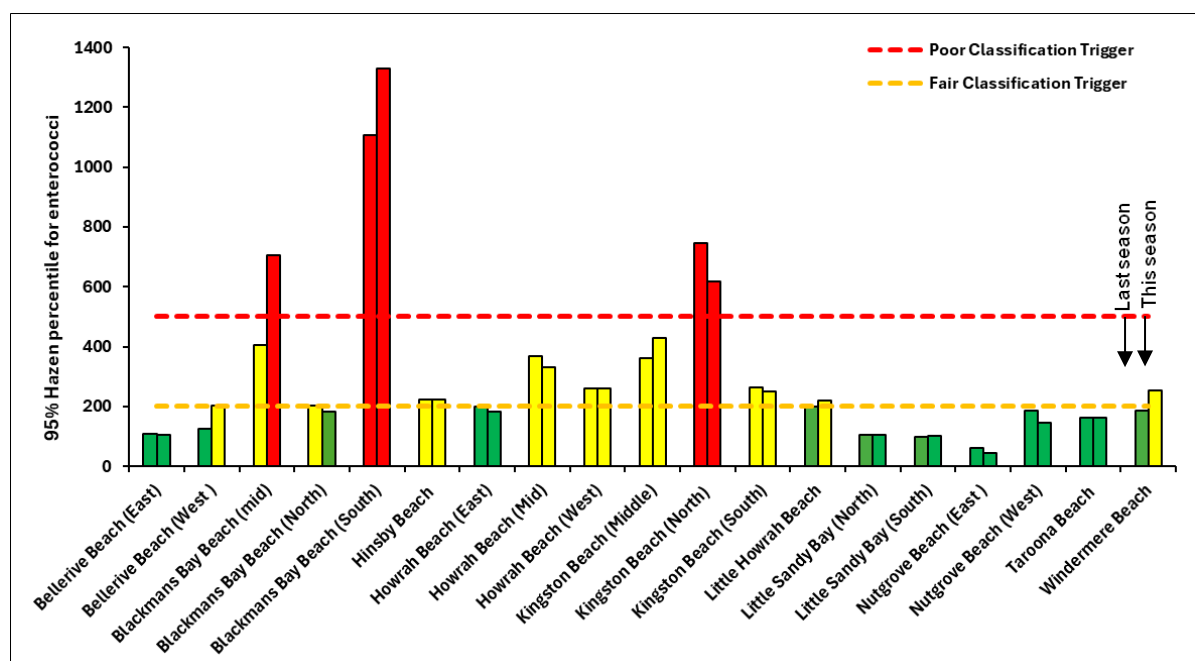


Figure 4-1: Comparison of rolling 5-year Hazen percentile enterococci result for swimming sites. Each site is presented as a pair of results, where the left bar represents 2024-25 RWQ season results, while the right bar represents 2025-26 season results. Green denotes Good (< 200 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), yellow denotes Fair (200 - 500 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), red denotes Poor (> 500 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), and the classification trigger lines are indicated with dotted lines.

Long term results typically declined this season due to an increased number of high results. The swimming sampling sites with the consistently best water quality in the RWQ program are the two Little Sandy Bay Beach sites (south + north), Bellerive Beach East and Nutgrove Beach East. There are now three swimming sites currently with a Poor rating being Kingston Beach (north), located near the Poor environmental sampling location at the Browns River mouth and Blackmans Bay Beach (south & mid). Blackmans Bay Beach continues to have persistent water quality issues this season, which Kingborough Council are doing their best to resolve. Read about specific site investigations in Section 5.

Figure 4-2 highlights the proportion of Good, Fair and Poor swimming sites over the last nine RWQ seasons, showing a slight decrease in Good sites over last season. This is likely due to the increased number of exceedances seen this season.

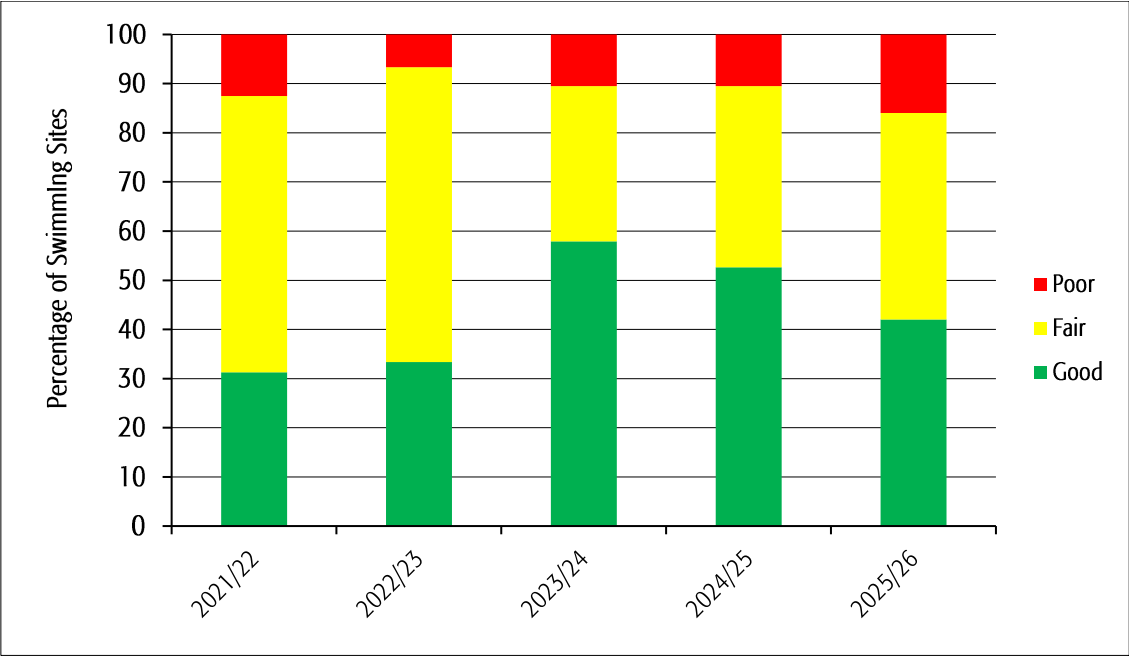


Figure 4-2 Proportion of swimming sites graded as Good, Fair, and Poor in the last five RWQ seasons.

4.2.2 Environmental Sites

There were no new sites added to the sampling program this summer.

The enterococci results from the 19 environmental sites showed 45 exceedances (enterococci >140 MPN 100 mL⁻¹), compared to 43 during the last summer. This shows water quality remains a challenge at a number of environmental sites across the greater Derwent.

Table 3. List of the number of environmental sites from the last five RWQ seasons triggering a retest under the Tasmanian Recreational Water Quality Guidelines by exceeding enterococci >140 MPN 100 mL⁻¹ (DoH, 2007).

RWQ season	Number of exceedances
2025 - 26	45
2024-25	43
2023-24	24
2022-23	56
2021-22	40

After updating the long-term ratings at the end of the 2025-26 season, there are now five sites graded as Good, six as Fair, and eight as Poor. Two sites—Victoria Dock and Prince of Wales Bay—dropped from Fair to Poor. Two other sites, Millbrook Rise and the Regatta Pavilion, improved compared with last season. Several long-term ratings declined but remained within their existing categories. Browns River is of particular interest, with its Hazen value increasing significantly from last season to 5,186.

Figure 4-4 shows the proportion of Good, Fair and Poor swimming sites over the last five RWQ seasons, highlighting the change over the years to a situation where majority of sites in the estuary fall into either the Fair or Poor category.

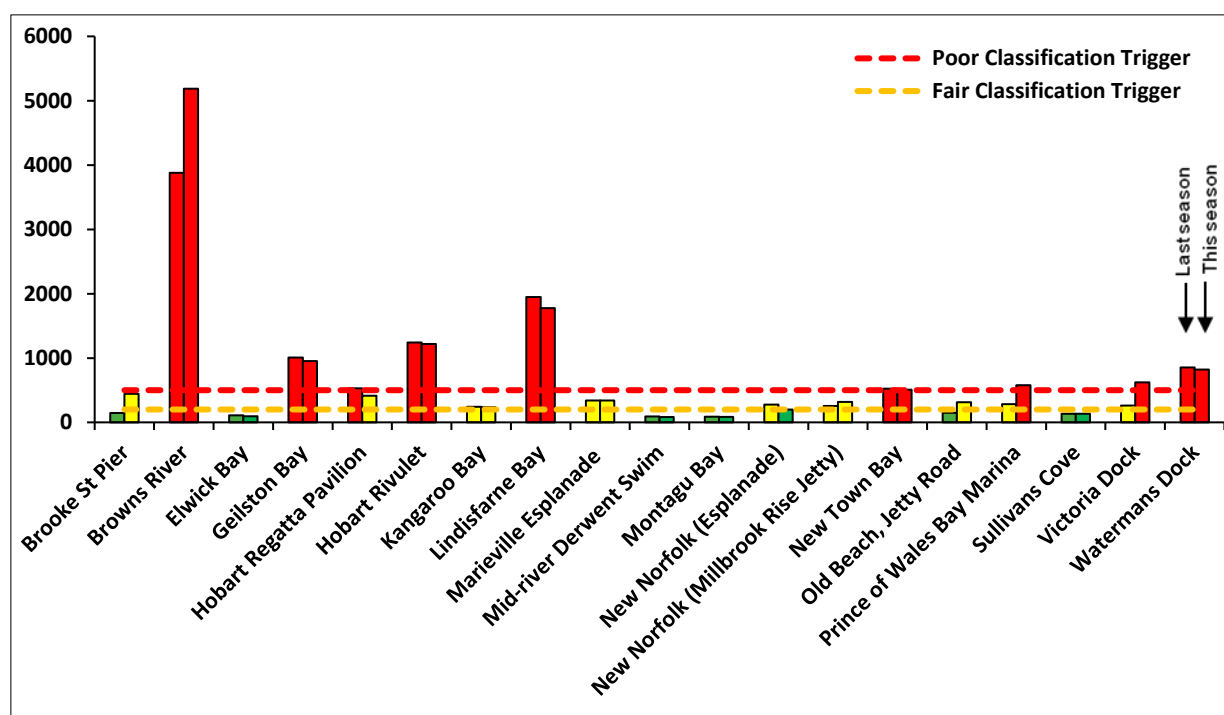


Figure 4-3 Comparison of rolling 5-year Hazen percentile enterococci result for the environmental sites. Each site is presented as a pair of results, where the left bar represents 2024-25 RWQ season results, while the right bar represents 2025-26 season result. Green denotes Good (< 200 MPN 100 mL^{-1}), yellow denotes Fair ($200 - 500$ MPN 100 mL^{-1}), red denotes Poor (> 500 MPN 100 mL^{-1}), and the classification trigger lines are indicated with dotted lines.

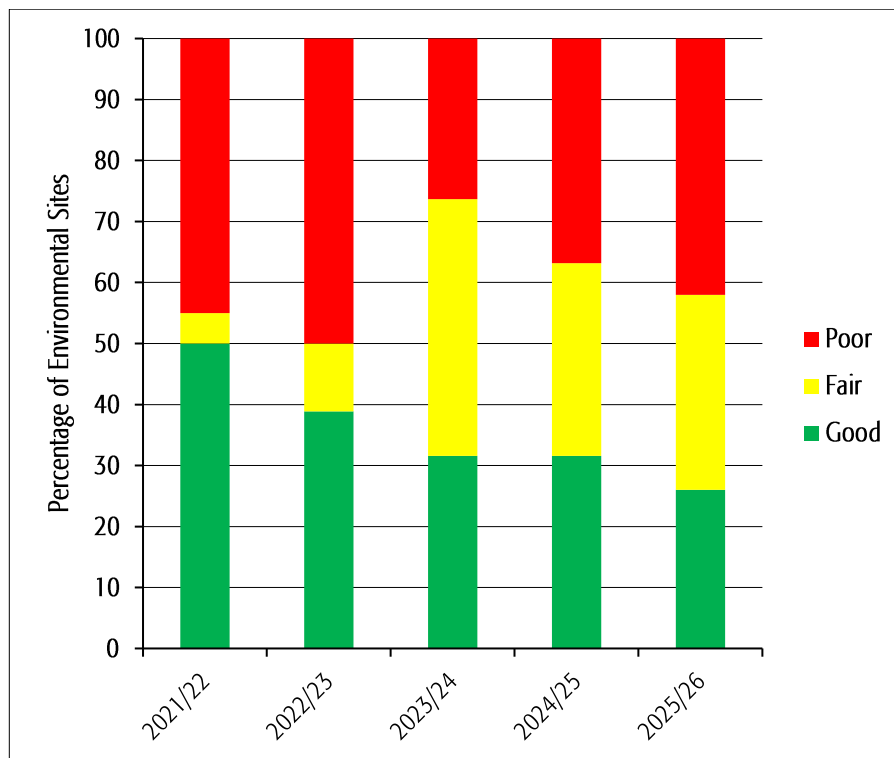


Figure 4-4 Proportion of Environmental Sites graded as Good, Fair, and Poor in the last five RWQ seasons.

After this season, Mid River Derwent Swim has become the best environmental site with a long-term rating of 83 MPN/100ml followed by other historically good sites in the Montagu Bay and Elwick Bay sites. Both Browns River and Hobart Rivulet experienced particularly poor seasons with a sharp increase in failed results. Browns River saw nine elevated results from 17 monitoring events whilst Hobart Rivulet saw eight elevated results from 15 samples. Most other sites experienced at least one failed result of this season further contributing to this season increase in exceedances. Only four environmental sites recorded no exceedances this season.

See this season's complete list of enterococci results for all environmental sites in Appendix C.

4.3 Water Quality Forecasting

In many countries, and in some Australian mainland cities, in addition to the weekly results and general advice, the swimming public is provided with a daily forecast, a prediction of what kind of pollution level can be expected at popular swimming sites. These forecasts are usually provided to the public via websites, QR codes, alerts via text messages, signs, or apps.

So why would we embark on daily water quality forecasting here in the Derwent Estuary? Some of the main drivers include:

- To overcome the issue of the time lag between water sampling (on Tuesdays) and when most people swim (i.e. weekends) by providing timely communication. Much can happen to influence water quality during this period.

- To assist with management of beaches with Poor long-term ratings. Rather than only having a blanket no swim advisory attached to them, with daily up-to-date information, people will be able to confidently swim at these sites - sometimes. This would be of great benefit to local councils, with more positive communication options available to them.
- To implement a communication system where swimmers can quickly be notified about sewage spills and other sudden changes to the water quality at their local beach.
- To empower the public to make informed decisions about swimming site suitability prior to undertaking recreational activities.
- To enable large scale events (e.g. Derwent Swim) to have access to current water quality information.

Forecasting has now become an integral part of the Derwent Recreational Water Quality program, following a number of successful trials within the estuary. Forecasts were updated daily prior to 9 am, allowing swimmers to access up to date information for their favourite swimming beach (even on the weekends).

2261 daily forecasts were produced during the RWQ season. To assess their accuracy, we compared the Tuesday forecast results with the enterococci results sampled on the same days. Table 3 details how the forecasts were assessed.

Table 3. Metrics of how the forecasts are assessed, based on the same methods as used in NSW and VIC.

Metric	Result
Appropriate advice	If microbial water quality is good (< 140 MPN), and our report forecasted Unlikely or Possible, OR If microbial water quality was elevated (>140 MPN) and our report forecasted Possible or Likely.
False alarm (type 1 error)	When we forecast Likely, and water quality is good (<140 MPN).
Missed alarm (type 2 error)	When we forecast Unlikely, and the pollution level is elevated (>140 MPN).

The comparison gave us 354 events to analyse, with Appropriate advice provided 80.8% of the time. Overall, we had 2.8 % Missed alarms (11 sites had none) and 16.3 % False alarms. One site had 100% accuracy and all other sites except one had greater than 85% accuracy of forecasts matching enterococci results.

Table 4. Total breakdown of accuracy of advice for all 354 confirmed forecast values.

Accuracy of advice	Count	Percent %
Appropriate advice	286	80.9
False Alarm	58	16.3
Missed Alarm	10	2.8
Total	354	

These results are comparable with our interstate counterparts, with NSW Beachwatch reporting 95% appropriate advice following the 2025 season. The Derwent forecasting from last season had results of 86.5 % accuracy and a missed alarm total of 5.7 % showing consensus with expected errors.

Forecasting also enabled us to provide up to date advice to the community when we received information outside the norm, including confirmed sewer spills and directions received from the Department of Health. During this season there were four instances where these changes were made.

4.4 Rainfall

Rainfall is a driver of pollution at beaches and other recreational swimming areas, as it generates potentially contaminated stormwater runoff and can trigger discharges and overflows from the wastewater (sewerage) system. The water quality of urban beaches and bays can therefore be strongly influenced by rainfall (NHMRC, 2008). We also know that our beaches can respond very differently to rainfall depending on the proximity of sampling sites to stormwater outlets, activities in, and topography of, the catchment.

Rainfall varies considerably across the Derwent Estuary, with rainfall data collected and reported by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). Observations of daily rainfall are nominally made at 9 am and record the total rainfall for the previous 24 hours. RWQ Tuesday sampling mostly occur between 9 and 10.30 am, but can be later in the day, especially DEP/EPA boat sampling, which means that at times the rainfall records for the following day are relevant when investigating why particular enterococci results are high.

Five weather stations in the Derwent Estuary catchments, Ellerslie Road (Hobart), Greenhill Drive (Kingston), Mount Rumney, Dennes Point and New Norfolk west, have been selected as relevant when considering rain impact on the RWQ sampling sites. Mount Rumney is only useful post-season, and not daily, as its records are only updated monthly (Bureau of Meteorology, 2026a).

10-year rainfall averages for the program months range between 136.2 mm at New Norfolk and 191.8 mm at Kingston, the latter generally experiencing more rain than the other sites. During the 2025-26 RWQ season, total rainfall was trending downwards suggesting a drier than average summer see Figure 4-5.

The complete 2025-26 summer rainfall data for the five BoM weather stations that cover the Derwent Estuary are listed in Appendix B.

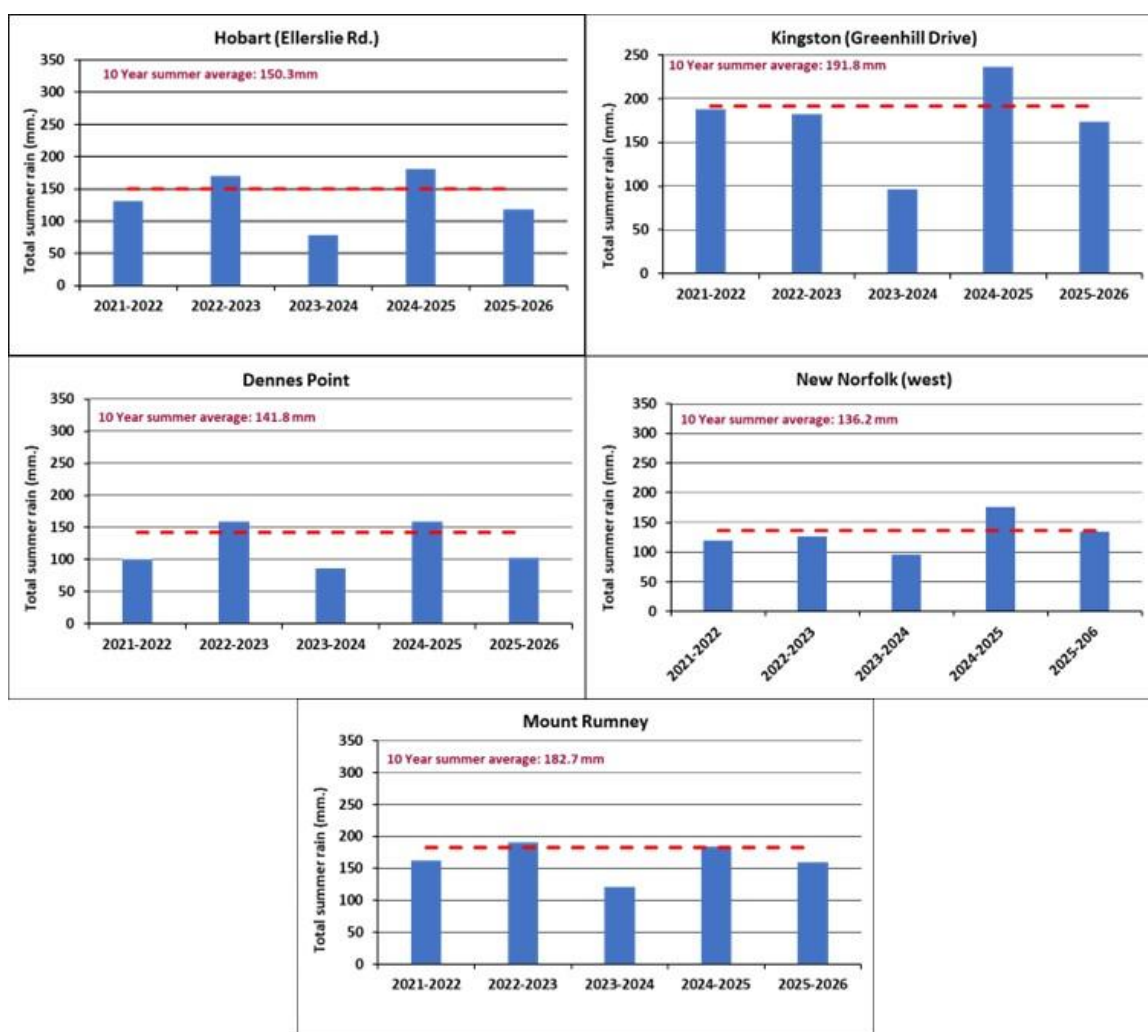


Figure 4-5 Total rainfall (in mm) at five weather stations in the Derwent Estuary catchments during the last five RWQ program seasons (between December and March), as recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology (2026). The 10-year average rainfall is indicated in red text and by a dotted line.

Overall, Tasmania experienced a notably dry summer, with rainfall significantly below average (Bureau of Meteorology, 2026b). At Hobart (Ellerslie Road), rainfall was only 51% of the long-term average, making it the driest summer since 2022–23. The combination of below-average rainfall and warmer temperatures resulted in persistently dry conditions across the greater Hobart region.

4.4.1 Rainfall vs enterococci

A limited assessment of the relationship between enterococci results and recorded rainfall data has been conducted. The assessment includes all enterococci samples collected across the swimming sites this season, a total of 323 samples. Results are separated into two groups:

- **Group 1.** Enterococci results < 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹: 291 samples.
- **Group 2.** Enterococci results > 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹: 32 samples.

These two groups were separately assessed for a possible response to rainfall (Figure 4-6). Rainfall data was used from the two local BoM stations covering the swimming sites, with records for the 24 hours prior to 9 am on the day of sampling. Rainfall after 9 am on the day of sampling was not included in this assessment, and neither was rainfall

from the previous days, which both could potentially have a significant impact on beach water quality.

Group 1 (enterococci < 140 MPN):

- 291 samples.
- 53 % of the enterococci results (< 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹) occurred when no rain fell in the preceding 24 hours.
- 26 % of results occurred on days when the total rainfall in the preceding 24 hours was > 0 and < 5 mm.
- 8 % of results occurred on days when the total rainfall in the preceding 24 hours was between 5.1 and 10 mm.
- 12 % of results occurred on days when the total rainfall in the preceding 24 hours was greater than 10mm.

Group 2 (enterococci > 140 MPN):

- 32 samples.
- 19 % of high enterococci values (> 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹) occurred when no rain fell in the preceding 24 hours.
- 31 % of high enterococci values occurred on days when the total rainfall in the preceding 24 hours was > 0 and < 5 mm.
- 50 % of high enterococci values occurred on days when the total rainfall in the preceding 24 hours was greater than 10 mm.

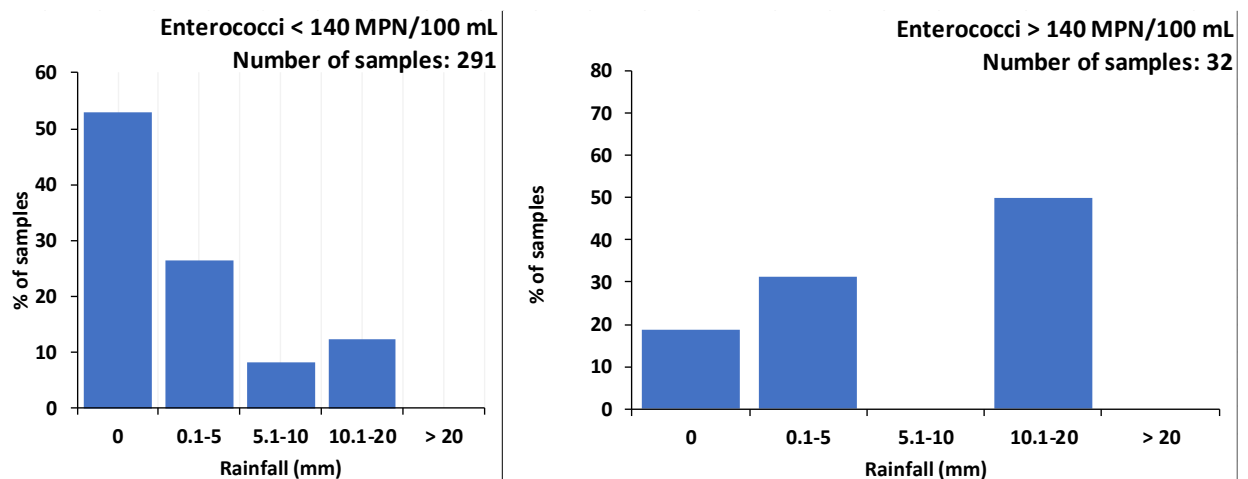


Figure 4-6 Proportion of enterococci sample results < 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹ (a) and > 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹ (b), matched with rainfall data recorded on sampling day, from two BoM stations across the estuary. Graphs include all samples collected at swimming sites during the 2025-26 RWQ season.

As Figure 4-6 shows, of the 323 swimming site samples collected this summer, 90 % of enterococci results were < 140 MPN 100 ml⁻¹ (291 samples). For the 2025-2026 RWQ season there was one significant rain event recorded in the estuary on the sampling Tuesdays (Appendix B). This summer's enterococci results suggests that lower rainfall can lead to better results. Considerations also need to be made regarding the rainfall event that occurred in late March which saw the majority of sites fail following this event. However, it should be noted that the dry weather exceedances are likely to come from another external source. There can be numerous reasons for dry weather fails, including sewage cross-connection, sewage spill, sewer leak, residential or business discharge, as well as swell and high winds resuspending sediments.

5 SPECIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

Water quality investigations are currently underway at several estuary sites, as outlined below. The DEP recommends that councils treat a new “Fair” site classification as an early warning that water quality may be declining and warrants further investigation. The DEP is also continuing its work on catchment investigations by exploring collaborative projects with local councils. These efforts aim to enhance broader catchment understanding while supporting the documentation of local infrastructure.

Link to the DEP 2020 Source Tracking Framework and Toolkit, which outlines a standard process for identifying sources of faecal pollution in the Derwent Estuary:

https://www.derwentestuary.org.au/assets/Source_Tracking_Framework_and_Toolkit_Mar2020.pdf

The following site-specific information has been provided by individual councils.

5.1 Kingborough Council

Blackmans Bay Beach

Water quality at the Blackmans Bay Beach South site remains a key priority for Kingborough Council. The importance of our recreational sites is well recognised, as they provide valuable spaces for community connection, relaxation, and enjoyment of the natural marine environment.

Council continues to monitor water quality at Blackmans Bay Beach. Extensive sampling and assessments have been carried out within the Blackmans Bay catchment to identify potential sources of pollution.

Kingborough Council has engaged a consultant to undertake a more detailed and robust investigation into the causes of poor recreational water quality at the southern end of Blackmans Bay Beach. With a particular focus on how the three stormwater outlets and their respective catchments impact water quality issues and explore how water movement and dispersion occurs in the southern end of the bay. This investigation report will be made available to the community.

Council is working collaboratively with key stakeholders, including TasWater, to address any pollution sources as they are identified. Ongoing visual inspections and targeted sampling and testing of the stormwater network are regularly conducted to help identify potential contamination pathways that may impact the marine environment and contribute to water quality variability.

5.2 Clarence beaches

Protecting and improving water quality across Clarence was a key focus throughout the 2025–26 season, with City of Clarence continuing an extensive monitoring, investigation and infrastructure improvement program across local waterways and beaches.

Routine weekly water quality monitoring was carried out across all Recreational Water Quality (RWQ) sites, alongside inspections of nearby stormwater outfalls. Where higher stormwater flows were observed, additional testing for faecal indicator bacteria (*Enterococci* and *Bacteroides*) was undertaken to help identify potential sources of contamination and better understand impacts on surrounding waterways.

During the season, we were also notified by TasWater of process upsets at the Rosny Sewage Treatment Plant. In response, precautionary sampling was undertaken by

TasWater and council at nearby recreational sites and throughout the Bellerive catchment. Pleasingly, all results remained well within recreational water quality guidelines, demonstrating the effectiveness of both TasWater's response measures and our proactive monitoring program protecting public waterways.

Monitoring also extended beyond recreational beaches, with monthly water quality testing at several popular coastal locations including Opossum Bay, Seven Mile Beach and South Lauderdale. Results across these sites remained consistently strong throughout the season, with no exceedances recorded.

City of Clarence's broader stormwater and catchment monitoring programs also continued to build a clearer picture of water quality pressures across the region. Monthly rivulet sampling from 2024-25 identified several areas with elevated pollutant levels, prompting further investigation this year to better understand contributing sources. This includes a joint investigation with the Derwent Estuary Program within the Faggs Creek catchment, focusing on sediment and nutrient levels identified from the sampling results.

A major milestone for the year was the completion of our largest stormwater infrastructure project to date at Bellerive Beach. The project included a new offshore stormwater pipe extending approximately 50 metres from Beach Street, together with upgrades to surrounding drainage infrastructure. The works are expected to significantly improve stormwater management in the area, helping reduce runoff impacts and support long-term water quality outcomes at Bellerive Beach.

Community education and engagement also remained an important part of our long-term water quality strategy. Throughout summer, Environmental Health Officers (EHO's) worked with Marine Biology and Environmental Science students at Rosny College to explore the history of water quality in the River Derwent, our recreational water monitoring program, and the important role stormwater management plays in protecting local waterways.

6 SPECIAL STUDIES

As part of each RWQ season, the DEP, usually conducts an additional special-interest project that supplements a particular current focus.

6.1 Cornelian Bay Sampling

During the 2025–2026 recreational water quality season, an extensive water and sediment sampling program was undertaken in Cornelian Bay in response to a request from elected members. Samples were collected weekly from three sites across the bay, testing for enterococci using the same methods applied at other recreational water monitoring locations. Sampling was conducted both by wading and from a boat (see Figure 6-1).



White text – site samples by City of Hobart

Yellow text – site samples by Derwent Estuary Program

Figure 6-1 Site map provided by the City of Hobart detailing the water quality sites sampled within Cornelian Bay. White text items were sampled by council using traditional wader methods. Yellow text items were sampled by the DEP using boat-based techniques.

Results indicate that water quality within the deeper areas of the bay is generally good. However, sites closer to the shoreline show poorer water quality, with levels that may not be suitable for primary contact recreation. Sediment testing supports these findings, showing a persistent presence of bacteria in bay sediments and near adjacent stormwater outfalls.

Overall, the survey highlights ongoing water quality challenges in Cornelian Bay. Continued monitoring and targeted management actions are recommended as next steps.

6.2 Field testing Rapid Enterococci Test (ZiP Diagnostics)

This summer, we partnered again with ZiP Diagnostics to conduct a field validation of the Enterococci field test. This test provides a semi-quantitative indication of whether a sample contains elevated bacterial levels.

Enterococci is the primary indicator used to assess recreational water quality in Tasmania and supports decision-makers in providing appropriate public health advice to the community. Samples from selected Beach Watch sites, collected by the Derwent Estuary Program, were used in the validation exercise and compared with laboratory-based enterococci results.

Preliminary findings showed good correlation with samples that failed laboratory enterococci standards. However, the sensitivity of the device may require further

refinement to consistently detect Tasmanian samples exceeding the retest threshold of 140 MPN/100 mL.

This technology has the potential to help decision-makers more rapidly identify sites affected by increased bacterial contamination, enabling quicker updates to public health advisories.

7 COMMUNICATIONS

There was occasional TV, radio, and newspaper media about the RWQ program throughout the summer. But more and more people obtain general information and news via social media rather than traditional sources, including websites, which is also apparent for the RWQ program. As can be seen below, the DEP Facebook posts have significantly more reach than the Beach Watch website. Both website and Facebook reach is possibly higher than reported, as some people hide or clear their browsing history. Both outreach methods have increased compared with last year.

7.1 Website

Weekly RWQ results and Daily forecasts were reported via the DEP website on the *Beach Watch* page (for swimming sites) <https://www.derwentestuary.org.au/beach-watch/> and the associated *Bay Watch* page (for environmental sites). These pages allow the public to locate a weekly sampling result and long-term rating for a particular beach or bay by clicking on an interactive map or looking at a table. For this season the decision was made to elevate the Beach Watch page to the top level on the website, making it easier for the public to find it.

The Beach Watch page continues to have significant page views over the course of the 2025–26 RWQ season to around 10,000 remaining the most visited page on the DEP website during this period. Public holidays and period of warm weather coincided with the largest days for website traffic during this season.

Changes to the wording around certain forecasts will be addressed prior to next season as per feedback from the stakeholder group.

7.2 Signage

The signs installed at Derwent Estuary swimming sites are a useful source of information for beach users. The DEP recommends that local councils conduct an annual review of signage in their municipality to ensure that all signs are located in the most appropriate locations (i.e. visible to most visitors), are in good condition (e.g. free of graffiti and not obstructed by vegetation), and that they are replaced with new signs as required (i.e. when the water quality category changes).

After updating the long-term ratings following the 2025-26 season, the following beach sign changes are recommended:

- Blackmans Bay North – from Fair to Good
- Blackmans Bay Middle – from Fair to Poor
- Bellerive Beach West – from Good to Fair
- Little Howrah Beach – from Good to Fair
- Windermere Beach – from Good to Fair

Councils are not required to put up signs to indicate the water quality for environmental sites but may choose to do so in well-visited locations.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As always, the DEP would like to sincerely thank all council environmental health officers and other council staff and management who have supported the annual RWQ season, as well as EPA staff who have assisted with boating requirements. Many thanks also to the staff at the Public Health Laboratory and the Department of Health for their ongoing participation and support, and our industry partners, including TasWater staff, who were invaluable in their support of the daily forecasting program.

9 REFERENCES

- Bureau of Meteorology. (2026a). *Climate Data Online*.
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/index.shtml>
- Bureau of Meteorology. (2026b, March). *Tasmania in summer 2026*.
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/season/tas/archive/202602.summary.shtml>
- DEP. (2015). *The State of the Derwent estuary 2015. A review of environmental data from 2009 to 2014*. Coughanowr, C.A. Whitehead, J Whitehead, S. Einoder, Luke E. Taylor, U. Weeding, B. Derwent Estuary Program.
- DoH. (2007). *Recreational Water Quality Guidelines (Public Health Act 1997)*. Department of Health, State Government of Tasmania.
- NHMRC. (2008). *Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water*. National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Government.
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/eh38>
- N.Z. Ministry for the Environment. (2002). *Microbiological Water Quality Guidelines for Marine and Freshwater Recreational Areas*. Ministry for the Environment.
- WillyWeather. (2026). *Kingston Beach Tide Times and Heights*.
<https://tides.willyweather.com.au/tas/hobart/kingston-beach.html>

APPENDIX A - Intercalibration report, RWQ season 2025-26

Summary and conclusions

Recreational Water Quality (RWQ) monitoring in the Derwent Estuary is conducted and reported on in accordance with the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 (DoH, 2007). The latest annual program report (from season 2024-25) can be viewed [here](#). To guarantee correct and consistent water sampling technique, to assess the degree of variability between samples, samplers and various nearby locations, and importantly, to ensure trust in the data gathered, the Derwent Estuary Program (DEP) coordinates an annual inter-calibration exercise with local councils prior to the start of each RWQ season.

On a mild and clear morning on 25 November 2025, environmental health officers from four estuary councils collected water samples at two sites at Bellerive Beach, the first being taken adjacent to Bellerive Beach Park with Sample 2 being obtained at the existing Bellerive Beach West site. Results were consistent across all samplers, with all samples passing, as per the Tasmanian RWQ guidelines (enterococci <140).

The good results observed at both sampling sites were expected, as historically Bellerive Beach has Good Water Quality. Water off the beach was clear and samplers were easily able to wade out to the desired sampling height (Figure 1). Swell and wind were also minimal during sampling. The results demonstrated homogeneous water quality conditions, with consistency between samplers.

All samplers adopted good aseptic grab sampling technique, removing bottle lids at the last moment before collecting a sample, protecting the bottle and lid from contamination, labelling bottles correctly and storing samples in a chilled esky for subsequent transport to the laboratory.



Figure 7. Council Staff sampling at Bellerive Beach.

Introduction

The RWQ monitoring is conducted and reported in accordance with the Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007 (*Public Health Act 1997*). The guidelines recommend classifying primary contact recreation beaches using 5-year 95th Hazen percentile values for the faecal indicator bacteria enterococci:

- Good (surveillance mode) = < 200 MPN/100 mL.
- Fair (alert mode) = 200 - 500 MPN/100 mL.
- Poor (action mode) = > 500 MPN/100 mL.

The long-term beach classification guidelines do not take into account the possible influence of variability in the data due to differences in sampling techniques between samplers, or possible heterogeneity of the sampled water body. The RWQ program uses data provided by a number of different council environmental health officers, which increases the risk of variability due to sampling technique. Thus, the primary objective of the annual inter-calibration exercise is to review and practice sampling methods at the start of each season, in order to improve consistency of results. A secondary objective is to gain a better understanding of water quality at a particular site.

Methodology

Participants

The DEP (Phillip Pennisi) coordinated the participation of the following:

- Kingborough Council (Michael)
- Clarence City Council (Jock & Andrew)
- Glenorchy City Council (James & Simmone)
- Sorell Council (Mark & Jason)
- City of Hobart (Sarah)
- Department of Health (Kelly)

Location

Sample 1 was taken adjacent to the Bellerive Beach Park. Sample 2 was obtained from CCC's existing Bellerive West site (Figure 2).

Bellerive Beach is one of the RWQ program's swimming sites, with a history of good water quality across the seasons.

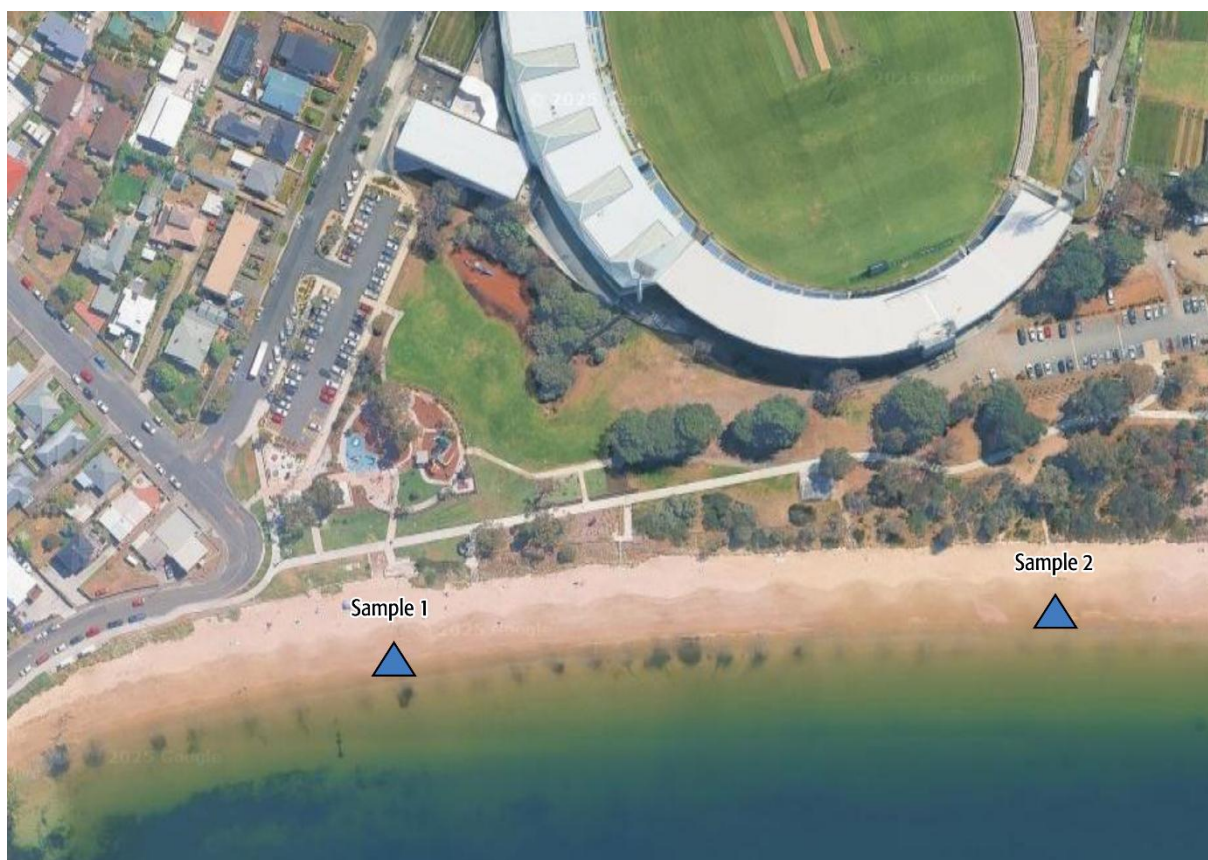


Figure 2. Location of the two sites sampled for the RWQ inter-calibration exercise on 25 November 2025 at Bellerive Beach.

Safety

Wader safety was discussed, including how valuable wader safety courses are. Wearing waders can be highly hazardous if water gets inside them, e.g., from boat wake or when bending to take a water sample. The DEP recommends that everybody complete a Wader Safety course. In the meantime, watch this very useful short video on wader safety <https://www.mast.tas.gov.au/guides/wader-safety/>. Furthermore, as part of wader safety, it is important to wear a tight belt, and ideally also wear a personal flotation device (PFD) (Figure 3).

For added security, it is also recommended that no one samples on beaches on their own. Always be aware of the surroundings and only conduct sampling if it is safe to do so. Always use common sense and don't take risks - personal safety is more important than sampling.

DEP also recommends consulting the **Water Sampling Guide** produced by Surf Life Saving Tasmania, which goes into detail explaining rips, waves, sun safety, life jackets, cold water emersion and marine creatures we might come across.



Figure 3. Simmone, Micael and Jock collecting water samples.

Method

Filling in the laboratory submission form was discussed, including entering wind speed, rain, wind direction, date and time of sampling. It can be useful to look up climate data just prior to sampling. This becomes important if results are high and we need to look back at conditions at sampling time. Participants were also encouraged to note other observations, such as discolouration, odour, construction activity, boat presence, density of wildlife, evidence of faeces, proximity to stormwater outfalls, or any other matters which might influence results. Participants can take a photo or make a copy of the lab submission form to file for their own records.

All bottles should be pre-sterilised and provided by PHL. They are dated by the lab, so ensure that you are not using old bottles. Just before sampling, bottles were labelled with the site, time, and the samplers' names. Always worth having a spare bottle, should one become compromised (e.g., by touching the inside of the lid by mistake when sampling).

Samplers waded out to about 1 m depth and concurrently collected a single sample at each site from an approximate water depth of 0.3 m. Bottles were only opened immediately prior to collecting the sample. Once the bottle cap had been removed, care was taken to ensure that this was not contaminated by fingers or by contact with surfaces. The bottle was quickly plunged to the required sampling depth, then it was tilted upward with the mouth pointed upward. The sample was brought to the surface and a portion of the sample tipped out so that the level in the sample container was at the bottle collar. The sample lid was screwed tightly shut before removing it from the sample pole, and the sample was placed upright in a chilled esky ready for transport to the laboratory. Samples should be delivered to the laboratory ASAP after sampling (24 hr max.), and on this day they were delivered approx. 1 hour after sampling.

Results

The enterococci result from Site 1 and 2 all passed (as per Tasmanian RWQ guidelines), varying between <10 and 10 MPN/100mL.

Table 5. Summary of enterococci concentration results (MPN/100 mL) sampled on 25 November 2025.

Sampler	Sample 1 Bellerive Beach – adjacent to park	Sample 2 – 100m north of Sample 1
James (GCC)	<10	<10
Simmons (GCC)	<10	<10
Mark (Sorell)	10	<10
Jock (CCC)	<10	<10
Michael (KCC)	<10	<10
Kelly (PHS)	<10	<10
Sarah (CoH)	<10	<10

Rain, wind, tide conditions

According to the Hobart Ellerslie Road gauge, there was 0 mm of rain in the 24 hours prior to 9am on sampling day, and 0.2 mm of rain the previous day (BoM, 2025). At Hobart Ellerslie Road, at 2pm on the day of sampling, it was 16 degrees and cloudy (BoM, 2024) and the tide incoming around 1.1 m (WillyWeather, 2025).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all those attending council and DoH representatives who participated in this session with great enthusiasm and willingness to learn, share and contribute to group discussion.

References

BoM (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Climate Data Online. Accessed 27 November 2025, from <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/index.shtml>.

DoH (2007) Recreational Water Quality Guidelines (Public Health Act 1997). Department of Health, State Government of Tasmania, (Hobart, Australia).

WillyWeather (2025) Hobart Tide Times and Heights. Accessed 27 November 2025, from <https://tides.willyweather.com.au/tas/hobart/hobart.html>.

APPENDIX B – Rainfall data across the Derwent Estuary

Table 6. Daily Rainfall (up to 9am on sample dates) between December and March at five BOM weather stations across the Derwent Estuary: Hobart's Ellerslie Rd (HE); Mount Rumney (MR); Kingston's Greenhill Drive (KG); New Norfolk West (NN); Dennes Point (DP). RWQ sampling days are highlighted in yellow.

December 2025						January 2026						February 2026						March 2026					
Date	HE	MR	KG	NN	DP	Date	HE	MR	KG	NN	DP	Date	HE	MR	KG	NN	DP	Date	HE	MR	KG	NN	DP
1st	6.4	4.4	5.8	0	4.8	1st	0	0	0	0	0	1st	0	0	0	0	0	1st	0	0	0	0	0
2nd	3.8	2.2	5.8	11.2	1.8	2nd	0	0	1	0	0	2nd	1.4	0	2.6	2	0.4	2nd	9.8	8	8.6	9.6	10.6
3rd	0	0	0	0	0	3rd	0	0	0	0	0	3rd	0	0	0	0	0	3rd	2.2	2.6	1	0.2	0.2
4th	0	0	0	0	0	4th	0.2	0	0.8	1.4	0	4th	0	0	0	0	0	4th	0	0	0	0	0
5th	0	0	0	0	0	5th	0	0	0	0	0	5th	0	0	0	0.2	0	5th	0	0	0	0	0
6th	0	0	0	0	0	6th	0	0	0	0	0	6th	0	0	0	0	0	6th	0	0	0	0.2	0
7th	0.4	3.4	2.9	0.6	1.6	7th	0	0	0	0	0	7th	0	0	0	0	0	7th	0	0	0	0	0
8th	0	0	1	0.2	0	8th	0.4	0.6	0.4	0	0.4	8th	0	0	0	0	0	8th	0	0	1.2	0	0
9th	0	0	0.4	0	0.6	9th	0.4	1	0.4	0.4	0	9th	3	4.2	2.6	2.8	2.2	9th	0	0	0	0	0
10th	0	0	0	0	0	10th	3.4	0	2.4	2.8	2	10th	1	0.2	1.4	0	0.2	10th	0	0	0	0	0
11th	0	0	0	0	0	11th	1	0.2	2.8	0.4	2.2	11th	0	0	0	0	0	11th	4.2	5.6	1.4	7.2	0.2
12th	0	0	0	0	0	12th	0	0	0	0	0	12th	0.8	2.2	2.1	4.6	1.4	12th	10	14	11	9.6	7
13th	0	0	0	0	0	13th	0	0	0	0	0	13th	0	0	0	1	0.4	13th	0.2	0.2	0.1	0	0
14th	0	0.2	0.4	0.6	0	14th	2.4	5.8	1.4	2	0	14th	0	0	0	0	0	14th	0	0	0	0	0
15th	1.4	1	6.4	12.4	1.8	15th	0	0	0.5	0	0	15th	0	0	0	0	0	15th	0	0	0	0	0
16th	0	0	0	0.2	0	16th	0.2	3.4	6	0	0	16th	0	0	0	0	0	16th	0	0.6	0.4	0	0.4
17th	0	0	0	0	0	17th	0.2	0	0.1	0	0	17th	0	0	0	0	0	17th	0	0	0	0	0.2
18th	0	0	0	0	0	18th	0	0	0.0	0	0	18th	4.8	8	7.6	6.6	3.4	18th	0	0	0	0	0
19th	8	0	13	0	6.2	19th	0	0	0	0	0	19th	0	0	0	0	0	19th	0	0	0	0	0
20th	0	3.4	0.8	0	0	20th	0	0	0	0	0	20th	0	0	0	0	0	20th	0	0	0	0	0
21st	0.2	0	0	0	0	21st	0	0	0	0	0	21st	0	0	0	0	0	21st	0	0	0	0	0
22nd	12	24.2	12	8.6	7.6	22nd	9	18	15.8	7.4	10.2	22nd	0	0	0	0	0	22nd	0	0	0	0	0
23rd	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.8	23rd	0.8	0	1	0.2	0.4	23rd	2.4	4.6	3.1	6.8	2.2	23rd	0	0	0	0	0
24th	0.8	0	3.6	3	1.2	24th	0	0	0	0	0	24th	0	0	0	0	0	24th	9	11.4	19	8	14.6
25th	3.4	1.2	5.4	9	4.2	25th	0	0	0	0	0	25th	0	0	0	0	0	25th	8.4	14	11	11.4	6
26th	2	1.4	3.2	2.8	5.2	26th	0	0	0	0	0	26th	0	0	0	0	0	26th	0	1	1.8	0.2	0
27th	0	4.2	0	0	1.8	27th	0	0	0	0	0	27th	0	0	0	0	0	27th	1.8	2	3.8	0.2	0.8
28th	0	0.2	0.3	0	0	28th	0	0	0	0	0	28th	0	0	0	0	0	28th	0	0	0	0	0
29th	0	0	0	0	0	29th	0	0	0	0	0							29th	0	0	0	0	0
30th	0	0	0	0	0	30th	0	0	0	0	0							30th	0	0	0	0	0
31st	2	5.2	0.8	0	0	31st	0	0	0	0	0							31st	0	0	0	0	0

RWQ sampling days	
Rainfall (mm)	
1 - 5	
>5 - 10	
> 10	

APPENDIX C – 2025-26 enterococci results

Swimming sites

Date	CoH						CCC				KC						GCC			
	Little Sandy Bay Beach (south)	Little Sandy Bay Beach (north)	Nutgrove Beach (east)	Nutgrove Beach (west)	Bellerive Beach (east)	Bellerive Beach (west)	Howrah Beach (east)	Howrah Beach (mid)	Howrah Beach (west)	Little Howrah Beach	Blackmans Bay Beach (north)	Blackmans Bay Beach (mid)	Blackmans Bay Beach (south)	Hinsby Beach	Taroona Beach	Kingston Beach (north)	Kingston Beach (mid)	Kingston Beach (south)	Windermere Bay Beach	No.exceedences over 140 MPN
02-Dec-25	10	10	10	10	10	52	10	10	NA	20	10	20	30	10	10	85	20	31	10	0
09-Dec-25	171	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	175	10	10	10	10	10	31	2
16-Dec-25	20	41	10	120	10	10	10	10	10	422	10	10	388	10	10	10	20	10	10	2
23-Dec-25	20	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	NA	0
30-Dec-25	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
06-Jan-26	10	20	10	10	10	10	52	10	20	63	10	10	86	63	31	10	10	10	20	0
13-Jan-26	10	10	10	10	10	10	97	10	10	10	10	41	41	10	10	41	30	10	10	0
20-Jan-26	10	10	10	75	10	10	31	10	10	10	10	41	20	10	1211	10	10	20	10	1
27-Jan-26	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	52	10	63	10	10	20	10	52	10	0
03-Feb-26	10	10	10	10	10	63	10	10	10	120	10	52	31	10	86	10	10	10	52	0
10-Feb-26	63	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	41	98	175	10	10	134	41	20	85	1
17-Feb-26	10	10	10	75	75	10	10	10	10	10	85	1014	4371	10	109	135	31	317	10	3
24-Feb-26	41	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	441	504	10	10	650	109	86	10	3
03-Mar-26	10	10	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	146	160	148	10	52	31	336	10	275	5
10-Mar-26	10	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	96	20	10	10	10	10	10	10	0
17-Mar-26	10	10	10	31	909	480	20	31	10	10	10	932	52	10	41	10	10	10	10	3
24-Mar-26	20	20	10	10	10	31	1904	3076	1067	20	187	1664	933	934	605	63	847	223	488	11
31-Mar-26	10	10	10	10	31	10	10	10	10	10	10	75	605	10	10	10	10	20	98	1
																				32

Figure 9-8 2025-26 RWQ season swimming site results listed under each local council. Results are enterococci MPN per 100 mL. The last column lists the number of enterococci result exceedances above 140 MPN per 100 mL., which are also highlighted in red.

Environmental sites

Date	CoH								GCC			KC	CCC				BC	DVC			
	Brooke St Pier	Hobart Rivulet	Marieville Esplanade	Regatta Pavilion	Sullivans Cove	Victoria Dock	Watermans Dock	*Cornelian Bay	New Town Bay	Elwick Bay	Prince of Wales Bay Marina	Browns River	Geilston Bay	Kangaroo Bay	Lindisfarne Bay	Montagu Bay	Old Beach, Jetty Road	New Norfolk (Esplanade)	New Norfolk (Millbrook Rise Jetty)	Mid-river Derwent Swim	No. exceedances over 140 MPN
02-Dec-25	10	657	10	10	10	20	10	41	31	10	30	1723	52	84	931	10	30	20	20	10	3
09-Dec-25	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	1354	10	10	52	10	10	63	10	10	1
16-Dec-25	10	10	10	10	10	10	31	10	31	10	10	52	10	10	10	10	10	NA	NA	10	0
23-Dec-25	NA	NA	63	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	576	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	NA	NA	NA	1
30-Dec-25	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
06-Jan-26	10	52	10	10	10	10	10	30	20	20	135	98	10	10	20	10	10	110	98	10	0
13-Jan-26	41	134	10	10	10	10	146	41	52	10	31	41	31	41	52	10	NA	195	31	10	2
20-Jan-26	862	368	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	345	10	10	3
27-Jan-26	259	262	20	10	52	10	10	10	41	10	10	30	10	10	20	10	10	NA	NA	10	2
03-Feb-26	10	31	10	10	31	10	10	10	10	10	41	4360	10	10	135	10	10	318	98	10	2
10-Feb-26	20	2489	10	148	10	10	213	10	20	10	63	1421	211	41	331	384	10	NA	NA	10	7
17-Feb-26	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	41	10	10	63	554	10	10	10	10	173	10	10	2
24-Feb-26	464	98	10	NA	10	10	63	10	20	10	10	146	52	10	10	10	10	10	NA	10	2
03-Mar-26	NA	NA	41	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	62	NA	1317	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	63	97	NA	1
10-Mar-26	10	231	10	20	10	10	10	10	110	10	10	185	10	10	10	10	63	NA	NA	10	2
17-Mar-26	10	402	10	41	10	10	10	10	10	63	10	132	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	1
24-Mar-26	488	9804	31	15531	369	624	959	10	1850	2723	613	7701	10112	1211	9208	86	908	74	41	20	14
31-Mar-26	10	395	10	31	52	683	10	10	31	10	10	31	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	2
																					45

Figure 9-9 2025-26 RWQ season environmental site results listed under each relevant local council. Results are enterococci MPN per 100 mL. The last column lists the number of enterococci result exceedances above 140 MPN per 100 mL, which are also highlighted in red.

* Cornelian Bay Site is included referencing the bay site collected by the DEP on the vessel. The additional sites sampled are discussed in section 6.1.