

In South Australia we are lucky to have great beaches and recreational lakes in which to swim and participate in water sports. Along the metropolitan coastline, our beautiful, long, white beaches are generally clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.



Tips for safe and healthy fun in the water



Avoid swimming in discoloured water after rain



Issued as a joint initiative of SA Health, Environment Protection Authority SA, Adelaide Shores, the Cities of Charles Sturt, Holdfast Bay, Onkaparinga, Port Adelaide Enfield and West Torrens, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board and Surf Life Saving SA.

For further information on recreational water guidelines, water testing and water quality information, contact:

EPA SA (08) 8204 2004
www.epa.sa.gov.au
or **SA Health** (08) 8226 6000
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

This brochure contains information on how to identify and avoid areas with polluted water after rain and so enhance your enjoyment of our wonderful beaches and lakes.

To help you to identify areas where there may be polluted water after rain, simple signs have been erected.

Stormwater

Across the metropolitan area we have a network of stormwater drains that collect run-off from our streets and gutters when it rains. Nearly all of metropolitan stormwater flows to the sea through the stormwater system, as well as river and drainage channels. These include the River Torrens and the Barcoo Outlet, as well as several large storm pipes discharging on to the beach.

Although the Catchment Water Management Boards, together with local councils, have taken action to greatly reduce the amount of material being washed into stormwater drains, it is impossible to keep it all out.

The water flowing out of these stormwater systems after rain can be discoloured and has contaminants associated with the pollution washed off our streets. Summer storm events that occur after long dry periods have the largest impact because material accumulated over several weeks is washed into the sea.

The stormwater is unpleasant to look at, reduces visibility and can smell. It makes sense to avoid swimming in this water when only short sections of beach are affected. There is also a risk that ingestion of the stormwater could cause mild illness such as a stomach upset.



This sign appears at the entry to a section of beach that has a significant stormwater outlet nearby. It lets you know that, after rain, polluted stormwater could flow out of the pipes or waterway, across the beach and into the sea. It reminds you to check the colour of the seawater where you plan to swim. If it is discoloured after rain, simply move 300-400 metres down the beach to where the water is clearer and you should be able to swim safely in cleaner water.

This 'polluted stormwater' sign will be found on stormwater outlets and structures such as major pipes or culverts and at the Torrens outlet. It lets you know that any water coming from these outlets is likely to be polluted and is best avoided. Don't swim or paddle in any water that flows from these outlets or accumulates in ponds at the base of the outlets on the beach.

West Lakes and the Patawalonga Lake also are great places to enjoy water activities and most of the time the water is clean and safe for recreational purposes. However, for two to three days after rain, the lakes can be affected by polluted stormwater so activities such as swimming, windsurfing and canoeing should be avoided.

