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## MEDIA RELEASE

1 October 2024

# Excellent water quality confirmed at local swimming spots

Huon Valley Council is pleased to announce that recent water quality testing has revealed excellent results at popular swimming locations throughout the valley. 65 samples were taken between December 2023 to March 2024.

“The exceptional water quality in our rivers and beaches is a source of immense pride for the Huon Valley. These results are a testament to our pristine environment and the collective efforts of our community in preserving it,” said Huon Valley Mayor Sally Doyle.

Out of the 65 samples taken, one sample at the Ranelagh kayak platform did not meet the standards initially, but passed on a re-test 24 hours later. The full report can be found on Council’s website, under Reports and Publications, Other Reports.

This year's program expanded to include new locations based on a community survey conducted last year. Newly sampled sites included Surveyors Bay, Huon River at Ranelagh kayak platform, Seven Inch Beach, and Robley's Point. Previously monitored locations such as Randalls Bay Beach, Drip Beach, Verona Sands, and Dover Beach continued to be part of the program.

The sampling process involves assessing each location for potential pollution sources and recording weather conditions. Tests focus on Enterococci bacteria levels, an indicator of potential pathogens that could cause gastro-intestinal illnesses.

While the results are overwhelmingly positive, Council reminds residents to follow public health advice regarding swimming in natural waters. It's recommended to avoid swimming for up to two days after significant rainfall due to potential contamination from organic matter washed into waterways.

Council will continue its recreational water sampling program in the upcoming summer season to monitor water quality and contribute to long-term data collection.

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