



Somers School Camp – Risk Assessment

Activity	SURFING
School	Somers School Camp
Supervising Staff	All qualified teaching staff
Program	9 Day Network Program
Year Level	Year 5 & 6
Dates	February 2026 to February 2027
Location(s)	Somers School Camp – Somers Campus – Somers Beach

• **Duty of care - Duty of care obligations require that school personnel take all reasonable steps to protect students from risks likely to cause personal injury that could reasonably have been for-seen.**

Risk Description	Existing Controls	Risk Assessment – with existing controls			
		Effectiveness of existing controls	Risk Consequences	Risk Likelihood	Risk Rating
Describe the risk event, cause/s and consequence/s. For example, <i>Something occurs ... caused by ... leading to ...</i>	Describe any existing policy, procedure, practice or device that acts to minimise the risk				
A drowning occurs caused by un- safe water conditions, in adequate supervision, participants non- poor swimmers or medical emergency/ Injury leading to death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSC Staff have current Community Surf Lifesaving Certificate and Current Level 2 First Aid Certificate. At least 1 SSC staff member to hold current Level Surf Instructors Certificate. SSC staff to carry mobile phone and first aid kits. Established safe surfing venue (creek mouth). SSC Staff to assess water conditions ie: rip identification, swell size, wind intensity etc. before children enter water and constantly while children are in the water. SSC Staff to assess conditions at the time of the activity. If lightening or severe wind imminent, children will leave the water immediately Assessment of weather conditions will be considered following protocols including - DEECD weather warning, SES warning, School Principal instruction, SSC staff weather assessment. Staff to continually monitor weather throughout activity. Boundaries are established for students either through flags on the beach or/and by the demonstration of the BOX drill prior to students entering the water. Instruction in evacuation procedures and techniques for acquiring assistance with help signals. Visiting teacher and SSC staff stand on water's edge or in waist deep water to keep children in designated areas. A rescue board or surfboard in the water during lesson in case of rescue required. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
A student is dumped by a wave caused by large seas leading to serious injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditions assessed by SSC. Staff. Unsafe conditions will result in lesson venue up the beach closer to Somers Camp Entrance. 	Satisfactory	Moderate	Rare	Low
A student is hit by a surfboard caused by lack of board control leading to injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G Boards are used in surfing lesson (condensed rubber, plastic fins, soft rails, rounded nose) Safety instructions and avoidance tactics given to prevent collision. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Unlikely	Low
A student is bitten or stung caused by a marine creature leading to injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conditions assessed by SSC Staff prior to students entering the water. Students reminded not to pick up marine creatures. Staff trained and aware of Emergency Response Plan in the event of a bite/sting from crustacean or reptile. 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium
A student becomes hypothermic caused extreme cold leading to injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students wear a wetsuit in cold conditions to protect themselves from loss of body heat. Teaching staff monitor students for onset of such a condition. SSC staff have access to mobile phones to 	Satisfactory	Major	Rare	Medium



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A student becomes sunburnt caused by prolonged exposure to the sun leading to dehydration or illness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children encouraged to drink plenty of liquids Sunscreen to be worn by all children. All students wear a wetsuit or rash top that protects children from the sun. 	Satisfactory	Minor	Unlikely	Low												
<p><u>Supervision-</u> The following table shows the minimum staff-to-student ratios that must be met based on the Adventure Activity Safety Guidelines</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #00728f; color: white;"> <th colspan="4">Surfing – Inland and Enclosed Water Way</th> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #add8e6;"> <th>Staff numbers</th> <th>Total students</th> <th>Student Ratio</th> <th>Staffing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>20</td> <td>1 : 7</td> <td>2 x SSC Staff (Current Surf Coaching Qualification & Surf Rescue Certificate) 1 x Visiting Teacher</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our surfing venue is - Western Port Bay which is classified as an Inland & Enclosed Waterway At least 1 SSC staff member to hold current Level 1 Surf Instructors Certificate. SSC Staff have current certificates for Community Surf Lifesaving and Level 2 First Aid. 					Surfing – Inland and Enclosed Water Way				Staff numbers	Total students	Student Ratio	Staffing	3	20	1 : 7	2 x SSC Staff (Current Surf Coaching Qualification & Surf Rescue Certificate) 1 x Visiting Teacher
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