

# Know Your Beach

## 5. KING TIDES

King tides can create dangerous and unstable conditions, so it is important that beach goers consider their safety when these occur.



### WHAT ARE KING TIDES?

- King tides cause large movements of water and generally add to the unstable conditions. There is also large surf and dangerous rips present on all open stretches of beach.
- Beaches also remain unstable when the large swell pushes through, causing large flash rips to appear.
- Rips are intensified in the outgoing tide and, with the influence of the king tides, rips are more severe.

### SAFETY WARNING

- It is vital that people do not become complacent in the surf during king tide conditions.
- During king tides it is so important for people to swim only in patrolled area and not be tempted to go for a swim at an unpatrolled beach.
- With the king tides present, it is also important to show extreme caution near the creek mouth. It only takes a few seconds for a current to sweep a swimmer into deeper water and into trouble.
- If swimmers do get into trouble in a current, they should remain calm, float out with the current and then swim across the current parallel to the shore, before swimming back to the beach. They should also raise one arm to signal for help from a lifesaver or lifeguard on patrol.