



MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW shark inquiry report released

The report of the inquiry into the management of sharks in NSW waters has been tabled in State Parliament, Chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development, Melinda Pavey MP, Member for Oxley, announced today.

“The Committee heard that there is no scientific evidence to suggest that shark populations are increasing,” Mrs Pavey said.

Mrs Pavey acknowledged that while serious injury or death as a result of shark encounters are rare, they remain an event that can cause anxiety in the general community and have a devastating impact on affected local communities.

“The 13 recommendations in this report encourage further scientific research into shark behaviour and population size. They also seek to inform the community about beach safety, including awareness of sharks, and how beachgoers can make informed decisions when undertaking water based activities.

The Department of Primary Industries has taken an important lead in monitoring shark populations, and introducing new monitoring technology,” Mrs Pavey said.

“The trialling of a range of shark detection and deterrent technologies as part of the Government’s Shark Management Strategy provides the opportunity to offer increased water safety.

In addition, the Government’s Observation Tower Grant program has been well received by surf lifesaving clubs and local councils. The Committee’s recommendation for the expansion of the program will provide surf lifesavers with additional resources to protect beachgoers.”

Mrs Pavey said the Committee heard from a range of individuals and organisations, including individuals and business owners from the North Coast who described the impact the recent spate of shark encounters have had on their community.

“It is clear that we need further information about the economic impact of shark incidents on local economies. This will allow us to look at strategies to support affected communities,” she said.

The NSW Government has six months to consider and respond to the report.

The full report, including recommendations, can be found on the Committee’s website at: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/investmentindustryandregionaldev>.

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