

Hi David.

Firstly I would like to commend you on your interest and caring when the community needs you. I have not commented prior to this in fear of impacting on my business. I have owned Ballina Surf in River st for the last 17 years. The shark attacks have had a massive impact on my business with some areas down 90%. In the last month I have cancelled over 100k worth of surf accessories. We have had new competition come to town recently which is a pain but prior to that we have had a downturn overall of around 30%. I talk to surfers all day long and the feedback I get from 99.99% of them is that we need shark nets and drum lines. At first I thought we did not need these measures but I cannot see the attacks stopping any other way. I have spoken to many of the pro fishers and they are all of the same opinion. There are 51 beaches between Woolongong and Newcastle which have been netted and we need them here as well. I looked into the Econet in W.A. and it looks good but as you know North Wall has the most volatile surf conditions on the North Coast. It will also not help any beachgoer outside that area. On any given day the Econet will protect 1% of the surfers that are in the water in our area. The helicopters are a good idea but 50% of the time they won't see a thing due to dirty water we get from the river after it rains. Sam Morgan had worked for us and is a good friend. I don't want this to happen to someone else. My heart sinks every time an ambulance goes past my shop towards the ocean. Thanks for your time. Richard Beckers [REDACTED]

Tabled 26.11.15

Shark Advisory
Committee