

**Submission
No 17**

MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WATERS

Name: Miss Gabrielle Ryan
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Please find below my submission on the parliamentary enquiry into shark management in NSW waters;

a) The impact of shark attacks on tourism and related industries - do we actually have pre-attack data that can definitively identify shark attack as the primary or only reason for any perceived impact eg drop in numbers? of tourist and related industries;

b) Changes in shark numbers, behaviour or habitat - scientific data should be the basis of any information in these categories, how much baseline data do we have to provide any tangible and testable changes indicating issues? including habitat modification?

c) Adequacy of management strategies - existing management strategies such as shark mesh netting - seem to be proven to be ineffective in relation to number of by-catch of non-target species, including threatened species - at what point will the government decide this by-catch is not acceptable? new technologies as management strategies will take time to assess? at what point do coastal governments acknowledge that you cannot manage a natural environment as vast as the ocean, nor the creatures in it - perhaps it is time that responsibility for use of the ocean is handed back to the people in that it is a risk that an individual takes to enter the water and should not require government intervention as the risks are impossible for a government to control (NB I am not suggesting people are given responsibility for managing risk themselves to include personal netting or personal culling - rather people need to realise they enter the water they do so at their own risk);

d) Measures to prevent attacks by sharks, including strategies adopted in other jurisdictions; the WA jurisdiction culling method should never be a method that is considered. and

e) Any other related matters - focus on educating people about sharks, their importance in the sea-web of life, the risks to us if they are gone, or the biodiversity balance is disrupted, include beach signage identifying risks, but also identifying the local species and their value to the local beaches/ocean, actions to increase tourism around sharks.

thank you for the opportunity to comment.

in closing I would like to express my opposition to any form of targeted or non targeted culling/killing of shark species. we are beyond the days where species can be targeted and wiped out for human enjoyment, and lets face it that's what we are taking about here - if we enter the water, we are at risk, much the same as we accept the risk to drive a vehicle on the road, we cannot control a species/environment to the point that this perceived control causes irreparable damage to the ecosystem on which we require for survival.

yours sincerely Gabrielle Ryan