

# **MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WATERS**

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**Date Received:** 27/10/2015



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27 October 2015

The Committee Manager  
Committee on Investment Industry and Regional Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Email to: [investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir / Madam,

***Inquiry into management of sharks in NSW waters***

Thank you for the notification of the inquiry into the management of sharks in NSW waters being undertaken by The Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development.

The Bega Valley Shire covers 225km of coastline; approximately 1/8 of the NSW coast. Within the shire there are 101 ocean beaches and a further 29 estuaries and inland lakes. Bega Valley Shire Council can assist the inquiry and provide information as requested from the perspective of a large rural / remote Council area with very seasonal use of beaches. We are interested and keen to support the inquiry in any way we are able to.

Unfortunately the local community of Tathra and the residents of Bega Valley Shire more broadly are aware of the impacts of shark attacks on the community as a result of a fatality in April 2014. While noting the inquiry is principally looking at tourism and related industries we are also mindful that tragic incidents can affect the community on a number of levels.

While Council has a large coastline our beach management resources are relatively modest. They are limited to Council providing lifeguard services through contractors (Australian Lifeguard Service) on seven beaches in the shire from Boxing Day to the end of the January holiday period each year. Local surf clubs provide full weekend supervision during the summer period and partial weekend services from October to early April.

We are very interested in the science based approach to investigate and develop a range of possible management measures which can then be applied to risk management practices that are commonly used by many government agencies and land managers.

Items Council is most interested in are:

- Methodology on how impacts of shark attacks are assessed to enable possible comparisons locally and replication of the study in years to come.
- Information on changes in shark numbers, behaviour or habitat; and background on how that information was gathered.

- Consideration of areas of management and responsibility (foreshore area managers / marine area managers)
- Consideration of different resourcing and capabilities of organisations.
- Interaction between area managers and development of partnerships focusing on strengths, skills and core business areas of organisations.
- Consistency in approach across management boundaries where possible.
- Comparisons and cost / benefit analysis of the management strategies assessed.
- Development of ways to encouraging enjoyment of beaches while stressing caution and warnings at appropriate levels.
- Consideration of application of a combination of management strategies collectively.
- Opportunities for participation in trials and studies.

As a Council we look forward to a coordinated approach developed from the best current information. This will enable us to provide clear advice and direction to inform and educate our community. If you would like any further information please contact Council's Manager Leisure and Recreation [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Leanne Barnes  
**General Manager.**