

**Submission
No 68**

MANAGEMENT OF SHARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES WATERS

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Date Received: 23/10/2015

Ken Holloway
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Re: Submissions to Management of Sharks in New South Wales Waters.

This is a solution based submission that can be considered by the committee in conjunction with other options available. The ideal provided here is that one product is available immediately for trial.

As a result of the Shark Summit, it has concluded that the short-list of shark detectors for potential trial on NSW beaches is limited to the shark spotter program. Given this is the case, simply putting someone on a beach to view the area would be ineffective, due to glare, lack of elevation and exposure to the elements.

Surveyor Lifeguard towers have been designed to provide the solution to all of these issues and they can be placed at various / required heights and locations for optimum vision and surveillance.

They are being used effectively at Bondi, Lake Macquarie and Cottesloe Beach (WA). Initially the towers were designed and are still used in California with all of the original structures still in use after 30 years.

As a person who has been a beach goer and heavily involved in Surf Life Saving and The Lifeguard association, I have seen firsthand the issues involved in our beach culture.

Many years on the beach has given me experience and knowledge over and above the average beach goer and I am acutely aware of the pandemonium and injury that can occur from shark sightings and attack.

The key issues from my experience are:

- Observation
- Elevation
- Victim Identification
- Response Time

Understanding these issues led me to looking for a solution. The 1st world surf lifesaving conference in California in 1976 was a decision I made to attend at my own expense. This introduced to me to how the beaches were managed in Southern California, where they had experienced the same issues as we had in Australia and I was able to witness the solutions they had come up with. The most effective and impressive to me was a system of minimising response times through the use of towers placed in strategic positions on the beach.

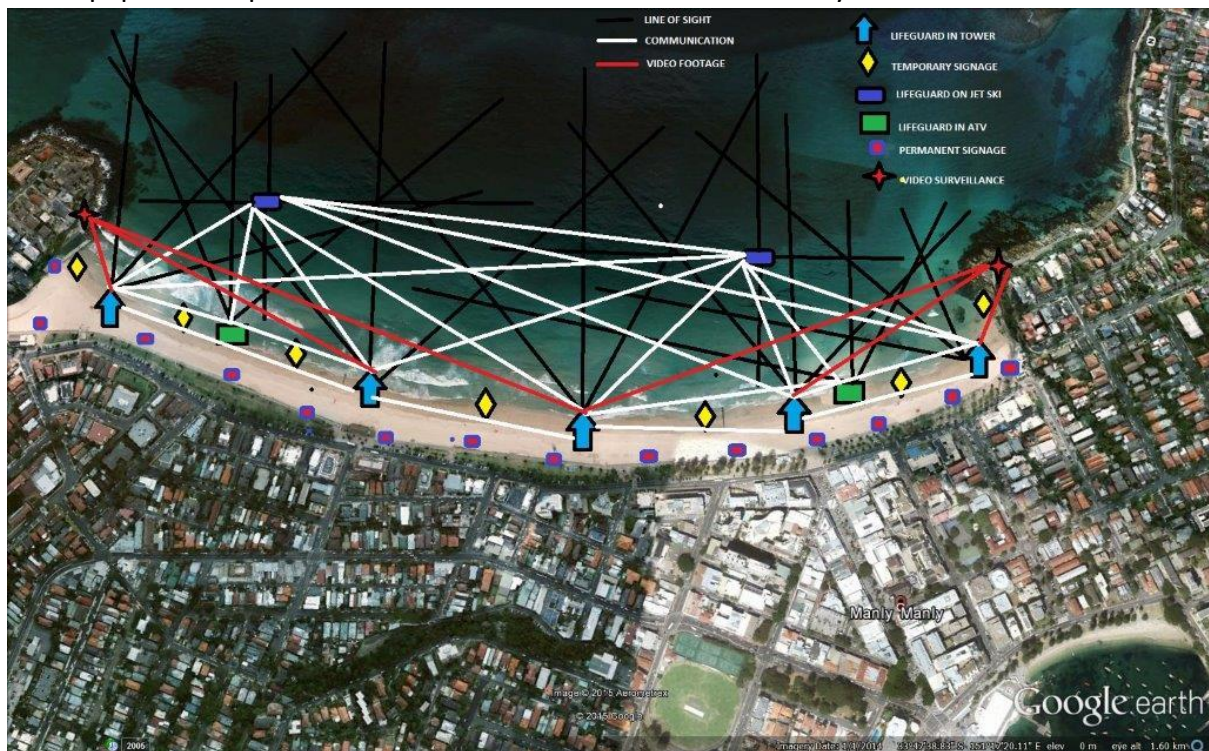
At the time I was unable to introduce this system to Australia due to an ingrained culture of between the flags patrolling. Fast forward 40 years, this system has now been introduced and being trialled in several beaches around our coastline and I am very passionate about

being involved in the opportunity to improve beach safety and reducing the incidence of Shark attack.

Heavy personal and financial investment as the Australian distributor of the Surveyor Lifeguard Towers has been my opportunity to fulfil a long time dream.

The System at work

This is a proposed patrolling system for Manly Beach utilising towers, existing manpower and equipment to provide to most efficient surveillance in a very cost effective manner.



- An essential part of any beach patrolling strategy is to place your lifeguards in elevated positions where they can scan the beach in its totality.
- Towers provide elevated observation, protection from the sun, wind and rain, houses vital rescue and communication equipment and eliminates line of sight issues.
- Frontline Towers also provide an important reference point for beach users.

Following are some of the Surveyor Lifeguard Tower structures that are currently being used in Australia and around the world.



Permanent Stilts at height required.



Permanent pillar foundation for hurricane prone areas



Mobile stand structure that can be placed in sensitive areas like Sand dunes to gain natural height.



Portable tower on skid structure that can be relocated. Ideal for trial purposes.

Benefits of the Surveyor Lifeguard towers

- Lifeguard or Spotter is placed in an elevated position.
- Specifically designed for best possible observation.
- Complies with WHS requirements: Shade, Protection from Sun, wind and rain.
- Establishes a safe and secure workplace.

- Can be adjusted to suit required heights
- The fibreglass cabin can be mounted on a beach frame which allows towing and portability or the cabin can be mounted on pillars to gain increased height.
- If considering a headland or hill for placement to gain natural height the cabin can be fixed in any number of ways.
- Surveyor uses polarised safety glass to international aviation standards avoiding the need to wear sun glasses in the cabin.
- Glare, heat, and reflection is reduced due to the 15 degree angle of the glass.

Over 2,000 people a year die of melanoma in Australia each year. It would be ironical if we had volunteer lifesavers at risk of exposure to skin cancer while spotting for sharks which only account for 6 deaths on average worldwide each year!

COST EFFECTIVE

The life of a Surveyor Tower is between 20 and 30 years. Starting at \$40,000.00 dollars and amortised over 20 years a Surveyor tower provides a cost effective solution to this issue.

In Conclusion a Tower can be purchased to trial the SHARK SPOTTERS PROGRAM.

Not only are you trialling the program but you can also get feedback on the design of towers required.

For further information on the product and how to acquire them, please call me on the contact details below.

Kind regards
Ken Holloway

